



Straffan GAA Club
Straffan,
Kildare, Ireland.

Straffan GAA

Nursery section

The future of our club

INTRODUCTORY PACK



Club Chairman Foreword



Straffan GAA Club
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Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of our club, I would like to welcome you and your child into the Straffan GAA family.

Over the coming years, we will nurture, support and challenge your child to become the best version of themselves, both in life and on the field of play.

This ambition may seem idealistic to some, but we are very clear in our minds as to the environment we want to create for our young members, which has little to do with winning but is more focused on individual and personal development.

It is centred around fun, enjoyment and making friends for life. It is an environment that has respect, teamwork and honesty as its core values. Promotion of these values will encourage participation and the development of a positive experience within our club so as to sustain a lifelong involvement within Gaelic Games.

Our coaches are central to such promotion and we as a club are indebted to their work and their level of volunteerism. We are always looking for more coaches to join us and help out so it may interest you to come on board with us.

Finally, my wish for your child is that sport in general, and the GAA in particular will provide them with an outlet that is framed in positivity and is supportive of self-development.

I look forward to seeing them wear the white and blue with pride and representing our values in all that they do.

John Neenan

Chairperson

Underage Chairman's Foreword



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Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of Straffan GAA club I would like to welcome all the boys and girls to the Nursery section of our club.

The emphasis in this age group is on having fun, building friendships and beginning what we hope will be a lifelong relationship with our club.

Under the leadership of our Nursery coaches we have a committed group of volunteers whose sole focus is on developing the skills of our young players in a positive fun filled environment.

Gearóid Lavin

Underage Chairperson



Dear Parents/Guardians,

On behalf of Straffan LGFA I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you and your family.

Straffan LGFA was recently founded and we have teams from U13s down to U7s with growing numbers at each age group.

Our girls transition from Nursery to U7 and a significant cohort continue to train and play on the mixed teams as well as the girls teams. The emphasis at all age groups is to have fun and build friendships. The club's aim is to also improve the participation rates in sport in our young girls and ensure the opportunities are there to enable this. The club's vision is to nurture our passionate volunteer base and continue to help them develop their skills. Without our dedicated coaches and COVID supervisors this venture would not be possible. We also want to increase the visibility of girls football within the club and maintain the incredible growth levels of the past two years – of which we are very proud of.

We train on Monday evenings at 6.30 in the club. We amalgamate with Ardclough under the "Straffard" team name so to ensure we have enough numbers to enter the optimal number of teams and ensure games for all. Training then alternates between Straffan and Ardclough.

I look forward to your support and anyone wishing to help please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ruth Farrell

Straffan Ladies Gaelic Football Chairperson





Dear Parents/ Guardians,

On behalf of Straffan Camogie, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your family.

Camogie is an excellent sport to get involved with from a young age, particularly at Straffan, where we nurture fun, personal development and teamwork. Each and every one of our dedicated coaches and volunteers are committed to ensuring an enjoyable environment where your child can learn the exciting skills of camogie and build long-lasting friendships.

Youth development is a key area of focus at Straffan Camogie and we hope that your child's involvement at a young age will result in a strong affiliation with our club and the wider Straffan community. After building a fun foundation of camogie skills at a young age, your child can continue to progress through the underage levels of the club all the way to our U16 and minor level before ultimately progressing to our adult team. We look forward to your child sporting our camogie club colours- black and tangerine.

Finally, we encourage family involvement and appreciate all of the ways in which our club parents/guardians support Straffan Camogie. If you would like to get involved with our club, we would love to hear from you.

Abbie Keegan

Straffan Camogie Chairperson



Nursery



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Our Aim

The aim of Nursery is to give your child his/her first taste of Gaelic Games in a fun, action packed and safe environment.

Your child will learn the fundamental movement skills of agility, balance and co-ordination ...known as the "ABCs".

They will learn and develop the skills of football through fun games and fun play.



What time do we train?

Nursery Training takes place:
Saturday 10.00am - 11.00am



Where do we train?

We train on the Astro pitch in
Straffan GAA.

The Nursery Pathway

Nursery is for girls and boys aged 4,5 and 6 after which the girls and boys will move to under 7 in the GAA club and the girls will also move to the clubs ladies section



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What are the benefits of the Nursery?

The benefits for you and your child are endless!

- ✔ Having fun, making new friends, keeping fit, learning new skills
- ✔ Inclusiveness – everyone is welcome
- ✔ A positive playing experience and environment

Why Straffan GAA?

The benefits range from being a part of a vibrant community to having an identity with an extended family. The community spirit at Straffan GAA is second to none!

Who do I speak to about joining Nursery?

Talk to our Nursery Co-Ordinator:

Gearóid Lavin

Mobile: 0866085555

Email: glavin00@gmail.com

Francis Farrell

Mobile: 0879936918

Email: francis.afarrell@gmail.com

Other useful contacts

John Neenan

Club Chairperson

Mobile: 0872618290



Catherine Bushe

Child Protection Officer

Mobile: 087 6481875



Frequently Asked Questions:



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Q: What is the Nursery ethos?

The emphasis is on participation and enjoyment – learning through fun. Our approach is to build confidence through encouragement while making the games as enjoyable as possible, following approved GAA coaching methods.

The ethos of the primary section of our club is “having FUN, making new FRIENDS and learning new SKILLS”.

Q: How is the training structured?

The 60 minute session includes 10 minutes of fun, warm-up games followed by 5 x 8 minute fun stations focusing on particular skills e.g. kicking, hand-passing, and fundamental movements such as running, skipping, jumping.....followed by a 10 minute game!

NOTE: Children are grouped by age and not by skill level.

Q: If the weather is bad, how will I know if training is on?

This will be communicated well in advance to parents by the Nursery co-ordinator.

Q: What should my child wear to training?

For football children can wear shorts or tracksuit; football boots or runners when training outdoors.



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Q: What months of the year do Nursery train?

Training commences at the start of September and runs until mid-July roughly coinciding with the primary school year.

We usually break in early December and resume in January.

Training continues as usual on Bank Holiday weekends.

New players are welcome at any time during the training year.

Q: What does the Club expect from parents of Nursery children?

For children in Nursery, the club policy requires the parent/adult who is responsible for the child to remain at the pitch at all times.

One adult can be responsible for more than one child at a time. Parents should bring a water bottle for their child to all sessions.

In cold weather hats, gloves, warm top etc. are recommended for the child. It is essential that we have all relevant information relating to every child who plays with Straffan GAA –

- Parent/guardian contact details
- Details of any relevant medical conditions that might impact on how a child is managed at training, in particular, response requirements in the case of a medical emergency.

Q: Are there any specific Health & Safety criteria I should be aware of?

For our Nursery members there is a requirement for a parent, guardian or designated person to be in the GAA Club for the duration of their training session or match. The Club car park can get very busy especially on a Saturday morning or if we are hosting a blitz, so please be mindful of the children in the carpark.



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Q: What does it cost for my child to participate in the Nursery?

There is no weekly charge for the Nursery.

We do ask that children are registered with the Club and pay the annual membership fee that runs from January to December of each year.

Club membership can be paid online and a number of different options are available, including individual player/family membership etc.

By registering as a Straffan GAA member, you help to fund the purchase of equipment for the children, ensuring that we can provide facilities which enhance their enjoyment and improve their skill levels.

In addition, your membership contributes to the running costs of the Club, including insurance costs.

Only those who have paid their membership fees can be regarded as club members and have club insurance coverage.

Q: Who are the coaches involved with the Nursery?

All coaches are parents of children playing at Straffan GAA Club.

We actively encourage new parents to become involved in coaching.

All coaches at Nursery complete the compulsory courses in Child Protection and the Foundation Level One coaching course, as set down by the GAA, LGFA and Camogie associations. In addition all coaches are Garda Vetted.

Regular coaching workshops are held at the Club to ensure that all coaches continuously upskill in the areas of football and fundamental movement.



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Q: How can I assist my child with the skills of football outside of training times?

Kicking a ball with your child will all help your child develop their skills. We recommend an App called "Bainisteoir" which can be downloaded for free, it goes through the basic skills for football.

Q: Where is the Club shop located, when is it open and what does it sell?

The online club shop is <https://www.oneills.com/shop-by-team/gaa/ireland/straffan-gaa.html>

Q: How will I know about any changes to training or matches on a week to week basis?

All parents receive a weekly notifications about training, matches etc.

Q: Will my child appear in club photographs?

Photographs are taken at matches, fun events etc. and uploaded to the Nursery Facebook page and occasionally used for promotional purposes such as posters. If you do not want your child to appear in any public images please inform the Nursery co-ordinator.

Q: Does Nursery organise camps?

There is an annual club Camp which runs during the Summer. Details of all camps are communicated to parents well in advance.



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Q: What is expected of me as a parent /guardian when I am in the Club?

We expect that the club premises and equipment will be respected at all times. Please note that football boots are not allowed to be worn in the club house.

Q: Can parents help/become involved?

Parents are encouraged to become involved. Formal GAA coaching courses are offered throughout the year. If you are interested in coaching, please make yourself known to the Nursery co-ordinator. We actively encourage parents to get involved with the coaching as it is great fun and the hour at training flies by!!!!

If you are not interested in coaching you can help in other ways. We need parents to help us gather up and store equipment, and to support administration tasks at the wider club level etc. The club is run entirely by volunteers and new support is always welcome.

Q: Is anything organised for the parents?

A number of times a year fundraising events are held by the Club and this is a great way to meet up and get to know others in our club community as well as supporting our club development.

Q: Can a coach hold on to medications such as inhalers/ epi pens for my child.

No, if your child uses any medication such as an inhaler or epi-pen you must be at all training sessions, matches or camps to administer this medication. Coaches cannot administer any medication to a child.



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Child centered approach

Straffan GAA prides itself on its child centred approach to training and development. If your child is not happy at training, for whatever reason, please come and talk to one of the coaches and we will sort it out immediately.

For example it could be something very simple like ensuring your child is with their friends from school or given extra encouragement when they first start.

It is our priority that your child has a positive and fun experience at our club. We at Straffan GAA Club aim to promote the participation of children in our club by creating a safe environment in which to have fun.

We operate on the basis of the following important principles:

- ✔ **All children's sport should be conducted in an atmosphere of fair play.**
- ✔ **Children have the right to be safe.**

All coaches ensure that these fundamental principles take precedence over all other considerations.

All Club members, through their actions reflect the principles and guidelines contained in the 'Code of Ethics and Good Practice for Children's Sport in Ireland'.

The Child Welfare Officer for Straffan GAA Club is Catherine Bushe (087 6481875). Parents and guardians can contact Catherine to voice any child welfare concerns they may have.

