



Murphy's Farm, Curraheen Estate, Bishopstown, Cork. T12 EK57
Tel: 021-4544068 • Email: secretary@stgab.ie
Roll No: 20074R

St. Gabriel's Special School Parent Information Pack 2026

Welcome

Welcome to St. Gabriel's Special School. We are delighted to work in partnership with you and your child. Our aim is to provide a safe, caring and supportive environment where every pupil is valued and supported to reach their full potential.

This information pack provides an overview of how our school works and how we support pupils each day. Please contact us at any time if you have questions or concerns.

About Our School

St. Gabriel's Special School caters for pupils aged 4–18 with severe and profound learning disabilities, including autism. We have a team of teachers, Special Needs Assistants and support staff who work closely together to support each child's needs.

Our Ethos

We see each pupil as an individual. We celebrate every success, understand behaviour as communication, and strive to treat all members of our school community with kindness and respect.

School Day

The school day runs from 9:20am to 3:00pm. Each day is structured with learning, movement, sensory and life skills activities to support each pupil's development.

Educational Approach

Each pupil follows an individualised programme focusing on communication, life skills and independence. Visual supports and assistive communication systems are used where appropriate.

Communication with Parents

A home–school diary is used daily to share updates. Staff highlight achievements and communicate any concerns. Parents are encouraged to stay in contact with the school.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

The safety of pupils is our priority. All staff are trained in safeguarding, and the school follows national child protection guidelines. Concerns are addressed promptly and appropriately.

Health and Safety

Pupils are supervised at all times. Risk assessments and support plans are in place to ensure safety and wellbeing.

School Meals:

St. Gabriel's provides a **school meals programme**, which includes hot lunches and snacks for pupils each day. This service supports pupils in accessing nutritious, balanced meals as part of the school day.

If your child has specific dietary needs, preferences, or requires additional food items, these can be provided from home in a **packed lunch**. We ask that any additional food sent in is clearly labelled and suitable for your child.

If you have any questions regarding meals or dietary requirements, please contact the school so we can support your child's needs.

Contact Details

Chairperson- Donnchadh O'Briain

Principal: Dave Thomas – principal@stgab.ie

Deputy Principal: Sinead Kavanagh-Smith Sinead.Kavanagh@stgab.ie

Administrative Staff: Teresa Cadogan & Evelyn Huphreys

Email: secretary@stgab.ie | Website: www.stgab.ie Phone: 021-4544068

School Nurse: Shirley McManus Shirley.Mcmanus@stgab.ie

Patronage and Board of Management:

St. Gabriel's Special School operates under the patronage of The Congregation of **Brothers of Charity Services**. The Patron supports the ethos and values of the school and works to ensure that the needs and rights of all pupils are respected.

The school is managed by a **Board of Management**, which is responsible for the overall governance of the school. The Board works closely with school leadership to ensure that the school is run effectively, safely and in the best interests of all pupils.

The Board of Management includes representatives of:

- The Patron
- Parents
- Teachers

- The wider community

If a parent wishes to make contact with the Board of Management, this can be done **through the Secretary to the Board (the School Principal)**.

All correspondence should be sent to the school office: c/o Board of Management or c/o Chairperson Board of Management

Email: secretary@stgab.ie

Your query will be directed appropriately and treated with respect and confidentiality.

If a parent has a concern or complaint, we encourage this to be raised in the first instance with the school so that it can be addressed promptly and fairly in line with the school's complaints procedures.

Principal's Message:

Thank you for taking the time to read this information pack. We are very proud of the caring, supportive and respectful environment we have created in St. Gabriel's, and we are committed to providing the best possible experience for every pupil.

We value the partnership between home and school and look forward to working closely with you to support your child's development, wellbeing and happiness.

If you have any questions, concerns or suggestions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David Thomas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Dave Thomas

Principal