

## Disadvantage Policy



**2023-2028**

In keeping with the ethos of Scoil Diarmada, it is our practice and policy to manage our costs and expenses as efficiently and effectively as possible so as to minimise the financial impact on parents and pupils.

This applies to schoolbooks, equipment, stationery, art materials, personal insurance, swimming, computers, psychological assessments, outings and trips.

We attempt to seek as little funding or financial support from parents as possible. However we do have a school supply request for €40 per child for the 2023/2024 school year. The Board will set the rate of this contribution each year. This can be paid through installments of €5. This is used to pay for 24 Hour Personal School Insurance, photocopying and arts and crafts supplies.

Our Parent's Association holds two fundraising activities per year to subsidise the cost of swimming buses and buses for other trips i.e sports.

No pupil should be at a disadvantage in the classroom, because his/her family cannot afford the money for books, materials or educational activities.

### **Books**

Some books are "loaned" on an annual basis through the free book scheme as funded by Department of Education and Science. Schemes of books are maintained for as long as possible to allow for second hand book sales each year.

### **School outings**

School outings or tours are considered on the basis of cost to the pupil and the school. Venues are chosen on the basis of entry fee and ease of transport to or from the venue. No extra money may be charged to pupils for school tours to earn extra income for the school.

If a pupil is unable to go on school tours due to the cost, the Board may assist families. The principal will use his discretion in relation to this. School staff will be vigilant to identify such pupils.

### **Psychological Assessments**

As NEPS administer a limited number of assessments each year, there is always a need to have additional assessments administered privately. The Board of Management and our Parents' Association will provide funding for these. When families have the means to pay, partial or full payment will be sought.

### **Extra Curricular Activities**

Some extra curricular activities like Play Ball and Speech, Homework Club etc incur a cost for families. The Board will seek free places in these activities for disadvantaged pupils in lieu of charging a lower rent to the organisers of these activities.

### **Swimming**

Our Parents' Association have subsidised the cost of swimming for a long number of years to keep costs for families as low as possible. If a family can't afford this activity for their children, the Board will incur the cost. School staff will be vigilant to identify such pupils.

