

POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT-TO-PARENT INFORMATION

GENERAL ADVICE AND TIPS
TO HELP YOU MAKE **YOUR** CHOICE



Introduction

This leaflet is designed to help parents with the transition from primary to post-primary school. It includes tips and advice from other parents to make finding a new school easier. You'll also find links to online [resources](#) that explain the basics.

This leaflet complements the information provided by the school and focuses on the parents' point of view. We hope it encourages you to do your own research, connect with other parents, and use the available resources to guide you along the way.

Parent Approved Tips & Tricks

Choosing a post-primary school can be difficult. Here are some tips and tricks from parents who have made the journey.

Start early

The beginning of **4th class** is a good time to look at which schools might suit your child, and it leaves you with plenty of time to research your options before it is time to apply.



Choose wisely

- What **type of school** might suit your child – Are they very academic? Do they have particular interests? What environment do they thrive in?
- Is it a **fee-paying** school and is this an option? Are scholarships available and does your child fit the criteria?

- Do they require **additional support** in particular areas or special needs resources?
- Which **subjects** are being offered by the schools?
- Which after-school or **extracurricular activities** do the schools offer?
- **Location** – how will your child get there and how long does the commute take?
- What are the **admission criteria**? – St. Peter's NS is not a feeder school for any post-primary school so check the category into which your child will fall to get an indication of how likely it is that they can get a place.
- Know your **catchment area** – for some schools, where you live influences whether your child gets a place or not



Open Days

Schools usually have open days for parents and students. Be aware that they can clash as they typically take place during mid/end September. Another reason to start looking early!

Scholarships

Some fee-paying schools offer scholarships. They may have early application dates and timelines to be aware of.

Be Informed

Do your own research and talk to other parents as well as seeking support from the school if you need it.

Ask your child to make sure they give you the material that they receive in school – don't let them bury it at the bottom of their school bag.

Know your dates – application deadlines vary, and they change every year.

Top tip!

Apply for more than one school. Your child might not get a place in the school of their choice.

Parents Get Together

The Parents' Association will host an informal get together so parents can meet and talk about their experiences with the transition to post-primary schools.

- Ask other parents for their advice and share your learnings!
- First week of September of every school year.
- For parents of students in 4th, 5th, and 6th class.
- Details to be announced



Resources

- General information about post-primary schools from Citizens Information and the Department of Education:
 - [Choosing a post-primary school](#)
 - [gov.ie – Education](#)
- National Parent Council Information:
 - [NPC Post Primary Information Leaflet | National Parents Council](#)
- Find a School by the Department of Education:
 - [gov.ie - Find a school](#)
- The Irish Times feeder school list – published in December of each year. It ranks schools by how many of their students progressed to third-level colleges.
- St. Peter's NS provides a parent information pack.
- Home-School liaison teacher, Ms Gemma Hughes, supports students and parents as needed.

Designed and created by
St. Peter's Parents' Association