

St Mary's NS Mainstream Class

Birthday Celebrations Policy

Rationale

This policy has been developed in line with:

- Department of Education guidance on the promotion of wellbeing and inclusive school environments (Wellbeing Policy Statement and Framework for Practice 2018–2023)
- The Department of Education Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools (2017, revised 2023)
- HSE Healthy Eating Guidelines for Primary Schools
- The school's Code of Behaviour and Health & Safety policies

The policy aims to ensure that birthday celebrations are inclusive, and aligned with healthy eating practices.

Birthday Celebrations in School

- Birthdays may be acknowledged in a simple, non-material way (e.g. singing 'Happy Birthday' or a birthday certificate).
 - **Food, cakes, sweets, party bags or treats must not be brought into school to celebrate birthdays.**
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Party Invitations

- To support an inclusive environment and prevent upset or exclusion, **birthday party invitations must not be distributed in school.**
 - Invitations should be shared privately outside of school hours.
 - School staff will not distribute invitations on behalf of families.
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Review

This policy was approved by the Board of Management on 15th June 2026, and will be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains current and effective.