



St. Mary's High School 2019-2020

Key Information for Parents/Guardians/Carers

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N.B. School Communication / School App / Lost Password

The school app is the preferred method of communication with the school. The app is designed to handle all notes a parent/guardian might want to send to the school and also to facilitate payments a parent/guardian might make for school events/trips/purchases. The app will also keep you up to date with school events and the school calendar. From August 2019 the school journal will be superseded by the school app as the method of communicating with the school. Please download the app by following the links on the school web site at www.stmarysmidleton.com

Once the app has been verified on your phone it will allow you to change and update your VShare password as required.

School Calendar 2019-2020

School Re-Opening	August 23 rd 2019 Students will be notified by text and via App exact starting date/time
Mid-Term Break	October 28 th 2019 to November 1 st 2019 inclusive
Christmas	December 23 rd 2019 to January 3 rd 2020 inclusive
Mid-Term Break	February 17 th 2020 to February 21 st 2020 inclusive
Easter	April 6 th 2020 to April 17 th 2020 inclusive
School Closed	September 30 th 2019, January 21 st 2020, January 31 st 2020, March 16 th and 17 th 2020, May 4 th 2020
End of School Year	May 29 th 2020
State Examinations	June 3 rd 2020 to June 23 rd 2020

Calendar Events

The current school calendar of events is viewable at www.stmarysmidleton.com/calendar

Who to Contact

We endeavour to give each class a class tutor who is the first point of contact. These tutors are timetable dependent and are allocated to your daughter's class in early September. The relevant people in each year group are as follows:

Year	Staff	Year	Staff
First	Ms. Margaret Byrne	Guidance Counsellor	Ms. Niamh Daly
Second	Mr. John Hurley	Guidance Counsellor	Ms. Leona Hennessy
Third	Ms. Anne Leahy-Rooney	Transition Year Co-ordinator	Ms. Elizabeth Nagle
Fifth	TBC	Deputy Principal	Ms. Mary B. Walsh
Sixth	Ms. Margaret McGarry	Principal	Mr. Donnchadh Ó Briain
Programme Co-ordinator	Ms. Patricia Daly	Special Education Needs Co-ordinator	Ms. Anne Leahy-Rooney

We ask that if a concern or query arises that you as parents/guardians/carers would contact the appropriate person as soon as possible. If the need arises to meet the appropriate person then please make an appointment via the main school office. As all staff are fully engaged in school activities throughout the day it may not be possible to meet with parents/guardians/carers without an appointment.

Visiting the School

In the interest of child protection and safeguarding all visitors **must** use the main school entrance and report to the main school office on arrival. All visitors will be required to sign in and wear a visitor badge for the duration of their visit to the school. Visitors should not enter the building by any door other than the main entrance. Parents/Guardians should make an appointment in advance when seeking to meet a member of staff.

Communication

Key information regarding school events is normally posted on the school Twitter account @StMarysMidleton and distributed via the school app. The school app feed is also carried on the school web site. In the case of severe weather events or issues that might affect school opening parents/guardians are advised to check the school Twitter feed, the school web site and the school app.

Contacting Parents/Guardians/Carers

We currently use a texting service to make parents/guardians/carers aware of key events in the school. This is only as effective as the information that we received upon registration. Should your contact details change during your child's time with us we would appreciate if you would let the main office know immediately. The texting service will be deprecated during the 2019/20 academic year and ultimately phased out after that. We therefore strongly recommend that all parents/guardians download the school app at the earliest opportunity.

Parent Teacher Meetings & Open Night

YEAR GROUP	DATE
Open Night	September 26 th 2019 4.30 – 6.45pm
Transition Year	November 7 th 2019 4.15 – 6.45pm
3 rd Year	November 21 st 2019 4.15 – 6.45pm
6 th Year	November 26 th 2019 4.15 – 6.45pm
1 st Year	December 10 th 2019 4.15 – 6.45pm
2 nd Year	January 23 rd 2020 4.15 – 6.45pm
5 th Year	February 25 th 2020 4.15 – 6.45pm

Accessing pupil reports/information - VShare

We provide an online system for you to access your child's details, reports and timetable. This system is accessed through <https://stmarysmidleton.vshare.ie/Login.jsp> A username and password per family is sent to parents/guardians via text in term one of first year. If you have any issues at all in using this system please email vshare@stmarysmidleton.com . We do not post/print annual reports unless you request us to do so in writing. Please go to www.stmarysmidleton.com under your relevant year group information for parent guide on *How to access my child's report, attendance and options using VShare*.

Once the school app has been verified on your phone you will be able to update your VShare password via the app without having to contact the school office.

Voluntary Contribution

Each year we receive a Capitation Grant from the Department of Education & Skills to help us meet our day to day expenses. This money is used among other things to cover the cost of heating, lighting, maintenance, Public Liability Insurance etc., but it does not cover our entire costs for the year.

Parental contributions are necessary to supplement the Capitation Grant and they are also used to pay for

- Personal Accident Insurance – School Activities only.
- Photocopying
- Exam Answer booklets
- School Retreats
- P.E.
- Postage / School Admin Software
- School Lockers
- Homework Journal.

In essence, parental contributions are vital to our aim of providing the best quality education possible for your daughter.

We respectfully request payment of **€90 per pupil, €110 per family of two & €130 per family of three or more**, whichever amount is applicable to you. Payment to be handed into the Secretary's Office, in an envelope clearly marked with student's **name and year on day of return to school.**

If such payments place too heavy a burden on families please contact the principal in writing by Friday, 16th August 2019

School Uniform

Available at

- Hyde's Childrens Fashions, 6 Main Street, Middleton
- Coakley's Menswear 61/62 Main Street, Middleton

PANTS: Navy Trevira "Thomas" Pants Style 5005 **or** Virginian Girls Navy slacks.

SKIRT: Scottish national tartan skirt. **LENGTH: 29/32ins**

JUMPER: Navy V-necked sweater with a drop-sleeve with school crest.

BLOUSE: Two plain white shirt/blouse.

TIGHTS: **Navy** Opaque tights or plain **navy** socks.

JACKET: Plain Navy. **Compulsory for all students**

SHOES: Plain Navy or Black **only. NO** other colour. Navy Deck shoes may be worn.

EXCLUSIONS: **No Trainers** (regardless of colour).
No Boots.
No Runners.
No Clogs.
No Platforms.
No Converse.
No UGGS.

Please note that the school has a “no-make-up” policy for students.
We strongly recommend that each student has one school skirt and one school pants.
The school skirt may be worn only if it is the required length as outlined above i.e. calf length.

P.E. UNIFORM:

- Runners.
- Sports Socks.
- **Plain** navy T-shirt.
- **Plain** navy tailored Tracksuit pants.
- Grey School sweatshirt with crest.

Shopping for School Shoes: Our advice and Suggestions

*Before buying school shoes always check the school's uniform policy. (<https://www.stmarysmidleton.com/>)
Your daughter will wear their school shoes for such a huge part of the day it's vital that they fit well and are comfy on their feet whilst they are in the classroom learning.*

- Check if your shoe choice works with the school policy on uniform.
- Choose a heavy duty, waterproof shoe that will survive the everyday wear and tear of school. Ensure sufficient support and breathability for your child's foot care and wellbeing.
- Check the sole of the shoe to make sure that they are non-slip.
- Consider whether the price tag is affordable? More economical versions are available, shop around.

Acceptable Options (prices approximate.)

Navy Deck/ Boat shoes
Unbranded prices start from €20.
Branded €60 upwards



Navy/ Black brogues
Unbranded prices start from €15.
Branded €40 upwards



Navy/ black pumps (ballerina)
Unbranded prices start from €15.
Branded €30 upwards



Navy/ Black canvas shoes
Unbranded prices start from €10.
Branded €40 upwards



Return to School 2019/20

We welcome students back to school as follows

Monday, 26th August	1 st Year (8.50 a.m. – 3.45 p.m.)	No School Transport ****
Tuesday, 27th August	6 th Year & 5 th Year	School Transport TBC
Wednesday, 28th August	3 rd Year & 2 nd Year	School Transport
Thursday, 29th August	Transition Year	School Transport

Starting times will be communicated via the school app.

Healthy Eating

As part of the Government's Healthy Eating Campaign can we take this opportunity to urge you to give due consideration to school lunches next year and try to maintain a healthy nutritional balance with same.

Thank You

We thank you for taking the time to read this information look forward to working with you to make the next school year one that your daughter will enjoy and where she will maximise all opportunities to realise her full potential.

Donnchadh Ó Briain, Principal and the school leadership team.