

Belgrove Senior Girls' School
Additional Information from Sixth Class Teachers 2017/18

Dear Parents,

We hope this final year in Belgrove will be an enjoyable and rewarding experience for your daughters. As the senior pupils in the school we look forward to seeing them maturing and taking on new responsibilities and setting a good example for the younger classes. It is an exciting year with such memorable occasions as receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Graduation.

Curriculum:

As you are aware in the Revised Curriculum there are a wide range of subjects. Learning methods include class teaching, oral discussion, group work, collaborative and co-operative learning, project work etc.

English:

Reading: We cannot over-emphasise **the importance of reading**. We would encourage the children to read as much as possible, and expect them to read for at least twenty minutes every night. Reading for homework is assigned from class readers is to be read **aloud**, it is vital to the childrens' pronunciation and fluency.

Spellings: Children should learn their spellings using the **Look and Say, Cover, Write, Check** method.

Handwriting: The system in use is Cursive Writing. Presentation and neatness are very important.

Maths: The sixth class maths programme is challenging, with problem solving as a central part of the curriculum. Mental maths and the use of mathematical language are very important. By now children should be proficient at regular tables. Those who have difficulty should revise them as often as possible.

Gaeilge: The revised curriculum places lots of emphasis on oral, paired and group work. Assigned reading is to be read aloud.

Be positive and use the "cúpla focal" whenever possible!

S.E.S.E.: (Social Environmental Scientific Education) – incorporating history, geography and science. The Revised Curriculum encourages discussion, group, project and practical work. This is an ideal area for the use of I.T. Project work develops the skills of independent research and learning, time management and oral presentation. All project work should be in the children's own words.

S.P.H.E.: (Social, Personal & Health Education) S.P.H.E. fosters self-worth and self-confidence and helps the children to develop a sense of personal responsibility for their own behaviour and actions. The children learn about their own rights and responsibilities and the rights and responsibilities of others. As part of the sixth class RSE programme, the girls will have one session with Accord counsellors on the 13th of October.

Arts Education: includes Music, Drama and Visual Arts.

P.E.: We would ask you to encourage your children to be active. Our school was awarded with the Active Flag and we must encourage the girls to remain active!

Parental Involvement

Homework: **Please make sure all homework is completed, checked and signed.**
Ensure that written homework is neatly presented.
We consider the reading, learning and oral homework to be as important as the written work.
We recommend that you regularly listen to your daughter reading aloud, in both English and Gaeilge.
Chat to your daughter about her reading material and encourage a variety of authors and styles.
Discuss project work/content/ presentation. Keep it simple!

In School: If you have any area of expertise or special interest which you would be willing to share with the class please let us know.

Healthy Lunches: Nutritious Lunches- sandwiches, **fruit and veg**, yoghurt, etc.
No crisps, boiled sweets, lollipops, fizzy drinks.
Keep treats to a minimum.
Take home unfinished lunches and recyclable containers
Eating and drinking is confined to break times.

Assessment: Drumcondra Reading Test and SIGMA-T Maths test are administered in May.
Regular class based tests - please sign and return to school to keep in touch with your daughter's progress.

Communication: If you have any concerns regarding your daughter, you are most welcome to arrange an appointment with her teacher.
If your daughter is absent please send in a note on a separate sheet of paper as these must be retained in order to monitor attendance, as required by TUSLA (Educational Welfare Services Child & Family Agency).
Formal Parent Teacher Meetings will be held in November.
This year the school have issued a new Mobile Phone Policy. Please read it carefully before signing and returning to your class teacher.

We hope that together we can make your child's last year in Belgrove a productive and memorable year.

Fáilte go Rang a Sé.

Mrs. Catherine Brodie

Ms. Aideen O'Connell

Ms. Julie Carroll