

First Year Parent & Guardian Information Evening

Coolmine Community School
Scoil Phobail Chúil Mhín



Welcome to Coolmine Community School

Meet the team

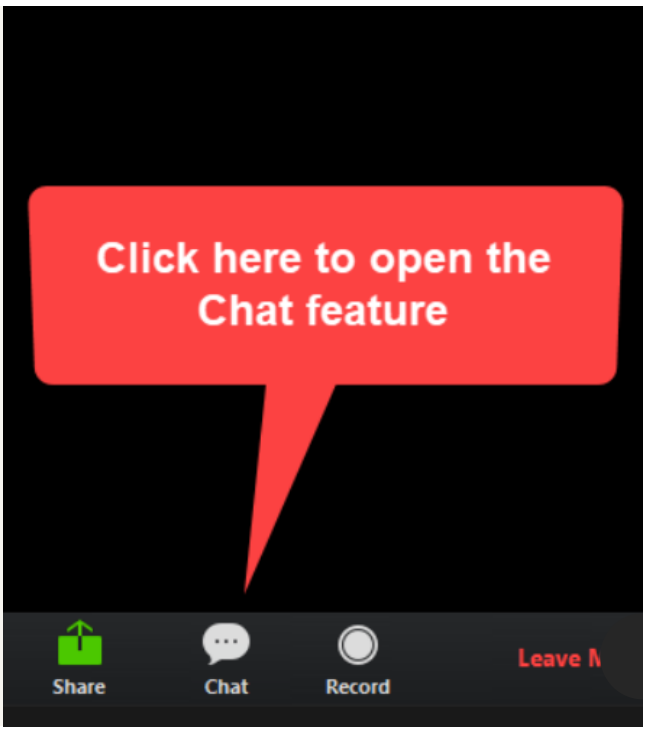
Principal: Trish McPhillips

Deputy Principals:
Fergal Walsh
Pauline Connolly
Phil O'Donnell

Year Head: Padraig O'Reilly
Guidance: Paddy Kennedy, Kathy Maher
Chaplain: Michael O'Shea

To ask questions tonight, use the chat feature in Zoom.

Please mute your microphone during the meeting



Structure of the school day

- Class begins each morning at **8.45am.**
- Class ends at **3.50pm,** except on Wednesday where we finish at **1.00pm** for a half day.
- We have **three 40 minute classes** before break, **three 40 minute classes** before lunch and three **40 minute classes** after lunch.
- Lunchtime is from **1pm-1.50pm** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Arriving at school in the morning



We encourage our students to walk or cycle to school.



There is a locked bicycle shed available for students to store their bikes when they are at school.



If you are dropping your son/daughter to school by car, please do not drive into the car park. Drive up to the second gate, drop off and do a uturn back out onto Grove Road

Construction Work

This Photo by Unknown author is licensed under CC BY-SA.

Lunchtime options



- Students can bring a packed lunch and eat it in our canteen or library area.
- Students can buy healthy snacks and rolls/sandwiches from the Coolmine School Canteen – pre-order from the Canteen
- Students can go home or out for lunch

School Uniform

- The junior school uniform consists of the grey jumper, blue polo shirt and school skirt or trousers
- The first year PE tracksuit is worn on the day that your son/daughter has PE
- Black shoes should be worn with the uniform and runners only on the day that students have PE









Journal

- Enter student **name, address and contact number (Page 1).**
- Sign the **Acceptable Use Policy (Page 28).**
- Sign **Sexting and Social Media Abuses Policy (Page 29).**
- Sign the **RSE Policy (Page 30).**
- Sign the **Games and Leisure Activities Policy (Page 31).**
- Sign the **Lockers Agreement (Page 32).**
- Sign the **Science Safety Agreement (Page 33).**



Managing Books

- Lockers are available for students in the school.
- Students will be supported by their Caomhnóir and Meitheal to use the lockers effectively.
- If students are having any difficulty at all with the size of their bag or managing their locker, they should talk to their Caomhnóir, teachers or year head.

Options 1st Years



- First year students study 12 core subjects & 1 language for the full year.
- We have 6 other option subjects: Music, Art, TG Woodwork, Metalwork & Home Ec.
- Each students samples these subjects for 11 weeks each in first year

Mobile Phones

In Coolmine CS we use mobile phones to support a blended approach to learning.

Phones can only be used in the classroom, under the direction of the teacher, for educational activities. Apart from this, the phone should be switched off and in the student's bag.

If a student is using the phone outside of an educational activity, the phone will be confiscated for 3 days and returned to the parent only after this period.

Please do not contact your son/daughter on their phone during the school day. All communication should be channeled through the office

Our school Administration system

VSware

- VSware is the school's administration system. You will be able to see your son/daughter's timetable, attendance, behaviour and term reports in this system. We will also send you important notifications through the VS mail feature.
- It is very important to download the app onto your phone and to check notifications regularly and to enable automatic updates.
- See an instructional video on our website here.

How to install VSware on your device

- For iOS devices (Apple): Visit the **App Store** on your device and search for '**VSware**
- Tap '**Install**'
- Once the app is on your device, start typing the name of the school '**Scoil Pobail Chuil Mhín**', then select it from the dropdown list when it appears.

- For Android devices: Visit the **Google Play Store** on your device and search for '**VSware**'
- Tap '**Install**'
- Once the app is on your device, start typing the name of the school '**Scoil Pobail Chuil Mhín**', then select it from the dropdown list when it appears.

Creating a password

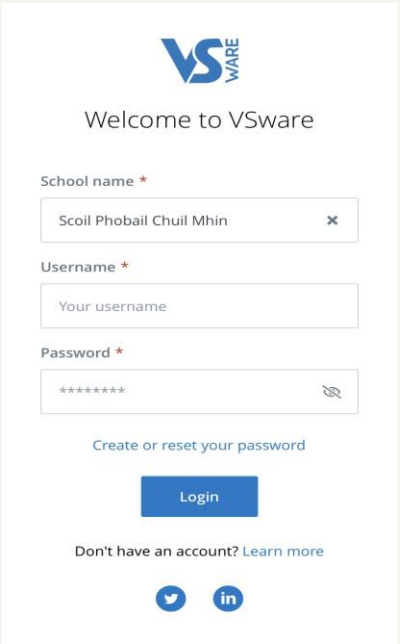
You will be texted your **username** but before you use the app, you need to create a new password as follows:

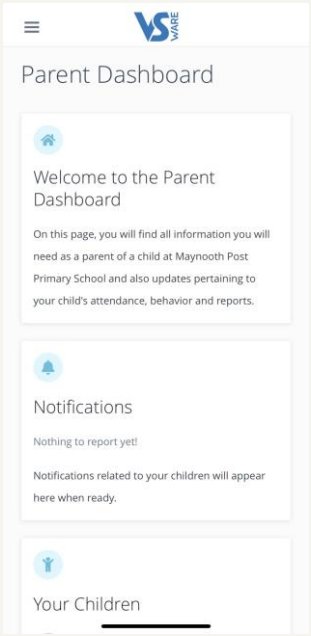
- **Create or reset your password**
- Enter your username and the last 4 digits of your mobile number, hit **Send Code**
- You will receive an SMS code on your mobile phone which you then enter, along with your new chosen password. Follow the instructions on screen and hit **Change Password**
- You will be brought back to the login screen where you can enter your username, new password and hit **Login**

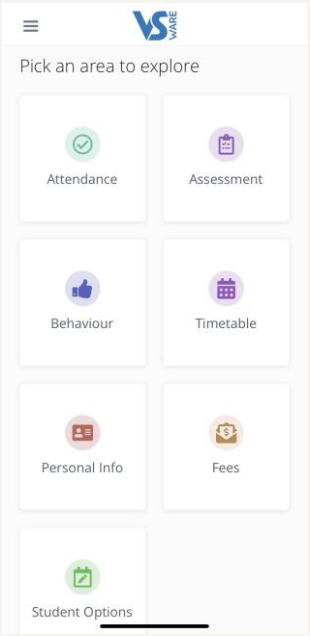
*Enter the **school name**, then enter your **username** which has been texted to you.*

*Click **create or reset your password**. Then follow the steps to create a new password.*

Once you have created a password, log in to access all the features.







Communication

- General school information and notifications will be sent through VSmail.
- If you have any general queries, please phone the office (01-8214141) or email info@coolminecs.ie
- To contact the Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Head, Caomhnóir, Teacher, Guidance Counsellor, SEN coordinator or any other staff member, please refer to the 'who do I contact guide' which will be published on our website.

Supporting your child transitioning to Post Primary school

NEPS (National Educational Psychology Service) and Jigsaw have a series of Guidelines, Hand-outs and Tips for Parents to Support Transition to Post Primary School.

These supports can be accessed here:

https://jigsaw.ie/supporting-the-transition-to-secondary-school/

Practical Tips





Policy

- Child Safeguarding procedures
- Anti-Bullying Policy (Rights and Responsibilities in the classroom)
- Cyberbullying for parents
- Code of Behaviour

