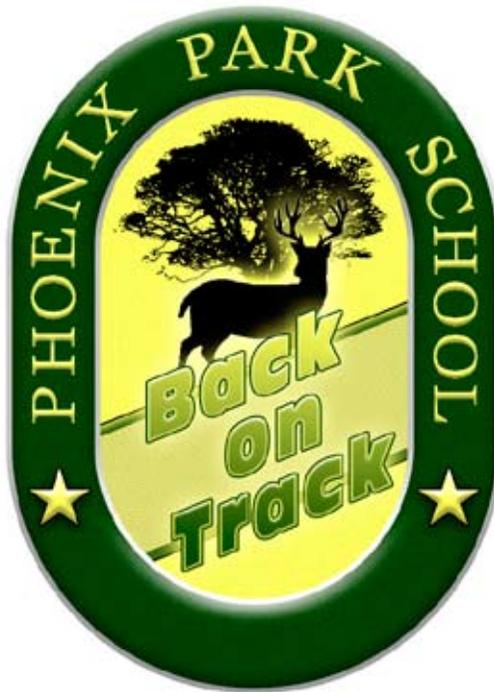




Phoenix Park Special School



Information Booklet

Table of Contents

General Information	2	Healthy Eating	5
Mission Statement	3	Homework	5
Curriculum	3	Nurture Group	5
Code of Behaviour	3	Parental Involvement	6
Anti-Bullying	4	Re-integration	6
Attendance	4	School Events	6
Awards	4	Student Transport	6
Child Protection	4	Uniform	6
Enrolment	4	Staffing	7
Equipment	4	Map / Contact Info.	8
Health	5		

General Information

The Phoenix Park Special School is a special primary school located in the Phoenix Park for children aged 4 to 12.

The school caters for children with a diagnosis of severe emotional and behavioural difficulties who are in the low average or above range of intellectual ability. We are a placement school and provide for children who have the potential to return to mainstream education. Typically, we aim for a placement period of two years but the needs of the child are central to any decision made about the length of time the child spends at the school.

The school is co-educational with a maximum enrolment of 18 pupils. Children are divided into three groups of six. There is a class teacher and one special needs assistant (SNA) assigned to each class. Some children have access to additional support from an SNA. We have two social care workers who run a formal Nurture Group in the school throughout the school day.

We aim to offer a quality learning environment, where staff and pupils feel safe, supported and challenged. We work to remove learning barriers and to motivate pupils through a wide range of learning opportunities, high expectations and a strong ethos of respect.

Mission Statement

The Phoenix Park Special School provides for children with severe emotional and behavioural difficulties that have the potential to return to mainstream school.

We aim to provide a quality learning environment that maximises educational opportunities for the child. We aspire to develop high standards of behaviour in a caring, nurturing and safe environment where all students are provided with experiences that make them feel valued and respected.

We believe in nurturing emotional literacy in our students to help them to recognise, understand, handle and appropriately express emotions.

To maximise the potential for progress, the school expects the child's primary carers and other agencies involved with the child to work with us in a collaborative and co-operative manner and to actively participate in supporting the child during their time in our school.

Curriculum

Pupils benefit from small class sizes, excellent teaching and quality resources. Pupils have access to the full range of national curriculum subjects. Work is carefully differentiated and adapted to enable all pupils to learn.

In addition to curriculum subject learning, we also offer enrichment opportunities for pupils including gardening, cookery, school trips and sport. These activities are to encourage pupil's social development and to support their ability to manage less structured and competitive activity.

There is a strong emphasis on nurturing emotional literacy in our students. There is a formal Nurture Group in our school that acts as a bridge between home and school for those students who are having

difficulties settling in their classrooms. The Nurture Group provides a place for children to explore the emotions they experience in school, build collaborative relationships with peers and build relationships with key adults that they can talk to about conflict or distress.

The school follows the guidelines set down by the NCSE in relation to developing Individual Education Plans for children with Special Educational Needs. Each child that attends the school will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) developed within their first term in the school. Their IEP will be specific to them and will set out the child's strengths, needs and targets for the academic year ahead. The IEP will be reviewed and updated regularly.

Code of Behaviour

We have a very clear and comprehensive Code of Behaviour in our school. Please request a copy of this policy for more information. We focus on positive behaviour and have high expectations of every child.

Everybody in our school follows the GOLDEN RULES:

- ***We are gentle***
- ***We are kind and helpful***
 - ***We listen***
 - ***We work hard***
 - ***We are honest***
- ***We look after property***

While most children respond well to our behaviour management system, there may be instances when children exhibit violent and dangerous behaviour that put themselves or others at risk of injury.

All staff members are trained in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention, which enables staff to safely manage dangerous behaviour. Physical intervention is always a last resort. Please ask for our Physical Intervention Policy for more details.

Anti-Bullying

Every student has the right to feel safe and secure at all times in our school. Bullying will not be tolerated. Students, parents and staff members have a shared responsibility to create an environment that is conducive

to learning and free from bullying.

Students are encouraged to tell an adult about any incidents of bullying that they know about. For more information, please ask for our Anti-Bullying Policy.

Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality at school are legal requirements. All attendance is monitored daily and poor attendance will be followed up with parents. Written notes are required for all absences, clearly giving reasons. Under the Education Welfare

Act 2002, the school is obliged to report absences exceeding 20 days per school year to the National Education Welfare Board (NEWB). The school celebrates good attendance with a “*Best Attendance*” trophy at the end of each school year.

Awards

We operate a reward system in the school to promote positive behavior and reward children who are doing well.

Awards include:

- Student of the Year Award
- Attendance Awards
- Sports & Swimming Awards
- Weekly Student of the Week Awards



Child Protection

The Board of Management of the Phoenix Park Special School recognises that child protection and welfare considerations permeate all aspects of school life and this is reflected in all of the school policies,

practices and activities. The school has adopted and will implement the DES Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools. For more information, please ask for our Child Protection Policy.

Enrolment

Please request a copy of our Admission and Discharge Policy for details on enrolment.

Equipment

An annual fee of €50 is payable for the supply of academic books, stationery, art & craft supplies and photocopying. This fee is payable at the start of the school year or in

installments per term. If school property is damaged, pupils will be asked to cover the cost of repairing the damage or replacing the item that was damaged.

Health

When children are prescribed medicines and drugs, the staff will only assist if there is a written note to the principal from parents. Parents will also be required to sign an Indemnity Form for school insurance purposes. All medicines must be handed in to the office by parents or bus escorts. No medicines are to be kept in school bags.

When children are sick or injured, they will receive minimum first aid and parents will be informed by phone or letter.

In the event of a serious accident/illness, parents will be informed and the child will be brought home or to hospital.

The school facilitate routine dental and health checks throughout the school year.

Children must stay away from school when they have illnesses deemed contagious.

*(e.g: Chickenpox/Conjunctivitis/
Gastroenteritis/German Measles/Hepatitis A/
Impetigo/Measles/Mumps)*

Healthy Eating



We have a Healthy Eating Policy in our school. We provide breakfast and lunch in the school, free of charge. There is fresh milk, sandwiches and fruit available each

day. Children do not bring junk food to school and we only provide treats on special occasions. Please ensure that any food sent to school is as nutritious as possible.

Homework

Homework is assigned Monday to Thursday. Homework is written in to each child's homework journal. Parents are encouraged to take time to sit with their child and support

them with their homework tasks. Parents are asked to sign the homework journal every night. Teachers will use the journal as a form of regular home-school communication.

Nurture Group

Our social care workers run a formal nurture group in our school. A Nurture Group is a small class where children spend a substantial part of each week in the group but remain part of their main class, joining the other children daily for planned activities.

A bridge between home and school, the nurture room provides a welcoming and warm environment. Our room has a sofa, space for equipment for play, as well as books, worktables and computers.

The Nurture Group aims to provide a flexible and preventative resource, which is responsive to the needs of the pupils.

It provides ongoing assessment and support for children showing signs of emotional stress and behavioural difficulties with the aim of enabling the pupils to access the curriculum and participate fully in school life.



Parental Involvement

We aim to develop partnerships for learning with parents. We believe that the positive relationship between school and home has a huge effect on the behaviour and learning of the pupils in school.

The following suggestions can help the school, your children, their education and you:

- Communicate regularly with teachers and staff.
- Talk positively to your children about their school, schoolwork, teachers and education.
- Encourage your children's friendships.
- Set up good routines for your children, such as
 - *doing homework*
 - *getting ready for school and being on time*
 - *wearing proper school uniform*
 - *going to bed at an appropriate time*
 - *ensuring children get physical activity every day*
 - *daily reading*
- Ensure that your child's clothes and possessions are all clearly labeled.
- Let school staff know when things happen that might influence your child's behavior or affect their learning.

Re-integration

The reintegration of pupils back into mainstream school is our ultimate goal. All reintegration plans are bespoke to the individual child, and time scales are

determined through constant liaison between ourselves, the receiving school, the pupil, parents and carers.

School Events

Parental attendance is required at a number of events in the school during the school year.

Annual events that are held in the school may include:

- **Summer Barbecue**
- **Awards Ceremony**
- **Christmas Concert**
 - **Sale of Work**
- **Friendship Weeks**
- **Science Week**

Student Transport

Applications are made to the National Council for Special Education for school transport for children. Most students are transported to school by services provided by Bus Eireann.

The school has a mini-bus and students are brought on educational outings using this service.

Uniform

Pupils are required to attend school dressed appropriately in our school uniform. This encourages a sense of belonging for the pupils and begins to help them feel good about themselves and identify as part of our community. Children are expected to be in full school uniform every day.

Our uniform consists of:

- **Navy Jumper**
- **Blue Shirt or White polo shirt**
- **Navy Trousers or Tracksuit Bottoms**
- **Runners & Black Plimsolls**

Staffing

**THE SCHOOL CURRENTLY OPERATES
WITH THE FOLLOWING STAFF:**

Siobhán Quigley - **Principal**
Ellen Connolly - **Secretary**
Helen Prior - **Housekeeper**



Teachers

Dorothy Mulenga
Mary O'Hare
Garrett Byrne



Special Needs Assistants

Jean Treacy • Karen Kenny • Maria Murray
Katya Ponomerva • Carol O'Brien • Paul Boland

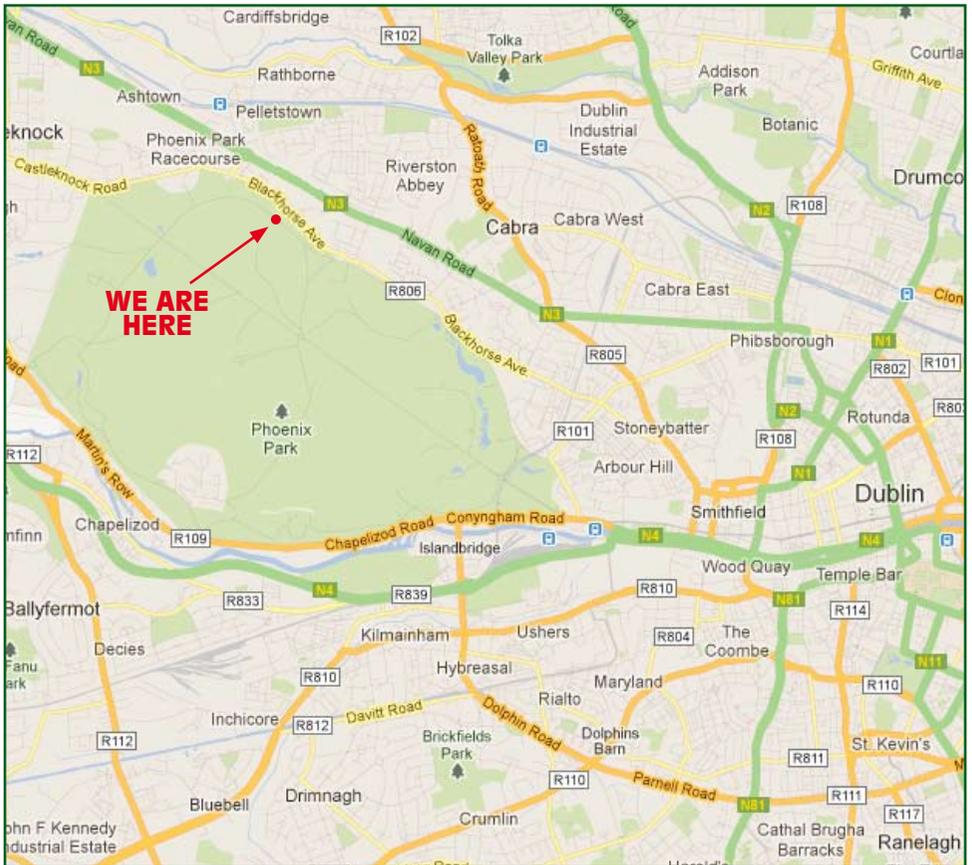
Social Care Workers

Carolyn O'Brien • Karen Jones

Bus Escorts

Tommy • Jackie • Stephen • Geraldine
Noelle • Carol • Corina

**Care for Others,
Care for Ourselves,
Care for Our Learning,
Care for Our School.**



Contact Details

Address:

Phoenix Park Special School, Phoenix Park, Dublin 8

Phone: 01 - 838 6699

Fax: 01 - 838 5317

Email: ppss.ias@eircom.net

Website: <http://phoenixparkschool.ie/>

 **Twitter:** @PhoenixPkSchool

