

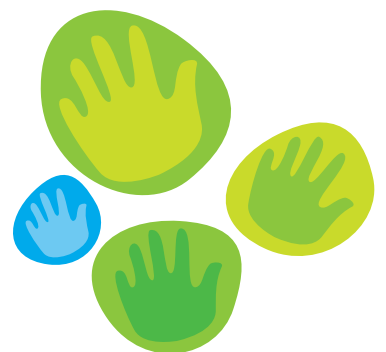


**Scoil Náisiúnta
Oideachas le Chéile
Baile Átha Cliath 7**

**Dublin 7 Educate Together
National School**



**Information Booklet
for Parents / Guardians
2025 - 2026**





Welcome to our school!

Dear parents and guardians, a very warm welcome to our school community!

We are proud to be home to over 520 wonderful children and a dedicated team of more than 65 staff members who work tirelessly to uphold our high standards of teaching and learning.

We hope that you will soon feel fully immersed in our vibrant and supportive school community.

Whether you are joining us for the first time or returning for another exciting year, we are confident that your journey with us is a successful and enjoyable one.

We have tried to provide you with all the essential information you'll need as you begin this new chapter in D7ETNS.

Fionnuala McHugh

Fionnuala McHugh
Principal



Learn Together to Live Together

Ag Foghlaim le Cheile

Ethos

D7ET national school is part of the Educate Together family of schools. We base our work on the idea that education should be child-centred, striving for the best educational outcome for every child. The Educate Together ethos is based on four principles:

- Equality-based — Children of all social, cultural and religious backgrounds have equal access to D7ET and will be equally respected.
- Co-educational — Educate Together schools are open to girls and boys, and gender stereotyping is addressed and challenged. Our school is committed to encouraging all children to explore their full range of abilities and opportunities irrespective of gender.
- Child-centred — this applies not only to teaching and learning within the classroom but to all decisions at staff and management level, which must have the well-being of the children at their heart.
- Democratically-run — parents are viewed as a positive resource for the school. Parental involvement is welcomed and encouraged, where appropriate. The professional role of the teacher is always validated.

Our D7ET school community is committed to fostering a school environment that is:

- A place where we are welcomed and in turn are welcoming of others.
- A place where we are treated with respect and in turn treat others respectfully.
- A place where we feel happy and safe.
- A place where we are encouraged to achieve our full potential.
- A place where our self-esteem and self-confidence can flourish.
- A place of quality teaching and learning.
- A place where a love of learning is nurtured.
- A place where we can be ourselves and in turn allow others to be themselves.

The School Day at D7ET

The pedestrian gate will open at 8.20 am. All children line up in the school yard on their designated lines. You are welcome to line up with your child until the class teacher collects them at 8.30 am. We ask parents to make every effort to have their children in the morning line before 8.30am and encourage your child to stand in the line and walk into school independently. This is an important skill for your child to learn and to build their self-confidence.

School begins at 8.30 am and finishes at 1.10pm for Junior and Senior Infants and 2.10pm for 1st to 6th class.

The school lunch breaks are from 10.00am - 10.25am and from 11.50am - 12.20pm. Each break is split between outside yard time and class time for eating.

At home time the class teacher will bring their class downstairs. Each child needs to be handed over directly to the parent/guardian/child minder. If someone new is collecting your child or if your child is going home alone or with another parent, you must inform the class teacher or the school.

On Fridays we invite families to visit their child's classroom from 8.30am to 8.45am. This is optional and we understand that work or other childcare arrangements can impact this time. It happens every Friday so please don't feel pressure to do this every week. On these mornings you are welcome to line up with your child and accompany them upstairs to their classrooms. This time is for your child to show you around their room, perhaps show you some work or a project they have been working on and to chat to other families. Please remember this is not time to have mini meetings with the class teacher. If you have an issue to discuss with the class teacher that is more than general chat, please make an appointment to do so.

Punctuality/Attendance

We encourage our pupils to attend school regularly and punctually and this is monitored by class teachers, deputy principal and principal. If we have concerns, we will discuss them with parents and offer support to improve attendance and punctuality. Either when we are concerned about a child's absences, or when a pupil has been absent for 20 days during a school year, schools must inform the education welfare officer, who may then contact parents. If a teacher is concerned about a child's punctuality or attendance, it is recorded on Aladdin, and the matter is raised with parents. Our end of year reports states the number of days a child is marked absent during the school year.

Clothing

We do not have a school uniform here at D7ET. However, we do have some practical tips when it comes to school attire. We advise against children wearing 'good clothes', as they cannot play freely or fully engage in some activities if they have to be overly careful of their clothes. We recommend footwear with a Velcro fastening for children who cannot tie their own laces. Children should wear footwear with a good grip. If children wear unsuitable footwear to school, they may not be able to fully participate in PE or other outdoor activities. Wheelies or high heeled shoes are not allowed in school. We often take children on outings during the day so please make sure that they bring a coat or rain jacket to school, preferably with a hood. Our pupils are from age 4 – 12/13 years and we request children come to school dressed in an age-appropriate way. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly labelled. We regularly have a large box and rail of lost property that 'nobody' owns, and we send it to a charity shop. In the interest of safety, jewellery should be kept to a minimum. Please be aware that long chains, necklaces, bracelets and earrings can catch in clothing during playtime and cause injury.

Hair Care

Head lice are a common problem in primary schools and almost unavoidable. Please check your child's hair weekly and if you discover any head lice don't be embarrassed to let us know. When we are aware of an outbreak, we inform parents in the class, and no individual child is identified. Long hair (hair that touches the shoulder, or longer) should be tied back while children are in school.

Lunches:

The school day is short, and we want your child to receive the best education that they can. Diet plays a big part in your child's behaviour. We promote a healthy eating culture in our school. Make sure your child's lunch isn't too large, as they only have a short time to eat. If your child does not finish their lunch, we will leave it in their lunch box so you know how much they are eating. In line with our Healthy Lunch/Eating Policy, children are not to bring fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate and crisps to school. Children do not share food, even on party days, to avoid any risk to children with food allergies. In a class where there are specific food restrictions, the parents will be informed.

Dublin City Council supplies fruit four times a week and your child is welcome to take this as required. A strong lunch box that will fit into a school bag and can be opened easily, is recommended. Please give your child lunch and reusable drink containers that they can open themselves and use without spilling.

We adhere to a nut free policy at D7ET.

At times, such as end of term, children may be allowed to bring in a treat, but this is at the discretion of the parent/guardian. Teachers may have days where children can bring in treats, for example school trips or picnic days. If so, they will let you know via Aladdin.

Allergies and Medications

The Board of Management has a duty to safeguard the health and safety of pupils. However, teachers do not personally undertake the administration of medication, for example inhalers, injections, application of creams/sun creams and ointments. We ask families to tell staff members in writing of any medical conditions that your child has. This information should be provided at enrolment or when any medical condition develops. Where children are suffering from life threatening conditions or allergies, parents should outline clearly in writing, what should and should not be done in a particular emergency, with reference to what may be a risk to the child. Please see the school's Administration of Medicine's Policy and the relevant form that must be filled in by parents. These forms are also available in the school office.

Books and Stationery

Every primary school in Ireland receives a grant of €80 per child to cover the cost of books, workbooks, copybooks and basic stationery. This means that parents/guardians will not have to buy books, workbooks, copybooks or essential stationery for their children. The removal of some financial burden from parents and guardians is welcome and from a sustainability point of view, the books remain the property of the school and will be passed on where they have been used as texts rather than workbooks. Additionally, this scheme ensures equity of access as all children start the school year with the same books as their classmates. However, we do ask for money from families to cover Arts and Crafts, Photocopying, pupil insurance and Educate Together affiliation.

You will be sent an epayment link for these additional costs through Aladdin in September.

Children in Junior Infants will be provided with a book bag. This is for carrying schoolbooks, readers, library books and worksheets in and out of school. It helps the younger children stay organised with their belongings. Each class teacher will have their own routine for the use of these bookbags which will be communicated to you in an initial email in September.

Classes

At D7ET we have classes from Junior Infants to sixth class and two special classes for children with autism. Information that we consider for class formation includes gender balance, age, social, emotional, behavioural and educational needs.

Phones/Smart watches

While we understand there might be a need for mobile phones and communication devices, children are only permitted to bring these to school if a parent feels that it is necessary, and permission has been granted by the principal. At the start of a school year parents and children are required to fill in a form requesting that a mobile phone/smart watch be brought to school. These forms are available, at the request of parents, from the office and must be filled out each year.

If your child has an authorised phone or smart watch in school, it must be turned off in the child's bag during school hours and while at after school classes. If a child switches on a phone or device while in the building or grounds it will be taken from them and returned only to a parent/guardian. Permission to have it in school may then be withdrawn. We take no responsibility for lost phones or devices brought to school.

Bicycles

Bicycle and scooter racks are located on our school grounds. There is a separate gate to use when parking in the morning. The children are welcome to park their bikes/scooters here for the day. The school does not accept responsibility for bicycles, skates, scooters parked inside the grounds. Please avoid leaving bicycles and scooters on the school grounds overnight. Cycling, scooting, skating etc are not allowed, either for adults or children, in our school grounds.

Birthday & Party Invitations

We have learned from experience that it is not good practice for invitations to be given out on the school premises (this includes the school grounds). It can be a cause of great upset, especially for younger children. Birthday invitations are prohibited from being handed out on school premises, even if you are inviting everyone. Although difficult, children are encouraged not to discuss upcoming parties at school. If it is your child's birthday on a school day, the class teacher will of course acknowledge this, if the child wishes, but we do not allow cakes, treats etc to be sent into school.

School Calendar

[School Calendar 2025/2026](#)

School opens on Wednesday 27th August 2025.

School closures are as follows:

October mid-term	Monday 27th October 2025 to Friday 31st October 2025 inclusive
Oide Child Protection Procedures for Schools Training	Thursday December 4th, 2025
Christmas holidays	Friday 19th December 2025 will be the last day of term. School reopens on Monday 5th January 2026.
St Brigid's Day Bank Holiday	Monday 2nd February 2026
February Midterm	Monday 16th February to Friday 20th February 2026
Day 1 Oide Primary Curriculum Framework	Thursday, 26th February 2026
St Patrick's Day	Tuesday 17th March 2026
Easter Holidays	Friday 27th March 2026 will be the last day of term. School reopens on Monday 13th April 2026.
May Midterm	Monday 4th May – Friday 8th May 2026
Day 2 Oide Primary Curriculum Framework	Wednesday, May 20th 2026
June Bank Holiday	Monday 1st June 2026

The last school day of the 2025/2026 school year is Tuesday 30th June 2026

Our School Staff 2025-2026

Class	Teacher	Contact
Principal	Fionnuala	fionnuala@d7educatetogether.com
Deputy Principal	Carol D	carol@d7educatetogether.com
Junior Infants 1	Emily	emily@d7educatetogether.com
Junior Infants 2	Ciara	ciara@d7educatetogether.com
Junior Infants 3	Arlene	arlene@d7educatetogether.com
Senior Infants 1	Grace	grace@d7educatetogether.com
Senior Infants 2	Anna / Carol H	anna@d7educatetogether.com carol.h@d7educatetogether.com
Senior Infants 3	Sarah	Sarah@d7educatetogether.com
1 st Class 1	Rebecca	Rebecca@d7educatetogether.com
1 st Class 2	Michelle	michelle@d7educatetogether.com
1 st Class 3	Róisín /Christine	roisin@d7educatetogether.com christine@d7educatetogether.com
2 nd Class 1	Jack	Jack.Cogan@d7educatetogether.com
2 nd Class 2	Katrina	katrina@d7educatetogether.com
2 nd Class 3	Gráinne / Marie	Grainne@d7educatetogether.com marie@d7educatetogether.com
3 rd Class 1	Paul / Hanora	hanora@d7educatetogether.com paul@d7educatetogether.com
3 rd Class 2	Caragh	caragh@d7educatetogether.com
4 th Class 1	Padraig	padraig@d7educatetogether.com
4 th Class 2	Jennifer	jennifer@d7educatetogether.com



5 th Class 1	Niamh Ní C Lauren	niamh@d7educatetogether.com lauren@d7educatetogether.com
5 th Class 2	Peadar	Peadar@d7educatetogether.com
6 th Class 1	Patrick	patrick@d7educatetogether.com
6 th Class 2	Niamh B	niamhb@d7educatetogether.com
6 th Class 3	Enda	enda@d7educatetogether.com
ALC 1	Erin	erin@d7educatetogether.com
ALC 2	Lia	lia@d7educatetogether.com
Special Education Teachers (SET)	Carol D	carol@d7educatetogether.com
	Romey	Romey@d7educatetogether.com
	Ross	Ross@d7educatetogether.com
	Wesley	wesley@d7educatetogether.com
	Lena	lena@d7educatetogether.com
	Elaine	elaine.shanahan@d7educatetogether.com
	Veronica	veronica@d7educatetogether.com
SNAs	Barbara, Sook, Carmen, Gemma / Mags, Ivana, John, Edel, Sarah, Margaret, Paula/ Amy Bridget, Mauro, Kim, Olivia, Elaine, Cian, Mary, Al, Mark.	
Secretaries	Celine Aoife	Secretary@d7educatetogether.com
Caretaker	Martin	
Lollipop Person	Sandy	

Our School Management Team 2025-2026

D7ET has a dedicated and hard working in school management team (ISM). These are teachers who have been tasked with extra responsibilities to ensure the smooth running of our school. They have been interviewed and the board of management view them to have good leadership and management skills. The ISM meet as a group regularly to plan and manage the school. Policies and issues relating to children, staffing and families are supported through the ISM.

Fionnuala	Principal
Carol D	Deputy Principal
Padraig	Assistant Principal 1
Ciara	Assistant Principal 1
Katrina	Assistant Principal 2
Anna	Assistant Principal 2
Peadar	Assistant Principal 2
Grainne	Assistant Principal 2
Patrick	Assistant Principal 2
Carol H	Assistant Principal 2

Our Board of Management 2025-2026

Our board of management (BOM) is constituted in accordance with the rules of the DES. It has eight members who are appointed for a period of four years. The BOM manages the school. The Principal is employed for the day to day running and management of the school and the Principal is responsible for teaching and learning decisions with input from teaching staff. Duties of the BOM may include changes in policies, school finance, parental involvement, challenges to teaching & learning and recruitment. If parents wish to bring any matters up with the BOM, please do so in writing to the Chairperson. However, the class teacher or the Principal should be the first port of call in most instances.

Paul Butler Stephen Kenny	Chairperson Treasurer	2 Patron's Nominees Educate Together Nominees
Joana M Rodrigues Gary Fitzgerald	Mother Father	2 Parents' Nominees - two parents elected from parents of pupils in the school, one mother one father.
Gráinne Gannon	Teacher	1 Teacher Nominee - elected by the teaching staff.
Danielle Clarke Collins Aoife Mc Ardle		2 Community Representatives - two people from the wider community.

Communication procedures

We use the Aladdin Schools app as the primary means of communication with families. Please ensure your contact details are up to date or you may miss essential messages. Remember to let us know, if you change your mobile or landline number or email address.

The school will also send a Newsletter every Friday via Aladdin noticeboard. Each Newsletter will be added to our website for your information. It is essential that you keep up to date with the Newsletter for important messages, notice information on closures, dates for your diary and school news.

Please communicate with your child's teacher via their school email address. Please bear in mind that teachers will not generally check their emails until after contact time with their class so will not respond to your message immediately, they will usually respond within 24hrs. Teacher's will vary in their communication frequency with you but all communication will come via Aladdin or school email. If you have a class related issue please make the class teacher your first port of call with an informal chat, a note or an email. Teacher's are not available to take phone calls during contact hours with their class. If you feel you will need more time to talk to the teacher please make an appointment to meet them so your issue can be discussed in a discrete manner and not impact on teaching and learning time for the students.

Individual parent teacher meetings will be held in November as per the school calendar. You will be offered a selection of days and times via the Aladdin app about one week before. These meetings are a short but a concise insight in to how your child is getting on at school. If you have an important concern, please don't wait until then to talk to the teacher. In turn, if there are any bigger issues to discuss your class teacher will have contacted you before this date.

e-Payments

When money is due for any school activity relevant to your child, you will receive an email containing your payment access link. This will bring you to a parent payment page containing all payments requested for all siblings in a family. There is only one link per family, ensuring you can pay all amounts due for all your children in one transaction. Once you have completed your payment, you will be issued with a reference number. You will also receive an email receipt containing transaction details and a reference number.

School Office opening hours

This is open from 8.30am - 2.30pm on school days.

Our school phone number is (01)8943111.

For any email queries, please contact Celine and/or Aoife at --
secretary@d7educatetogether.com

Home Issues:

At D7ET we understand that all children come from unique backgrounds and family structures. If there are issues at home such as separation, custody arrangements or family bereavement, it can be helpful to both the child and the class teacher to be aware of the situation. The issue will not be discussed with all staff unless there is a need to share it and we act with sensitivity around these situations. Parental separation or family bereavement can be challenging. Our role in the school is to support any changes, help your child develop confidence and feel secure in school and in themselves. Celebrating difference is part of our ethos. Once we are aware of any issues then this ensures sensitivity when dealing with family issues during social personal health education (SPHE) lessons. 'My Family' is a theme that runs through the Curriculum. If there is a custody arrangement regarding your child, we need to be informed as soon as possible. You can speak to or email
fionnuala@d7educatetogether.com

Parental Involvement

At D7ET, we believe that parents/guardians, the school staff and the community working together enhance the education of our students. Educational research shows that where parents and the school work together there is a direct link to how successful a child performs socially and academically in school. We welcome parents/guardians' involvement in forming policy, fundraising and inputting on events in the school. If you would like to get involved in school life or have a skill to share with primary school aged children, you should let your class rep know and they will suggest ways, for example through the Parent Guardian Staff Association (PGSA). We understand that many parents work but hopefully you will still have the opportunity to support us during the year. Examples of events that occur during the year where you can become involved are the Digital Detox, Winter Bazaar, Quiz Night, Summer Fete and gardening days.

Parents Guardians Staff Association (PGSA)

At D7ET, we have an active PGSA, which supports the work of the BOM and the staff. They organise a range of social and fundraising events, informative talks for our school community, and more. A BOM member liaises between PGSA and BOM, and a staff member between them and the staff. The work of this association greatly enhances the sense of community and common purpose among parents, children and staff as well as enabling the school to buy additional resources. If you want to get in touch with the PGSA please email: pgsa@d7educatetogether.com

After School Activities/Denominational Instruction

There are several after school activities available in the school from 2:10 - 3:15pm. The After School team will be in touch early in the new school year with details and a timetable for next years' activities. After school activities are provided by internal and external providers and are not linked with the school directly. The after-school organisers are the point of contact afterschool@d7educatetogether.com

We are a multi-denominational school. Parents who wish their children to receive instruction in a particular denomination may, with the BoM's approval, organise instruction classes on the school premises after school hours. The school has no role in the organisation of these classes or the supervision of children attending them. The same requirements for these classes as those for the afterschool classes apply.

After School Care

We are lucky to be able to operate both a sibling hour and after school care service here at D7ET. This is run and managed by an outside company that rent a space from our school. Please contact Little Learners D7 Afterschool afterschoold7@gmail.com , not the school office or staff, about matters related to this service.

Your Child's Learning

The primary school curriculum is presented in seven areas, some of which are further subdivided into subjects. These are:

1. Language: Gaeilge and English
2. Mathematics
3. Social, environmental and scientific education (SESE): history, geography and science
4. Arts education: visual arts, music and drama
5. Physical education
6. Social, personal and health education (SPHE)
7. Religious or ethical education is the responsibility of the different school patron bodies. Our ethical education programme is called Learn Together.

Your child will be taught all of these subjects at D7ET

For more information on the National School Curriculum check the NCCA website www.ncca.ie

Learn Together:

Educate Together schools are inclusive spaces. At D7ET we celebrate all cultures, belief systems and family types. Children will learn about many major festivals and celebrations, for example, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Pride, Ramadan etc at an age-appropriate level. Other strands the children will explore include moral and spiritual, equality and justice and ethics & the environment. While Learn Together is a timetabled subject, the ethos of our ethics programme and the real-life use of what we learn in ethics underpins the whole day in school, from the manner in which we address and relate to each other, to the songs we sing and the visual art you may see on the corridors. As part of the moral and spiritual strand we aim to develop the children's understanding of good decision making, personal well-being and respect. We help to develop the children's sense of worth and give them skills to help enrich their own spirituality. We teach our children to respect other children's beliefs and to acknowledge and celebrate difference.

School Committees

Currently there are three school committees at D7ET. These committees are the Student Council, the Library Committee and the Active Committee. They are student led programmes under the guidance of the D7ET Staff.

The student council is formed from students from 2nd class up to the 6th class and are democratically elected each year during term 1 (Democracy Week). Children nominate themselves to run for Student Council and they represent each class from Junior Infants to 6th Class and the ALCs. The Student Council looks after the well-being and needs of the children at D7ET. The Student Council gives a voice to each student as council members discuss class suggestions to improve the needs of the children. The Student Council tries to turn these suggestions into a reality. They represent the school at events, attend staff meetings, BOM meetings and AGMs.

The Library and Active Committees are formed from volunteer students in 6th class. The students nominate themselves for these committees and are chosen by class teachers based on interest and commitment. These committees work together to keep the busy communal spaces of the Library and PE equipment area functioning and useable for all students and teachers. They are also heavily involved in the planning and implementation of our yearly whole school events of World Book Day and Active Week.

Standardised Testing

While at D7ET your child will be involved in standardised testing, usually during the month of May. These tests help us to measure your child's achievement compared to the national average. The following tests will occur:

Junior Infants – ALPACA (Assessing Letter knowledge & Phonemic Awareness Class Assistant)

Senior Infants -ALPACA, Drumcondra Test of Early Literacy and Drumcondra Test of Early Numeracy

1st and 4th Class- NVRT (Non-Verbal Reasoning Test) and Drumcondra Literacy, Numeracy and Spelling

2nd, 3rd, 5th and 6th- Drumcondra Literacy, Numeracy and Spelling

The results are given to parents in a document attached to the end of year school reports - from 1st class on. If there are concerns, we will contact parents. Class teachers and SETs assess the children continuously throughout the year. We use teacher designed tests to ensure that children are meeting the curriculum objectives. At parent teacher meetings we will use assessments to tell you how your child is progressing.

For more information on standardised testing, check out the NCCA website on www.ncca.ie

Our Special Education Teaching Team (SET)

At D7ET, the area of learning support is seen as a positive. It is given to all students in the form of in class support and most children will access this extra teaching time during their time here at D7ET. If required, our SET team also provide additional support in the form of withdrawal from class to allow for small group or individualised instruction. We currently have seven teachers on our SET team, Carol D, Romey, Wesley, Veronica, Ross and Elaine, who are coordinated and led by our Deputy Principal, Carol D. Education support allocation is reviewed regularly and is provided on a short-term basis (usually a 6-8 week block) until we feel the desired outcomes and targets have been met. In this way a child, group or class will have targeted support for a number of weeks and when sufficient progress has been made the support is then provided to another cohort of children, groups and classes.

Additional Needs and What to do if you have concerns?

If you are concerned about your child's development, education or feel they are not meeting their developmental milestones, we advise you to liaise with your child's class teacher. In conjunction with your child's SET (special education teacher) they will assess what supports are needed for your child and, if required, they can help you to get in touch with relevant professionals e.g. Occupational Therapist, Speech & Language Therapist. Please note, as teachers while we may notice certain characteristics that your child may be experiencing, we are not psychologists and cannot diagnose your child. We will only ask you to take this path if we feel that the school has differentiated adequately and that your child is still experiencing some challenges. Please remember that early intervention is the key to your child achieving success in school. It is far more difficult at a later stage.

We ask that you inform us about any concerns you have as this allows us to adequately prepare to support your child, especially when they start in Junior Infants or are new to our school. If you already have reports from another professional e.g. medical/psychological report, please let us know so we can meet you and best support your child in their transition to our school. We have children of all abilities and additional needs in our school. We believe that we support these children to the best of our ability and within the resources and supports that are allocated to us from the Department of Education and Skills. We believe our ethos is inclusive and supportive of all children achieving success at individual levels.



School Policies

Please familiarise yourself with all relevant policies. These policies inform our procedures at D7ET on a day to day basis. They are available to read on our school website, as they would take up the whole booklet if printed here. Copies are also available on request from the school office.

<https://d7educatetogether.com/policies/>

Useful links:

School Website: <https://d7educatetogether.com/>

Educate Together: <https://www.educatetogether.ie/>

Learn Together: <https://www.educatetogether.ie/about/ethical-education/primary/>

Curriculum: <https://ncca.ie/en/primary/>

NCCA supports for parents: <https://ncca.ie/en/primary/resources-for-parents/>

NCSE pamphlets for parents: <https://ncse.ie/information-booklets-pamphlets-2>



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