



**Stratford National School
Student Handbook
2025 – 2026**

**Scoil Náisiúnta Stratford
Lámhleabhar an Pháiste
2025 - 2026**

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Stratford National School - A Brief Overview

In 1934 Zion National School was set up in Bloomfield Avenue, South Circular Road, under the management of The Dublin Talmud Torah to provide an education within a Jewish ethos, as outlined in the Irish Constitution.

The Dublin Talmud Torah is part of an international Jewish educational movement which was originally set up to promote Jewish religious education. As time went on the brief of The Dublin Talmud Torah was broadened to include all areas of education.

In 1980 Zion School relocated onto the site of Stratford College, Rathgar, where it incorporated the smaller Stratford Primary Preparatory. On its re-location in 1980, the newly amalgamated Jewish Primary School changed its name from Zion National School to the present Stratford National School, or, as per its official Irish name, Scoil Náisiúnta Stratford.

Stratford National School is Ireland's only Jewish primary school and provides a primary education within a Jewish ethos, as defined by The Chief Rabbi of Ireland. However, we are very proud that our enrolment consists of pupils from a wide range of religious and cultural backgrounds and we cherish the valuable contribution all our families make to the school.

Stratford National School currently has four mainstream, multi-grade classes, one early intervention autism class and one primary autism class. The school is very proud of its hardworking, enthusiastic staff, who support all the children to reach their full potential.

A separate team of teachers provide Jewish Studies each morning to our Jewish students.

School Calendar

August 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
31					1	2	3
32	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
33	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
34	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
35	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

September 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
36	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
37	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
38	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
39	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
40	29	30					

October 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
40			1	2	3	4	5
41	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
42	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
43	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
44	27	28	29	30	31		

November 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
44						1	2
45	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
46	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
47	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
48	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December 2025							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
49	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
50	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
51	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
52	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
1	29	30	31				

January 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1				1	2	3	4
2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5							1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
9							1
10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
11	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
13	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
14	30	31					

April 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
14			1	2	3	4	5
15	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
16	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
17	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
18	27	28	29	30			

May 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
18					1	2	3
19	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
22	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
23	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
25	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	29	30					

July 2026							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
27			1	2	3	4	5
28	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
29	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
30	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
31	27	28	29	30	31		

<p>26/8 - Teachers Back to School</p> <p>27/8 - Children Back to School</p> <p>23/9 – 24/9 Closed for Rosh Hashanah</p> <p>2.10 Closed for Yom Kipper</p> <p>7/10 – 8/10 Closed for Sukkot</p>	<p>14/10 Closed for Shimini Atzerat</p> <p>15/10 Closed for Simchat Torah</p> <p>27/10 – 28/10 Closed for Midterm break</p> <p>22/12 – 2/1 Closed for Winter Break</p>	<p>2/2 Closed for St Brigid's Day</p> <p>19/2 – 20/2 Closed for Midterm break</p> <p>17/3 – Closed for St Patrick's Day</p> <p>30/3 – 10/4 Closed for Spring Break</p> <p>4/5 – Closed for May Bank Holiday</p>	<p>22/5 – Closed for Shavuot</p> <p>1/6 – Closed for June Bank Holiday</p> <p>19/6 – 6th class graduation</p> <p>26/6 - Closing for Summer Break</p>	<p>Colour Coding</p> <p>Closed for religious holidays</p> <p>Early closing for Shabbat in winter months – school closes at 2pm for all children</p> <p>Back to school after holidays</p> <p>Half day, no after school clubs, all children go home at 12pm on the following dates: 4/9, 19/12, 8/1, 27/3, 16/4, 26/6</p> <p>School Holidays</p>
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Stratford National School - Mission Statement

Characteristic spirit and general objectives of Stratford National School

Stratford National School (“Stratford NS”) is a co-educational primary school. It was founded by the Dublin Jewish Community and provides a primary education within a Jewish ethos, as defined by The Chief Rabbi of Ireland. Stratford NS is unique in that it is the only Jewish ethos national primary school in Ireland, and has close links with, and immediately adjoins, Stratford College, the only Jewish ethos secondary school in Ireland. Stratford NS maintains its commitment to cultural and religious diversity by welcoming students of all faiths and none. Stratford NS endeavours to develop the full potential of all children in the school, in light of Jewish ethos and values of the Jewish community in Ireland..

Stratford NS is dedicated to:

- Provide an education within a Jewish ethos, where children of all denominations and none, can together develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, creatively and socially.
- Promote an atmosphere of tolerance and celebration of difference, mutual respect and understanding, thus providing our pupils with a positive model for life in a pluralist society.
- Cultivate good relationships based on respect, fairness, inclusion, empathy, nurturance and safety between pupils, staff, parents and the wider community.
- Provide an atmosphere of warmth and understanding where all children and adults will feel loved and cherished and pupils will enjoy learning in pleasant and supportive surroundings.
- Welcome and encourage constructive communication between parents and teachers, in our shared commitment to our children’s development, education and welfare.
- Grá dar n-oidhreacht a chothú, go háirithe ár dteanga, ar gcultúr agus ar gcluichí féin (Develop a love of our heritage, especially our language, culture and games).
- Promote respect for the individual’s needs, abilities and uniqueness and foster self-esteem.
- Awaken in our school community an appreciation and responsibility for our environment.
- Provide a holistic education enabling our pupils to reach their full potential as human beings.
- Provide a safe and secure environment for all children, staff and wider community

Admission Statement

Stratford NS will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

- a. the gender ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- b. the civil status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- c. the family status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- d. the sexual orientation ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,

- e. the ground of race of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- f. the Traveller community ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned, or
- g. the ground that the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned has special educational needs

As per section 61 (3) of the Education Act, 'civil status ground', 'disability ground', 'discriminate', 'family status ground', 'gender ground', 'ground of race', 'religion ground', 'sexual orientation ground' and 'Traveller community ground' shall be construed in accordance with section 3 of the Equal Status Act 2000.

The objective of Stratford NS is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values. The school does not discriminate where it admits a student of the Jewish faith in preference to others in accordance with section 7A of the Equal Status Act 2000. This includes the prioritisation of students of the Jewish faith when the school is oversubscribed.

Stratford NS provides education in an environment which promotes certain religious value. It does not discriminate where it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not of the Jewish faith and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Stratford NS has established two special education classes, being one Early Intervention Autism Class and one Primary Level Autism Class, with the approval of the Minister of Education. These special education classes provide an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

Message from the Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for choosing to enrol your child in Stratford National school and it is with great pleasure that I welcome you and your family to our school community, on behalf of the school staff. Starting a new school is a significant milestone for all members of your family, whether your child is starting in Junior Infants or starting a new class in a new school. We are looking forward to working with you to help your child to learn, grow, and thrive.

At Stratford National School, we believe that education is a partnership between the school and the home. We are committed to creating a safe, nurturing, and stimulating environment where every child is encouraged to explore their potential, develop a love for learning, and build the skills they need for a bright future. We encourage communication between home and school and we value your involvement and engagement in our school community, whether it is through classroom activities, attending school events or joining our Parents Association.

Our dedicated team of teachers and staff are passionate about education and deeply invested in the success and well-being of every student. We look forward to getting to know your child and supporting their journey academically, socially, and emotionally.

Once again, welcome to Stratford National School. We are excited to begin this journey with you and your child, and we look forward to many memorable and meaningful experiences together.

Kind regards,
Beryl Healy
Principal

Message from the Chief Rabbi

B'ruchim Habaim to all new families and pupils!

It is a privilege to welcome you into such a warm, vibrant and unique school community. I am excited to get to know all of you, and please don't hesitate to be in touch with me if there is ever anything you need.

When it comes to Jewish Studies, there is a lot to be enthusiastic about. The recently developed and tested new curriculum will enable your children to learn more about their religion, customs and language, with ample opportunities for creativity and fun. We are very fortunate to have a team of fabulous teachers who bring with them a love, dedication and inspiring commitment to the classroom.

Looking forward to a great year ahead!

Chief Rabbi Yoni Wieder



Message from Stratford National School Parents' Association

Email: PA@stratfordns.ie <mailto:stratfordnspace@gmail.com>

Stratford National School Parents' Association warmly welcomes you and your child to Stratford National School.

Educational research on the involvement of parents in schools shows that children achieve better outcomes when parents and teachers work together. To that end the Parents' Association was established and is proud of its long history at Stratford National School.

Our role is defined in the Education Act, 1998 which broadly says that we promote the interests of the students in co-operation with the board, Principal, teachers and students. To that end we engage in certain activities including:

- suggesting and/or organising extra-curricular activities with the agreement of the Board of Management, such as Disco night, Career Day, sports activities like school walks, social events etc.
- working in partnership with the Principal and teachers in the development and review of school policies such as the anti-bullying policy, code of behaviour etc.
- supporting parents in the school.
- Inviting speakers to address the parents on issues which are topical or relevant.

It is important to note that the parent association is not a forum for complaint against an individual teacher, parent or child. The Complaints Procedure is the mechanism for this.

All parents/guardians of children in the school are automatically members of the association with a number of parents being elected to a committee each year at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The PA holds functions and events to raise additional funds for the school throughout the year. In the past these funds have been used to subsidise the purchase of various items of equipment such as new school furniture, (add climbing walls) and IT hardware. The PA also contributes funds for events that take place annually in the school such as the Sports Day, religious events, the 6th Class Graduation and any extra events that may occur.

We will keep you informed of upcoming school events by email and on the notice board on the front window of the school (replace with and on Alladin). Please make sure we have your most up to date e-mail address on our system. For GDPR purposes we can only add you to our mailing list with your permission so please get in touch with us for a permission form.

We hold our AGM in September each year at which time we review the previous year, elect new officers to the committee and plan for the coming year. We would love to see all the parents there.

On behalf of the Parents' Association we would like to sincerely thank all the teachers and staff for all their support.

We hope that you and your family enjoy the year ahead in Stratford National School.

Stratford N.S. Parents' Association

Everyday Essentials

This section contains important information, which will help you to get organised for the new school year.

Naming Belongings

- Please ensure that all your child's belongings are clearly marked with their name. This includes writing and colouring pencils, all items of uniform, water bottles, the front cover of books & spare clothes.
- Please write your child's name in print (not joined writing) so that it is easily identified by the children.
- Please send in a spare set of named clothes for the children in Junior Infants and the Early Intervention classes, as accidents do happen. This spare set of clothes does not have to uniform. These spare clothes will be stored in the class. Please ensure that they are in a separate named bag.

Toys

- Toys are not permitted at school. There are plenty of toys for the children to play with in school.

Independence

- Children from Junior Infants upwards should be able to independently take their own lunches in and out of their bags, their homework folder each week and any notes or money etc that the children may require for school. Please practice this at home.

School Calendar

- When devising the school calendar, the school takes into account Jewish religious holidays, as well as the standardised school year as determined by the Department of Education of Ireland.
- In the event of unscheduled school closures not included in the school calendar, the school will notify all parents/ guardians by email in advance.
- A downloadable PDF of the school calendar is available at <https://www.stratfordns.ie/calendar>

Contact Information

- It is very important the school has up-to-date contact information for you and your emergency contacts.
- Please use Aladdin Connect or email info@stratfordns.ie to update this information as and when needed.
- This contact information will be used if the school needs to contact
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Collection of Children during the School Day

If your child has to be collected during the course of the school day, the following arrangements will apply:

- Notify the class teacher in advance using Aladdin Connects.

- When the collecting adult arrives at the school, they should either phone the office (01-4922315) or use the intercom at the large black side gate of the school to alert the office that they have arrived.
- The adult will then be buzzed in and can come to the front door of the school. Ring the doorbell to the right of the door to notify the staff of your arrival.
- The child will be brought from their class to meet the collecting adult by a member of staff.
- The adult who is collecting will be asked to sign the child out.

Assemblies

- Regular assemblies are held during the school year in the hall.
- Powerpoints of the assemblies can be found at <https://www.stratfordns.ie/school-assemblies>.

Uniform List

In the interests of reducing costs for parents, it is acceptable to purchase generic versions of all items below except the navy crested tracksuit top in Option 1 and 2. If any other item below is described as ‘crested’, an iron-on/sew-on crest can be purchased from the school office for €5.60 and added to a generic version of it.

Pre-crested or ‘official’ items of uniform clothing, as seen below, can be bought online at <https://schoolwearhouse.ie/product-category/stratford-ns/> or in-store at The Schoolwearhouse, Unit D7, Ballymount Cross Industrial Estate, Ballymount, Dublin 24. The Schoolwearhouse has requested that purchases be made online where possible. Please contact them ahead of time should you wish to visit their store.

Parents are free to select either OR both options below:

<p>Option 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy crested tracksuit top (official/non-generic version is mandatory) • Navy tracksuit bottoms • White polo shirt 			
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<p>Option 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Navy crested V-necked sweatshirt OR navy crested cardigan • Grey trousers OR navy skirt OR navy pinafore • White polo shirt 		 <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p>	
		 <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p>	

Full compliance with the uniform policy is expected ensuring modesty of dress appropriate to our ethos.

School Books and Stationery Requirements

The Primary Schoolbooks Scheme is a funding scheme where the Department of Education provides funding to recognised primary and special schools in the Free Education Scheme to purchase schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks. The scheme provides schoolbooks and resources on loan to pupils at the start of the school year. This means that you will not pay towards the cost of schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks.

We will provide your child with the schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks covered by the scheme. It is important that your child looks after the books carefully because they belong to the school. At the end of the school year, please return any books your child did not write in to the school, so that we can reuse them for the coming year.

More information about the scheme can be found at

<https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/primary-schoolbook-scheme-information-for-parents-20252026.pdf>

Stationery Requirements:

While the school will provide your child with all schoolbooks, workbooks and copybooks for the school year, we ask that you provide the following for your child.

<p>Early Intervention Class</p>	<p>A fully stocked pencil case should remain in the classroom containing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x Medium 22g Pritt Sticks • 3 tubs of Play Doh (please teach your child how to open & close this) • 1 x Child-friendly long loop scissors (eg https://thinkingtoys.ie/collections/scissors-cutting-skills/products/easi-grip-scissors-45mm-round-ended-blade-right-handed) • Chubby Crayons • 2 x triangular pencils • 2 x A4 Mesh/durable zipped document wallet
<p>Junior Infants</p>	<p>A fully stocked pencil case should remain in the classroom containing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x Medium 22g Pritt Sticks • 3 tubs of Play Doh (please teach your child how to open & close this) • 1 x Child-friendly scissors • Colouring Pencils , Twistables or Crayons • 2 x Faber Castell Grip Pencils • 2 x HB Pencils (good quality) • An Eraser and a Sharpener • 3 x A4 Plastic Envelope Folder

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 sellotape rolls • A separate, fully stocked pencil case will be required at home.
Senior Infants	<p>A fully stocked pencil case should remain in the classroom containing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x Medium 22g Pritt Sticks (one for each term) • 1 x Child-friendly scissors • Colouring pencils, Twistables or Crayons • 4 x HB pencils (good quality) • An Eraser and a Sharpener • 3 x A4 Plastic Envelope Folders • 1 x Black Sharpie Permanent Marker • 3 tubs of Play Doh (please make sure your child can open and close this) <p>A separate, fully stocked pencil case will be required at home.</p>
Primary Autism Class	<p>Pencils (with grips) x5 Erasers (soft)x3 Colouring pencils and crayons Plastic Wallet Folders x6 Pencil cases Fidget tools (e.g., putty, fidget cube) Chewy pencil toppers Scissors (safety or adaptive) 2 X Glue sticks 30cm Ruler (flexible or transparent) 2 tubs of Play dough</p>
1 st + 2 nd classes	<p>3 x B4 Mesh/durable zipped document wallet (homework, reading etc)</p> <p>A fully stocked pencil case should remain in the classroom containing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 x Medium 22g Pritt Stick • 1 x child-friendly scissors • Colouring pencils/ crayons • 4 x HB pencils • An eraser, a sharpener and a ruler • 1 x fine-point Whiteboard Marker • 1 x Black Sharpie Permanent Marker • Headphones (with an AUX lead) • 30cm ruler • 2 x red biro <p>A separate, fully stocked pencil case will be required at home.</p>
3 rd + 4 th classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pencil Case • 3 x Medium 22g Pritt Stick • 1 x child-friendly scissors • Colouring Pencils

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 x HB pencils • 2 x red pen • Eraser and sharpener • 30cm ruler • Black Permanent Marker (Slim) • 2 x Black Whiteboard Marker (Slim) • 2 x B4 Mesh/durable zipped document wallet (homework) • Packet of Markers or sharpies • 3 different colour highlighters • Calculator
5 th + 6 th classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 black Sharpie marker • 2 x yellow highlighter markers • 2 x whiteboard markers (black/blue preferred) • 2 x red Biro pens • 2 x medium 22g Pritt Sticks • 1 x child-friendly scissors • 2 x B4 Mesh/durable zipped document wallet • Geometry set (with transparent protractor and compass) • Pencil case with usual stationery (pencils, sharpener, eraser, 30cm ruler, set of felt-tip markers/ set of colouring pencils) • Calculator



Jewish Studies

Classes are provided from 8.20 am to 9.20 am. A child who is Jewish according to orthodox Jewish law as determined by the office of the Chief Rabbi is eligible to attend these free Jewish religious classes each morning. A small fee of approximately 30 euros is payable to the Jewish Studies teachers at the beginning of each academic year to help with the cost of arts materials and photocopying for these lessons. Further details are available from the school office (info@stratfordns.ie).

Jewish Studies Programme

The Dublin Talmud Torah Jewish Studies Programme comprises of four school classes aged 4.5/5 – 12 years.

Subjects

1. General Jewish knowledge
2. Study of the 5 Books of Moses
3. Prayers
4. Hebrew Writing
5. Hebrew Reading
6. Hebrew Grammar

Aims of the Jewish Study Programme

1. Cultivate a love for Jewish learning
2. To nurture a pride in being part of the Jewish people
3. To attain a proficiency in Jewish learning and practice by promoting and developing Jewish study skills.

A wide variety of interesting activities are used to enrich the curriculum.



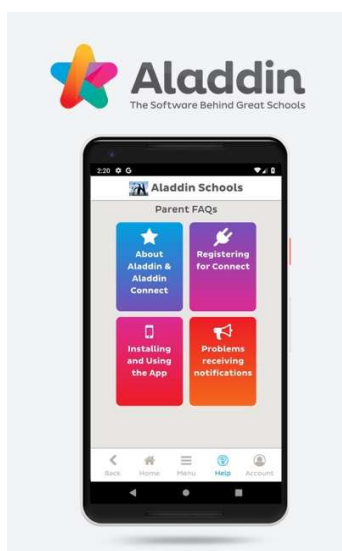
Communication

Stratford National School offers our parents a range of formal and informal means of contacting your child's teacher and we encourage quality communication between all sections of our school community.

Informal Communication

Stratford National School is a small school, and we pride ourselves on having ongoing friendly relationships with our parents. Parents are welcome to speak with teachers without a formal appointment at the beginning or end of the school day. However, if parents need more than a passing moment at the door, it may be useful to make an appointment to see the class teacher using Aladdin Connect (see below).

If you wish to meet with a Jewish studies teacher or special education teacher, please either email info@stratfordns.ie or telephone the school office at (01)4922315 to arrange an appointment.



Aladdin Connect

The school uses Aladdin Connect to communicate on a day to day basis with parents. We strongly encourage all parents to download the Aladdin Connect App to their phones. The Aladdin Parents Help Page at the following link is very useful; www.aladdin.ie/connect_app_faqs.html where answers to the most frequently asked questions can be found.

Formal Communication

- Important information about Stratford National School is presented in The **Stratford National School Handbook** which is updated annually and available on our website www.stratfordns.ie
- Parents will be informed of important information via **email, notices on the Aladdin Connect app or on our school website www.stratfordns.ie**. Time-sensitive notices will

be text to your phone, so please ensure up-to-date contact information via the office (info@stratfordns.ie) or the Aladdin Connect app.

- To instantly notify Class Teachers about the reason for student absences, early leaving/late arrivals etc. please use the Aladdin Connect App on your phone.
- Teachers email addresses are not usually circulated, rather formal written communication is preferably channelled through info@stratfordns.ie or the Aladdin Connect app. We aim to return written correspondence as soon as possible. However, all our class teachers are teaching between 9.20am-3pm, and do not routinely check emails throughout the school day. Please allow up to 48 hours between emailing info@stratfordns.ie and expecting a written reply from your child's Class Teacher.

Structured Communication

- In the first term, parents are invited to a Parent-Teacher Meeting at which you can discuss your child's general progress with the Class Teacher, on a one-to-one basis.
- A written school report is sent to all parents at the end of the summer term via the Aladdin Connect app.

School Complaints Procedures

There are agreed procedures in place, which detail the steps to be followed in the event concerns have arisen, which you wish to address with the school. A complete description of the procedures can be found at <https://www.cpsma.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Parental-Complaints-Procedure-Updated-Dec-2023.pdf>

This information contains an abbreviated version of the steps, but please read the complete document available at the link above.

- Make an appointment through the office to meet the teacher at the earliest opportunity. The issue will usually be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties.
- If the parent is still dissatisfied, he/she should bring the matter to the attention of the Principal, who having listened to both sides will try to settle the issue to the satisfaction of both parent and teacher.
- If the issue is still unresolved, it should be passed to the Board of Management, in writing, through the Chairperson (bomchair@stratfordns.ie) If the Board fails to resolve the matter, the issue should be forwarded to the Department of Education & Science, in writing.
- Issues regarding the organisation of the school should be made in the first instance to the Principal, who is available by appointment. Constructive suggestions are always welcome.
- An anonymous complaint will not be entertained by a teacher, Principal, Board of Management or the Department of Education.

The Parents' Association will not involve itself in a complaint by a parent against a teacher. It is not its function and any attempt to involve members of the committee could damage the relationship of harmony and trust which exists between the association and the staff.

School Lunches

Stratford National School is run in accordance with Jewish dietary law. Therefore, the following requirements apply to all pupils in our school:

- 1) Lunches must not include cooked meats nor poultry
- 2) Lunches must not be shared or swapped.
- 3) With regard to both school lunches and “special occasions” e.g. last day of term, birthdays cakes etc., parents are reminded that cakes, breads, biscuits or other foods cannot be brought into school for distribution to the other children due to kosher and dietary requirements for religious and medical reasons.

These kosher requirements are strictly enforced.

In addition to these kosher requirements above, under our S.P.H.E. Programme, Stratford NS encourages our pupils to become more aware of the need for healthy food in their lunch boxes. For this reason, the school has been working on a ‘Healthy Eating Policy’ for the school, which is due to be ratified by the Board of Management and published on <https://www.stratfordns.ie/policies-procedures> by the end of June 2025.

The following guide is designed to help you provide quick, appetising, and nutritious lunches for your children.

Bread & Alternatives	Savouries	Fruit & Vegetables	Drinks
Bread or rolls, preferably whole-meal Rice – wholegrain Pasta – wholegrain* Potato Salad Wholemeal Scones	Tinned tuna/sardines Cheese, egg, etc Quiche (non-meat)* Pizza (non-meat)* Hummus	Apples Banana Peach Mandarins Fruit Salad Dried fruit Cucumber, Sweetcorn Tomato etc	Water Milk Fruit juices (pure) Squashes -.low sugar Yoghurt

** The school does not have the facility for the heating or reheating of pupils’ lunch items.*

Please note that the provision of children’s lunches and the contents of pupils’ lunchboxes are the responsibility of parents. Teachers will promote healthy eating and discourage unhealthy foods. Parents are expected to ensure pupils have a healthy lunch every day.

In order to minimise movement around the classroom and the congregation of children at the classroom bins, we ask that children keep all lunchtime waste in their lunchboxes and take it home to be disposed of.

Where a teacher is aware that a pupil has inadvertently come to school without his/her lunch, the school may attempt to telephone the parent, who should supply a suitable lunch as soon as possible.

Hot school lunches

The school is part of the hot school lunches programme run by the Department of Social Welfare. Deli 613 provides our hot school lunches in accordance with Jewish dietary law. You will be sent a form to register your child for these meals, once the menu for the coming school

year has been finalised. The deli provides alternatives for children with specific dietary requirements, such as allergies, celiac disease, vegetarian or vegan requirements.

To minimise food waste, the school will send home the form at regular intervals to check your child is still happy to receive the hot school meals. However, if you wish to adjust your child's order between these reviews, please email info@stratfordns.ie to organise this.

Allergies

Some children in Stratford NS have allergies to nuts or other foods. In the event that a child in the classroom has an allergy, parents of children in that classroom will be asked not to send in that food for lunch. The class teacher will notify all parents of any allergies or dietary restrictions.

If your child has an allergy, which may require the administration of medicine by the staff, please email info@stratfordns.ie to request the relevant paperwork be sent home. Our Administration of Medicine policy can be found at <https://www.stratfordns.ie/policies-procedures>.



Administration of Medicines in School

This section deals with the administration of medicines to pupils and the supervised self-administration by pupils of medicine, both in the school and off the school premises on school-related activities. The Board of Management has a duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils when authorised to be on school premises or engaged in authorised school activities elsewhere. However, this does not impose a duty on teachers or administrative staff of the school to undertake personally the administration of medicine to pupils.

The Board of Management is committed to fostering a school environment that is welcoming and inclusive to all pupils, including those pupils who may have a chronic condition or may be temporarily ill. The Board of Management recognises that pupils may require to be administered medication or to self-administer medication under supervision during the school day. This may involve:

1. Pupils who require regular or ongoing medical treatment such as children with special needs or children with a chronic condition.
2. Emergency treatment of a child with a chronic condition.
3. A pupil who is finishing a short course of prescribed medication for an occasional illness.

Pupils who require regular or ongoing medical treatment such as children with special needs or children with a chronic condition.

- The Board of Management understands that some pupils may have chronic conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy or anaphylaxis, which may be serious and can be potentially life threatening if not effectively managed.
- Parents are requested to ensure that the school is made aware of any medical conditions which their child may have at the time of enrolment or at the time of the onset of a particular medical condition.
- Parents/guardians are responsible for ensuring that the school is kept up to date regarding any medical conditions which their child may have at the time of enrolment or develop subsequently.
- Parents/guardians are also responsible for ensuring that the school has up to date contact details, including details of at least one alternative emergency contact person.
- Where possible, a child's GP or other treating doctor should arrange for the administration of prescribed medicines outside of school hours. If this is not possible, then it should be established if the parents/ guardians could come to the school to administer the prescribed medication or supervise the self-administration of same. If this is not possible, the following procedures must be followed by parents who want their children to be administered medication by a member of the school staff during the school day or to self-administer medication under supervision of a member of school staff.
- Parents/guardians should be aware that medication, other than emergency medication, will not be administered for the first time at school off the school premises on school-related activities.

The full Policy can be found at <https://www.stratfordns.ie/policies-procedures>

Tips for Junior Infants Starting School

Before your child starts:

It would help greatly if your child is able to:

- Button and unbutton a coat and hang it up.
- Use the toilet without help and manage pants and buttons.
- Know how to flush the toilet and wash hands, without having to be told.
- Use a tissue when necessary.
- Share toys and playthings with others and 'take turns'.
- Tidy up and put away playthings.
- Remain contentedly for a few hours in the home of a relation, friend or neighbour or creche. If children have had this experience, then separation from parents when they start school will not cause any great anxiety.
- Manage their own shoes. Velcro is the best option for this.
- Open and close his/her own lunchbox.
- Undress and change themselves in the unlikely event of a toileting accident.

Labelling

Please ensure that all items of school uniform, spare clothes, lunch boxes, bottles and stationery are all labelled. The children will need a schoolbag big enough to fit an A4 folder, lunch box and drinks bottle.

Social skills

Social skills are very important. Our goal is to foster the development of good interpersonal and mixing skills. We place a high value on good manners and expect all children to be able to know when to use "Please", "Thank you", "Excuse me", "I'm sorry", "Hello", "Good morning", "Goodbye" etcetera.

Preparing for the first day of Junior Infants

The child's first day at school is a day to remember for the rest of their life. We can help to make it a really happy one for her/him. Tell them about school beforehand, casually, and talk about it as a happy place where there will be a big welcome and where they will meet new friends.

It may be a good idea to bring your child with you when shopping for a lunch box, stationery, drink container etc. Please check that your child is able to open and close the containers before purchasing as it is important, they can do this unaided.

Further tips by The National Parents Council

Coming in

- When you arrive at the school door, be as casual and calm as you can. You will meet with the teacher who will encourage your child to sit with a group and play with the other children.
- Assure her/him you will be back to collect them, wish her/him goodbye and make your getaway without delay.

- In spite of the best efforts of both teacher and parents, a small number of children will still become upset. If your child happens to be one of them, please remain calm. Patience and perseverance can work wonders.
- While you may be feeling anxious inside, it is vital that you have a positive and calm exterior.

Trust the teacher

- They are experienced at helping the children to settle into their new surroundings.
- Tell your child that the teacher will look after him/her until home time. When you have reassured her/him, leave promptly. The teacher will then comfort your child and help them to settle into the morning.
- Check back in the office in a short while. You will invariably find that calm has been restored.

Going home

- Be sure to **collect your child on time**. Children can become very upset if they feel they are forgotten.
- The teacher will call each child in turn to return to their parent/guardian. Your patience at this time will be much appreciated.
- If at any time the collecting routine has to be changed, ensure you tell the child and write a note/send an email to their teacher.
- Check the Junior Infant schedule for September for correct collection times.

The Department of Education and Skills has published a 'Getting Ready for School' section on their website, which is available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/publications/ready-for-school/>

Tips for Early Intervention Class Starting School

Please read through the advice for parents of the children in Junior Infants, as the advice re going home and trusting the teacher is relevant for all parents.

Toilet training:

If you have not already begun to support your child with toilet training, please do so over the summer, if you have not already started. While we understand that every child develops at their own pace, being toilet trained greatly supports your child's independence, comfort, and confidence in school. If your child is not toilet trained by September, please ask the teacher for a copy of our intimate care policy, as this will provide guidance for the staff on caring for your child.

Labelling:

Please ensure that all items of school uniform, spare clothes, lunch boxes, bottles and stationery are all labelled. The children will need a schoolbag big enough to fit an A4 folder, lunch box and drinks bottle.

Our School Day

On the first day, staff will be allocated to direct you and help you follow the correct procedure. Junior Infants and the Early Intervention class have special arrangements for the first two weeks (see below).

Morning Arrangements

- Our gate supervisor will be at the black gate to welcome the children on site.
- Parents of new Junior Infant children may accompany their children to the playground for the first week. After this, please say goodbye to your child at the gate.
- Parents of new Early Intervention class children may accompany their children to the playground for the first three weeks. After this, please say goodbye to your child at the gate.
- In the event your child needs longer to settle into school, please discuss this with the class teacher and alternative arrangements will be made.
- Pupils from 3rd- 6th Class are encouraged to walk in from the gate independently to the school yard to line up.
- The class teacher will bring the children into the building via their designated entrance point at the appropriate time.
- No adults, other than staff members, should enter the building.
- Messages for teachers can be sent by email to info@stratfordns.ie or by phoning the school office, 01-4922315.

Morning Timetable

8.20 – 8.30am	Jewish pupils ONLY come into the school using their classroom door
8.30 a.m. SHARP	Jewish Studies begin
9.20 – 9.30am	Jewish pupils go out to the yard for a snack and fresh air
8.50 – 9.30am	Morning supervision is provided for the children who do not attend Jewish Studies in the school yard
9.30 a.m. SHARP	Secular day begins

Afternoon arrangements

- At home time, please wait at the black gate for your children to come to you.
- Class teachers will walk the children out to the gate
- Infants – 2nd – the class teacher will release your child into your care once they see you.
- Please do not crowd around the gate, to make it easier for the teachers to see you.
- 3rd – 6th classes – the class teacher will let them out the gate to meet you. The class teacher waits at the gate to ensure all of their class are collected.

Junior Infant and Early Intervention Class Arrangements 2025

Special arrangements are in place for the first two weeks of term to help your children to settle into school. Please see below for the start and finish times, which are different to the rest of the school.

Wednesday 27 th August	Start time: 10.00am You may accompany your child into the classroom. Finish time: 12pm You will meet your child at the black gate and the teacher will release him/ her to your care when she sees you.	
Thursday 28 th August – Friday 12 th September	<i>Children attending Jewish Studies:</i>	<i>Children not attending Jewish Studies:</i>
	Start time: 8.20am You may accompany your child into the classroom.	Start time: 9.20am You may accompany your child into the yard.
	Finish time: 12pm You will meet your child at the black gate and the teacher will release him/ her to your care when she sees you.	
Monday 15 th September	Junior Infant children will start attending for the full day from 9.20am to 2pm. These hours will stay the same for the rest of the school year. Early Intervention class children finish at 12pm.	
Monday 22 nd September	Early Intervention children will start attending for the full day from 9.20am to 2pm. These hours will stay the same for the rest of the school year.	

Senior Infant Arrangements 2025

Special arrangements are in place for the start of term to help your children to settle into school. Please see below for the start and finish times, which are different to the rest of the school.

Wednesday 27 th August	Start time: 9.30am You may accompany your child into the classroom. Finish time: 12pm You will meet your child at the black gate and the teacher will release him/ her to your care when she sees you.	
Thursday 28 th August onwards	<i>Children attending Jewish Studies:</i>	<i>Children not attending Jewish Studies:</i>
	Start time: 8.20am	Start time: 9.20am
	Finish time: 2pm You will meet your child at the black gate and the teacher will release him/ her to your care when she sees you.	

Please note: There will be no Jewish Studies (JS) classes on the 1st day. Thereafter JS class will begin at 8.30am. Reception time is from 8:20am.

After School Clubs

The school provides a variety of after school clubs from 3pm to 4pm from Monday to Thursday. These clubs are run by either external organisations or members of staff and numbers are limited at 12 per club.

Some of the clubs from the previous school year include

- Irish dancing
- Basketball
- Lego
- Drama
- Football
- STEM
- Art
- Spanish
- Zumba

The clubs available may change from term to term, depending on the availability of club organisers and the expertise of staff.

A form is sent out prior to the start of each term, giving parents/guardians the option of signing their children up for a club. The club organiser then contacts the parents/guardians with further information.

2 – 3 Sibling Club

Members of staff run a sibling club from 2 to 3 from Monday to Friday. This provides supervision in a fun, active way for parents/ guardians who have children to collect at 3pm or who would like their children to attend an after school club.

Stratford College: Transfer to Secondary School



Stratford College

Co-educational Secondary School



Nathan Barrett, Principal

Stratford College offers a broad academic curriculum over a six year period leading to the Leaving Certificate Examination.

[Considering Stratford »](#)



School Prospectus

Our mission is to provide a teaching and learning community committed to quality and excellence in education.



Student-Centred Teaching and Learning

We provide a vibrant learning environment for students which challenges them to reach their full potential academically.



Quality Learning Environment

Top class facilities and services including computer lab, staffed library, specialist subject rooms.



Subject Blogs

Read our subject blogs that are developed by both teachers and students.

[Read Blogs »](#)



Close Knit Community

“Stratford College has provided a warm friendly, inclusive environment for our children.” – Parent

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