



Loreto Abbey Dalkey

Bulletin August 2026



From the Principal

Dear Parents / Guardian,

As we return to school, I hope your holidays provided an opportunity to rest, renew energy and spend time with family and friends. Whether your family is returning to us or joining our community for the first time, we are delighted to have you here and we thank you for entrusting your daughter's education to us.

It's an exciting time for your daughter although I'm sure that for many it is also a time tinged with some apprehension. Times of change and transition can be difficult as familiar faces, buildings and routines we

left behind in primary school and new experiences beckon. Be assured of our support as your daughter embraces these new opportunities. Our Induction Programme on Friday August 28th aims to "break the ice" and will help form the new class group into a cohesive unit and they will begin to feel they belong.

This time can be an emotional milestone for parents too. We are hosting a gathering for First Year parents at 08.30 am on Monday August 31st in Cois Fharraige (the Lecture Theatre area) . It will be an opportunity to meet other parents, management and staff. A further meeting will take place on Tuesday September 15th at 19.30 in the Lecture Theatre. At this meeting, we will share insights on how best to support students to make an effective transition to secondary school.

Ms. Marie Lonergan, the First Year Head is available should you have any queries and may be contacted at the email address/phone number listed in the bulletin.

I look forward to meeting you over the coming weeks.

Mr. Robert Dunne, Principal

Contacting the School:

1st Year Head: Ms. Marie Lonergan	
Email: marie.lonergan@loretoabbeydalkey.ie	
Telephone: 01 - 2718905	

Principal	Please contact Ms Holly Simmons, PA holly.simmons@loretoabbeydalkey.ie Telephone: (01 2718904)
Deputy Principal with responsibility for 5th Year	Ms. Marie Breen marie.breen@loretoabbeydalkey.ie Telephone: (01 - 2718902)
Additional Educational Needs Coordinator	Mr. Carl Thompson carl.thompson@loretoabbeydalkey.ie
Guidance Counsellors	Ms. Dara Shortt and Ms Orla Borphy guidance@loretoabbeydalkey.ie
Digital Device Coordinator	Mr. David Cullen david.cullen@loretoabbeydalkey.ie
Chaplain	Sr. Mary Dealhunty mary.delahunty@loretoabbeydalkey.ie

Key Dates:	
Friday August 28th: First Year Induction I: Fun Day 9am to 3:30pm	Students wear the school tracksuit. Students should bring snacks for breaktime but lunch will be provided. If there are any dietary requirements please contact: office@loretoabbeydalkey.ie
Friday August 28th: 8.30 - 9.30	Coffee Morning in school for all 1st Year Parents
Monday August 31st: First Year Induction II: General Information 8:45am to 12:30pm	Students should wear their full uniform. They will not need books or an iPad but they should bring a pen.
Tuesday 1st September: First full day of classes.	Students should bring their iPads, stationary and wear a full uniform.
Tuesday, 15th September at 7:30pm: Meeting of 1st Year Parents In School Lecture Theatre	
Thursday 26th January: 1st Year Parent Teacher Meeting. 16.15-18.45	

1. School Uniform

Our school uniform helps promote a sense of belonging to the school community and is a visual symbol of Loreto Abbey. Students wearing our uniform should be conscious that they represent the entire school and as such, their behaviour should reflect our ethos and code. In the minds of our young people, fashion trends can often result in unapproved amendments to the school uniform and in time this can lead to

confusion over what is acceptable or permitted. We have noticed over the last year that three areas in particular sometimes need attention.

1. The school jumper is still a required part of our uniform. The fleece may be worn over the jumper in very cold weather. The hoodie, long since discontinued, is no longer an accepted part of the school uniform.
2. The following shoes are acceptable. What are not acceptable are canvas runners, trainers or sports shoes with visible logos.

Uniform: School Shoes

The following are examples of black or navy shoes which are acceptable as part of our school uniform:



Sports shoes with visible logos are not permitted. The following is an example of the type of shoe that is not acceptable:



3. The school skirt is designed to be worn in a particular way. It should never be rolled up and it should not be altered to make it shorter.

2. Student Drop Off

There are over 1000 people attending both the primary and secondary schools on the campus every morning. Therefore, there are significant risks for both drivers and pedestrians with a number of potentially serious accidents occurring last year. For the safety of everyone we would ask parents and guardians to please drop off and pick up students at Harbour Road and not to drive down the approach road to the school. This helps to keep the area around the school safe and accessible for everyone, particularly during the busy morning arrival period. We appreciate your cooperation with this arrangement.

3. School Communication



We would encourage all parents and guardians to download the Loreto Abbey Dalkey Unique Schools app, which will be our main platform for school communication. We will continue to use VSware for recording attendance, marks and merits. Please ensure that you have access to both platforms before the start of the school year so that you can receive important information and updates.

4. Lost Property

Lost property can sometimes be an issue, particularly in the early days of term. The 'Foundit' stickers which are available are a way to be reconnected with any lost items. We would recommend that 'Foundit' stickers are applied to all school items. Foundit stickers can be purchased from the office and must be registered at www.foundit.ie



5. Class Arrangements

Every September, we receive requests to move classes. The reasons are varied but in a school our size, any move has an impact on the system that may not be immediately apparent to a student or a parent. If moves are facilitated for one student, an expectation develops that it is possible for all. We guarantee subject choice but we are unable to guarantee particular teachers and we would ask for understanding on this point. Please allow classes to settle. If your daughter is experiencing difficulty in a particular class, please contact the teacher directly in an attempt to resolve the problem. If the difficulty remains unresolved, please make contact with the relevant Deputy Principal or the Principal.

6. Pupil Accident Insurance

Each student is covered 24 hours per day, seven days a week for school and non school event under the Pupil Protector Personal Accident Plan. The cost of the plan is included in the school fees. There is an excess of €50 on any claim. For more information or to request a claim form please contact Maria Roberts on (01 2718926).



7. Attendance

In recent months, the Department of Education and Youth has been highlighting the importance of school attendance. Their campaign was motivated by ESRI research published earlier in the year which concluded that school absence has very significant negative consequences for educational attainment, health, wellbeing and social belonging and impacts significantly on early adulthood. The results of this research is very much our experience on the ground and in the last 15 months is the focus of a whole school approach to encourage school attendance, *"Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow; Every School Day Counts"*.

While our campaign has been relatively successful it is important to continue to challenge the mindset among some students that school is optional. Last year, 2469 full day



absences were recorded with 20 students absent for 20 days or more.

On a national average, this is low. Our partial absence rate, however, is high with 3367 morning absences recorded and 3535 afternoon absences recorded. Many of these absences are with parental permission and the majority are legitimate due to illness, medical

appointments, etc. There is a proportion, however, that are not and I would encourage parents to regularly check the VS system and review the pie-chart recording absences. In the event of a teacher being absent, work is arranged for students and learning continues. There is no need for a student to leave the building.

If at all possible, please arrange for all medical/dental appointments to take place Wednesday afternoons or after-school. When the Rugby season begins, please do not sign your daughter out of school *unless* her brother or family member is playing. Few, if any, boyfriends support our students in basketball or hockey!

Lastly, if you are concerned about your daughter's attendance, please do not hesitate to contact us so we can address any underlying difficulties she may be experiencing.

Often, supports put in place early prevents habit forming and make school a happier place for the student.

The window is open, admitting the September breeze: A month that smells like notebook paper and pencil shavings... A month that smells like both progress and beginning again. Lauren Oliver



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