



### School Communication

The school's main method for group communication with parents is through Aladdin Connect. This platform will give you secure access to important messages from the school and to details of your child's attendance, reports cards, etc. via secure login from your internet browser or the Aladdin Connect App. The school email ([office@stmalachysbns.ie](mailto:office@stmalachysbns.ie)) and telephone (042 93 38145) are also methods that parents can freely use to communicate with the school. Please ensure parents inform the school of any changes to your contact details or to that of the emergency contact persons. Our school website ([www.stmalachysbns.ie](http://www.stmalachysbns.ie)) allows you to access school policies, information and keep up to date with the latest news and photos

### Parent / Teacher communication

Your son's homework journal can be used for notes/messages between parents and teacher. Appointments must be made through the school secretary if a parent wishes to speak with the class teacher/principal. If a concern arises between parent/teacher then it must be addressed between the parent and teacher prior to an appointment with the principal (if required). Parent/teacher meetings are generally held in November. Parents will be notified in advance of such meeting.

### Classes

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Subject to the number of pupils who enrol in St. Malachy's BNS and the staffing arrangements set by the Dept. of Education, it may be necessary to divide pupils at the same class level, into classes of the same level or multigrade (composite) classes. The criterion used in this process is age. Parents can be assured that children will follow the same curriculum and have the same opportunities as their peers in the same class level (see Class Allocation policy).

### Discipline

Good learning can only occur where there is good discipline. In St. Malachy's Boys' School positive behaviour is always encouraged and good manners between staff, pupils and visitors is expected. In instances of ill-discipline our school code of discipline is followed.

### General School Rules include:

- Mobile phones or smart watches must not be brought to school for any reason
- Chewing gum is forbidden on school premises and on school trips
- Earrings and jewellery are not permitted (see Uniform policy)
- Children must have respect for all school staff, property and not graffiti on school books

### Uniform

Full school uniform should be worn on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. This consists of:

- Grey (crested) v-neck jumper, grey shirt, grey trousers, school tie (grey/black striped) and plain black footwear (no white or coloured branding).

School tracksuit can be worn on Thursday and Friday (PE days). This consists of:

- Grey (crested) crew-neck jumper, plain white polo shirt, plain black bottoms, and PE runners (preferably black).

All school uniforms, coats and tracksuits should be clearly labelled with the child's name. A note should be provided to the class teacher to advise if pupils are unable to wear the correct uniform. All t-shirts, trousers and shirts should be plain and non branded. V-neck and crew neck crested jumpers can be purchased from McEvoy's (Clanbrassil St.), Michael Lynch Menswear (Clanbrassil St.) and RK Manufacturing (York St.) (see Uniform policy).

### School Books

Books will be supplied by the school. These books are the property of the school and must be looked after accordingly. Pupils should not write on textbooks or workbooks unless directed by the teacher.

### Homework

Homework is assigned Monday-Thursday and should be submitted on the day requested by the teacher. Pupils are provided with a homework journal and are responsible for ensuring books required for completing homework are brought home. Parental involvement in your son's homework is vital. Parents are required to sign the homework journal each night to show that you are satisfied with the standard of homework completed. Comments regarding incomplete homework can be noted in the journal.

### Religious Formation

St. Malachy's BNS is a school of Catholic ethos. Children of other faiths are welcome to attend. In instances whereby parents wish for their child to be excluded from religious instruction a written request should be made to the principal and alternative curriculum work will be provided. Our long and proud association with the Friary Dominican Church often sees us referred to as 'The Friary Boys' School' (see Religion policy).

**Sacraments:** 2<sup>nd</sup> class – First Penance & First Holy Communion. 6<sup>th</sup> class – Confirmation.

The preparation of the children for sacraments is a shared responsibility between pupils, teachers, parents and clergy.

- **First Holy Communion:** first or second Saturday in May (notwithstanding a clash with Confirmation). This date and time is confirmed to parents as early as possible in Term 1.
- **Confirmation:** Date is set by the Bishop/St. Patrick's Parish and is communicated to parents as soon as known.

### Healthy Eating

Healthy body, healthy mind! Healthy lunches are promoted in St. Malachy's BNS. Children are encouraged to take fruit/vegetables for their small break-time snack and sandwiches/wrap, water or non-sugary drinks and a small treat for lunchtime. Please note that in the instance of a pupil with a nut or other food allergy in a class, parents will be advised to restrict certain food items (see Healthy Lunches policy).

### Handwriting & Presentation

*A high standard of handwriting and presentation is promoted in all pupils of our school. The Twinkl cursive looped style of handwriting is taught in all classes and a 'Presentation Checklist' is provided. Monthly handwriting certificates for excellence and effort/improvement are awarded to encourage pupils to take pride in the presentation of their work.*

### Parents Association

Our PA meet 3-5 times per year and act as an important link between parents and the school Principal/Teachers and Board of Management. If you would be interested in joining the Parents' Association, please contact the school office and you will be notified of when meetings take place.

### Swimming

As part of our PE curriculum, we offer swimming lessons at Dundalk swimming pool to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> classes. This will involve a cost to cover the expense of the bus and swimming instructors.

### Extra-curricular activities include:

- Gaelic football, soccer and other sports
- School choir
- School music band
- Tin whistle
- Chess club
- Art competitions
- Student council
- Green flag
- Drama shows
- Quiz competitions
- Library