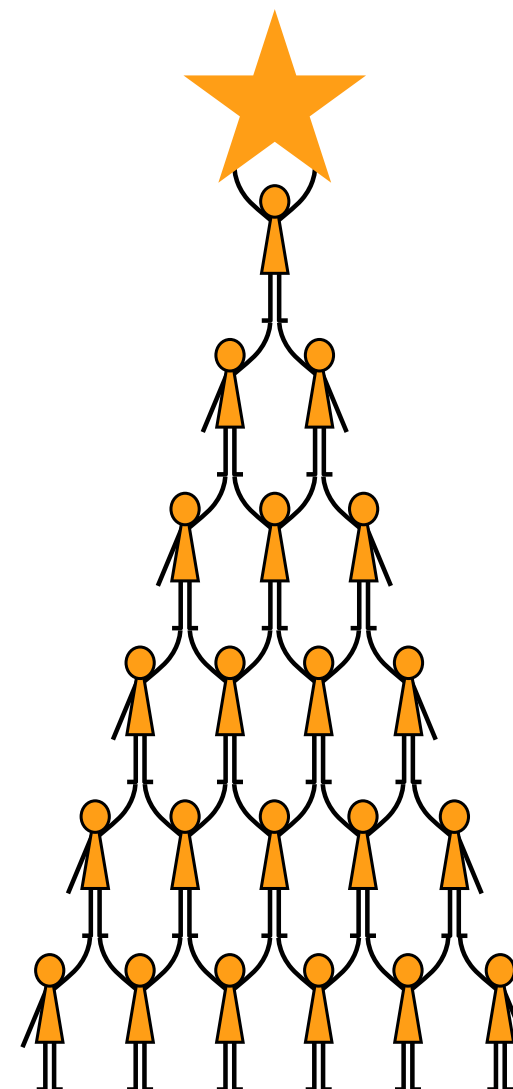


MY SCHOOL SUPPORTS (PART 1)



AIMS

In today's lesson you are going to.....

- Explore worries you may have starting post-primary School.
- Explore supports that are available in school.
- Understand who can help you in school.
- Understand the roles and responsibilities of members of the school community.



OUTCOMES

At the end of this lesson you will be able to:

- Select a worry you have at the moment.
- Identify supports that are available to you in school.
- Identify 'key' members of the school community who can help you in school.
- Describe how each support can help you in school.



THE STORY OF PETER....



- Let me introduce you to Peter...
- Peter was a very happy boy.
- He lived with his Mam Maria, his Mam's boyfriend Kevin, his brother Sean and his sister Grace.
- He had a lovely Auntie called Anne and a very nice neighbour called Mr.Smyth.
- Peter loved his primary school, he was very happy there!
- In school Peter liked his teacher and enjoyed playing with his friends!
- He loved playing hurling and football and computer games.

THE STORY OF PETER....

Peter



**Peter's Mam
Maria**



Kevin



Sean and Grace



**Peter's Auntie
Anne**



**Peter's neighbour
Mr. Smyth**



THE STORY OF PETER....

- When Peter went to post-primary School he found things very different.
- Unlike his Primary School his post-primary School was really big!
- He was nervous he would get lost easily!
- In post-primary School there were loads of different classrooms and loads of new teachers and he didn't know all of the students in his class.



THE STORY OF PETER....

- Peter started to feel a little bit worried.
- He worried about how he would get to the different classrooms, who he would sit beside and what the teacher would be like.
- Suddenly he started to worry more and more about school.
- He began to worry about what the new school would be like;
Would the homework be difficult?
What if he forgot to do his homework?
What would breaktime be like?
Where would he eat his lunch?
Where would he leave his books?
How would he find his locker?
What would happen if he lost his locker key?
What would he do if he felt sick?

**What if I forget
my locker key?**

**Where will I
eat my lunch?**

**What if I forget
my homework?**

**Who will I
sit with?**



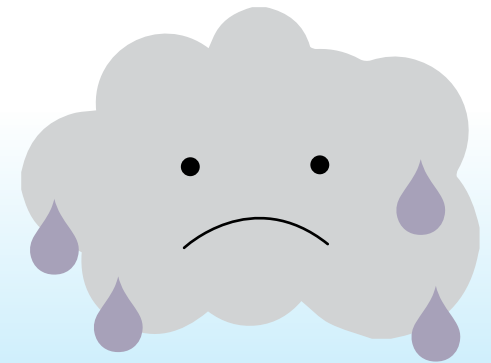
THE STORY OF PETER....

- Suddenly a little cloud appeared over Peter's head!
- Peter's worries were in this cloud.
- As Peter's worries grew so too did the cloud! It started getting bigger and **bigger and BIGGER!!**
- This cloud followed Peter everywhere; it followed Peter home; to training; to his cousin's house and to school.



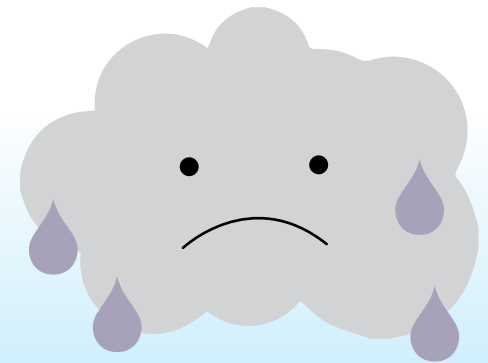
THE STORY OF PETER....

- Peter tried to talk to his Auntie Anne about this cloud full of worries about school but she just told him not to worry!!
- She said “Oh Peter don’t be so foolish worrying about little things!”
- Peter felt his Auntie could not see or understand his worries!
- This made Peter feel worse because he felt that no-one understood him!
- Peter felt very sad!



THE STORY OF PETER....

- Peter thought his friendly neighbour Mr. Smyth might be able to help. He told Mr. Smyth about the cloud of worries but he was dismissive. He said “Don’t think about those worries Peter, just forget them!” But no matter how much Peter tried he could not forget them.



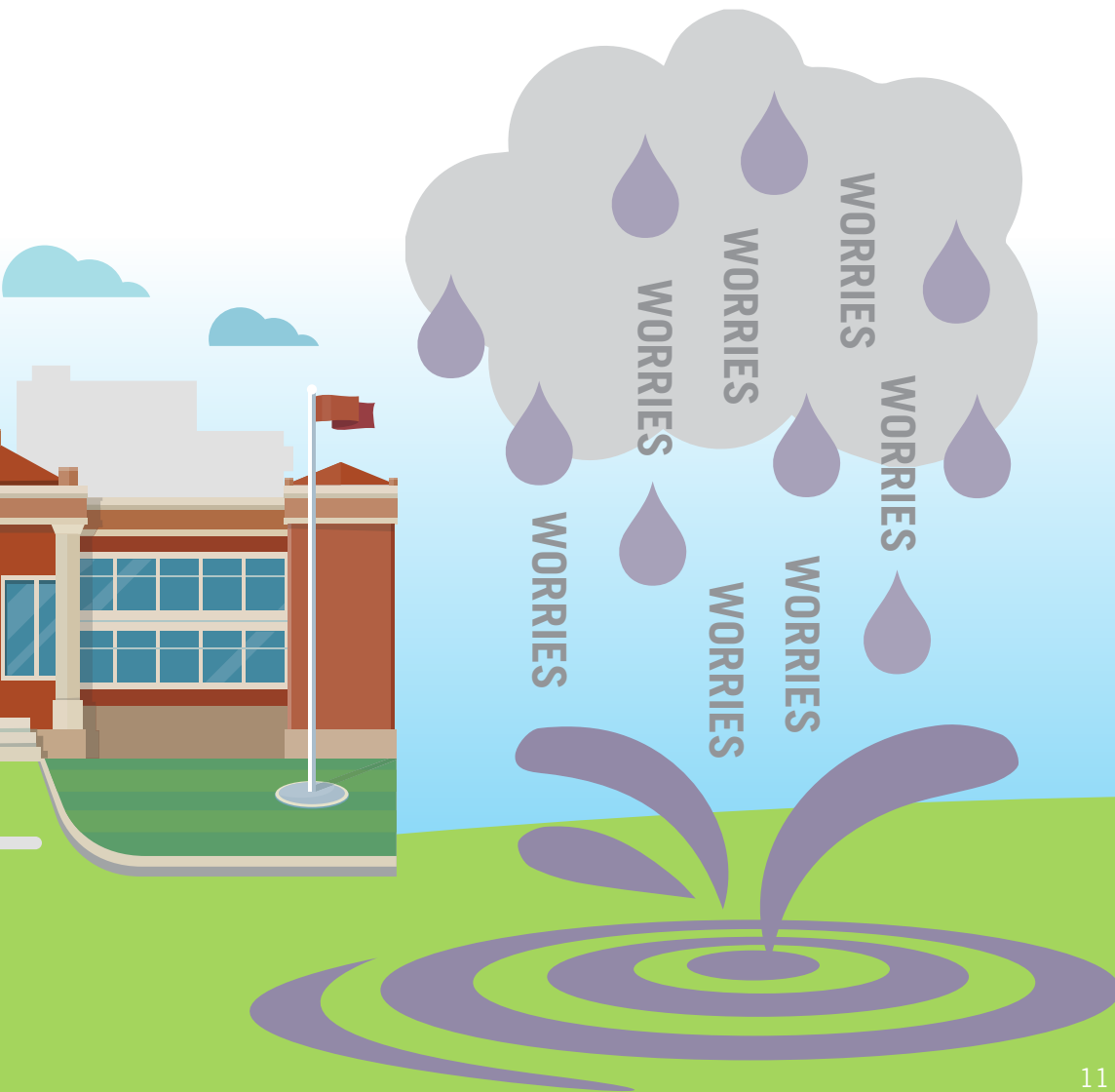
THE STORY OF PETER....

- This cloud kept following Peter and was growing bigger everyday!
- Suddenly! One morning when Peter arrived at school the cloud got so big **it burst!!**



THE STORY OF PETER....

- Next thing all of his worries started to drop from the cloud and they landed on the school yard!!



- Peter got really upset because he didn't want his worries to get out of the cloud and he didn't want anyone to see them because he was so embarrassed!!
- Suddenly Peter's tutor Ms. Roche was walking by and noticed that Peter was upset!!



THE STORY OF PETER....

- Peter told Ms. Roche about the cloud of worries that kept following him around and he asked Ms. Roche if he could tell her about some of them.
- Together they talked about some of the worries Peter had about post-primary school.
- As Peter talked to Ms. Roche about his worries he started to realise that they weren't as big as he had thought.
- Once he had spoken about them they actually seemed a lot smaller.
- Peter started to feel much better now that he had spoken about his worries– he was beginning to feel less worried already!



THE STORY OF PETER....

- Ms. Roche was really nice and kind.
- She said to Peter:
“It’s okay Peter we all have worries; me, you, your classmates, your teachers...everyone!”
- She continued... “it can be difficult starting in a new school and everyone feels nervous and worried about this big change but it’s very important not to keep our worries to ourselves because they will only get bigger and bigger.....the best thing you can do is say them out loud to someone who can help”
- She asked Peter:
“Do you know Peter, there are loads of people working in this school that are there to help and support you, do you know who they are?”
- Peter didn’t know who they were. He didn’t know he had people to talk to.

There are loads of people in this school who are here to help and support you.



THE STORY OF PETER....

- Ms. Roche had an idea. She said: “In class later I am going to tell you about all of the supports you have in school.”
- She continued... “I am also going to bring in a big bag and everyone can put their worries into it. At the end of the class we can empty the bag and share the things we are worried about and find some solutions!”
- Peter thought this was a great idea!



THE STORY OF PETER....

- Peter was really shocked to find out that everyone in his class had worries – some were big worries and some were small but what he found most surprising was that a lot of their worries were the same as his.
- Peter felt relieved that others were feeling like he was!
- He even learned that his teacher had worries – she was worried about taking over a new class of first years and worried she would get the student's names confused!!
- Peter felt much better after the class – it felt good to share and talk about his worries!!
- Walking home from school that day Peter suddenly noticed something! The cloud above his head had disappeared and was replaced with sunshine!! Peter felt very happy indeed !



SOME OF THE WORRIES YOU MAY HAVE

What are you worried
about?

All the
new
subjects

Meeting
new
friends

The
timetable

Getting
lost in the
school

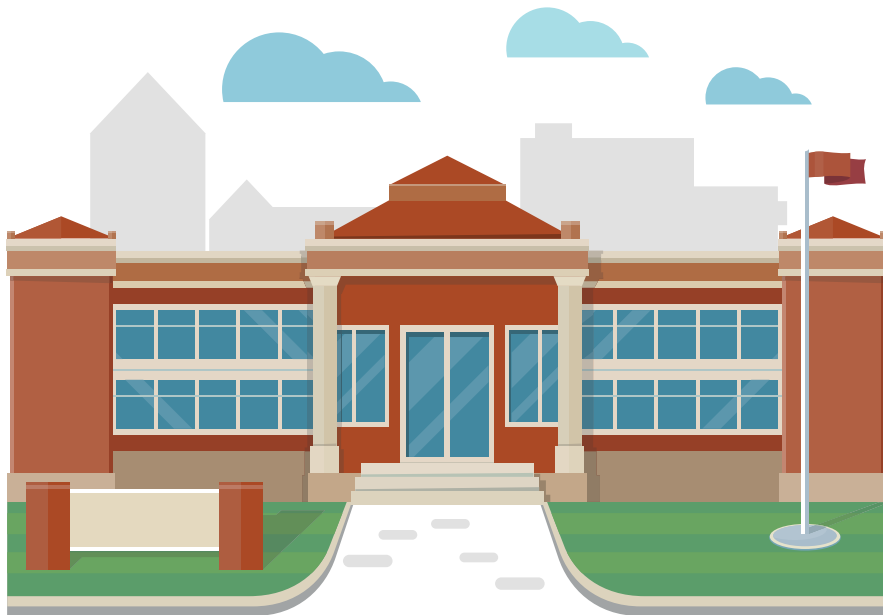
Getting
to know
the new
teachers

Please write your worry on the
note of paper!

Please put your name on the
piece of paper



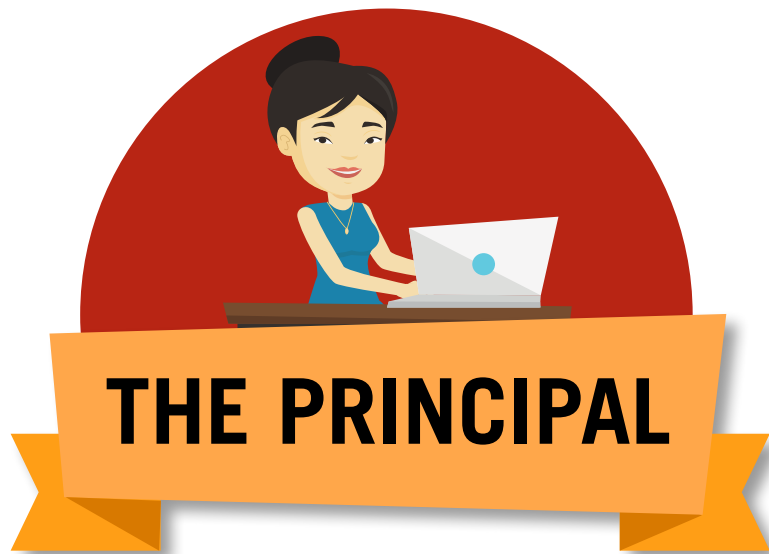
PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



There are lots of people who can help you in school!

- Can you think of someone?
- Do you know what their job is?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- The Principal is the person who in charge of the school.
- You may visit the principal or someone else if you have done something special, to get an award or if something has gone wrong.
- The principal is there to support all members of the school community; the teachers, parents, pupils and all other members of staff!

Who is your school Principal?

Where is the Principal's Office?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- Deputy principals or vice principals help the principal.
- They do loads of important jobs in the school to help you and your parents and teachers.

Who is your Deputy Principal?

Where is the Deputy Principal's office?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- Your Year Head is a teacher who is responsible for all first year students.
- The Year Head wants all of you to settle into school well.
- They are there to stop any bullying in the year and ensure that you all feel safe and happy in school.

Who is your Year Head?

How can you contact your Year Head?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL

MY SCHOOL SUPPORTS (PART 1)



CLASS TUTOR

- The Class Tutor helps the Year Head.
- They look after one group of students.
- You will see your class tutor at least once per week.
- If you were absent from school or you need to leave school early you can bring your note to your class tutor.
- If you feel sick during the school day you can tell your class tutor and they can help you.
- You can also tell your tutor if anything is upsetting you (or someone else) in school and they can help you!

Who is your Class Tutor?

How can you contact your Class Tutor?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- Teachers teach you and they encourage you to learn!
- They prepare lessons and correct your classwork and homework.
- Teachers want the best for their students.
- Your teachers will be kind and caring.
- If you don't understand something in class put up your hand and your teacher will be happy to explain it to you!
- If you find your homework difficult you should tell your teacher before class.

Can you name some of the teachers you have met so far?

What have you enjoyed learning about?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

- The guidance counsellor is there to help you!
- Your guidance counsellor will help you understand your goals in school and help you decide what you would like to do after school.
- Your guidance counsellor is also there to help you if you experience any problems in school or outside of school.
- The guidance counsellor works closely with the principal, deputy principals, year heads, class tutors, and classroom teachers to promote a nice and caring school environment for the well-being of all students.

Who is your Guidance Counsellor?

Do you know where the Guidance Counsellor's Office is?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- Like the Guidance Counsellor the School Chaplain is there to help you.
- The School Chaplain is a faith presence in the school community who is available to you, your parents and other teachers and staff in the school.

Who is your School Chaplain?

Do you know where the Chaplain's Office is?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- There is a whole team of teachers in the school that meet on a regular basis to explore ways of helping students in the school.
- The Pastoral Care Team are particularly there to help students who are having a difficult time at home or in school.
- They are there to support students and to set up support services to help any students who are experiencing difficulties.
- If you ever have a problem in school you could tell any member of staff or a member of the Pastoral Care Team.

Who do you think might be on the Pastoral Care Team in the School?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



SPECIAL NEEDS ASSISTANTS

- Special Needs Assistants are very kind people in the school.
- They help students who need some extra support in school.
- They help students get organised and help them through their lesson and sometimes at lunchtime too.
- They also help the teachers and some other students in the classroom.

Can you name a Special Needs Assistant in your school?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



SPECIAL NEEDS CO-ORDINATOR

- The Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator is the teacher who is responsible for assessing, planning and monitoring the progress of children with special needs.

Do you know who the Special Needs Co-Ordinator is?

Do you know where the Special Needs Co-Ordinator's Office is?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- The School Secretary works in the Office.
- There may be more than one secretary in the school.
- The secretary helps everything run smoothly in the school.
- They answer the phone if your mum or dad rings the school, they greet people who come into the school, send your reports home and sort out lots of other jobs.
- If you ever need to ring home you can ask your secretary to help you.

Have you met the school secretary?

What is the secretary's name?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



CARETAKER

- If anything is broken or needs fixing in the school the caretaker looks after this.
- The caretaker also helps keep the school looking nice by cutting the grass, planting flowers and cutting the hedges!

Who is the School Caretaker?

**Where can you find the
Caretaker?**

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- When you look around your school you will see that it's nice and clean and tidy.
- The school cleaners have been doing loads of work to get the school ready for you.
- They do many jobs including sweeping and washing the floors, cleaning the tables, the sinks, toilets, rooms and hall.

Who are your school cleaners?

Have you ever said thank you for cleaning up a big mess in your classroom?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



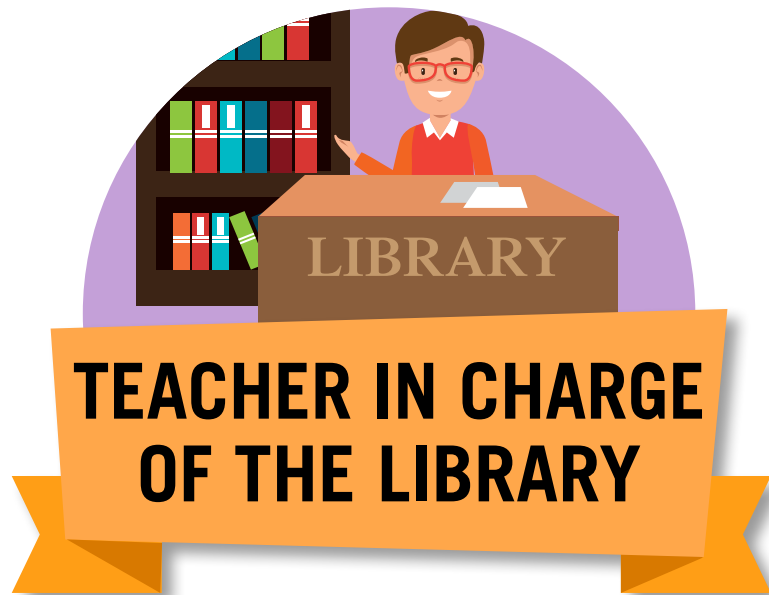
TEACHER IN CHARGE OF THE LOCKERS

- You all have your own locker this year.
- There is one teacher who specifically helps you get a locker.
- This person will be there for you if you lose or forget your key!

**Do you know the teacher's name
who assigned you your locker at
the start of the year?**

**Where might you find this teacher
if you lost your key?**

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- There is one teacher who is responsible for the library.
- You can ask this teacher if you wish to borrow some books to read!

Do you know where your school library is?

Who is the teacher in charge of the library?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- A school prefect is a senior student in the school who is a role model for other students in the school.
- There is one prefect assigned to your class.
- The prefect is there to help you with any questions you might have about school, for example how to get to a classroom etc.

Who is the prefect assigned to your class?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- There is a team of students in the school who are called the Student Council.
- These students represent the student voice in the school.
- They can become involved in the affairs of the school, working with the Year heads, Deputy Principals and Principal for the benefit of the school and the students.
- There are two Student Council members per year.
- If you would like an issue brought to management you could say it to the School Council representative in your year.

If you would like to be a school council representative who could you ask about it?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



CANTEEN STAFF

- The people who work in the school canteen have very important work to do.
- They prepare the food you have at lunchtime.
- While you are in class they are getting your food ready.

Who is your school cook?

What is your favourite food to eat?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



- The school shopkeeper runs the shop.
- If you want to buy something for your lunch or you forgot your pencil or pen you can get new ones in the school shop.

**Who is the shopkeeper
in your school?**

**Do you say please and thank you
when you are buying something
from the shop?**

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



BUS DRIVER

- Some schools have bus drivers and minibus drivers who help take you to school, home and on trips

**Does your school have
a bus or minibus driver?**

Who are they?

**Where have they helped
you get to?**

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



OUR CLASSMATES AND FRIENDS

- Our classmates and friends are a great source of help and support in school!
- It is important that we are also a good friend to our classmates: be kind, be helpful, be encouraging!

**Can you think of a classmate/
friend who can support you
in school?**

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



EXTRA CURRICULAR CO-ORDINATOR

- 'Extra Curricular Activities' are activities that take place when you are not in class.
- These include different sports, music groups, the drama group etc.
- If you would like to get involved in any of these activities you can contact the following people:

Who can you ask about extra curricular activities like sports teams, clubs and societies?

PEOPLE AT SCHOOL



OVER TO YOU...



- How are you feeling about post-primary school now?
- Can you identify supports that are available to you in school?
- Can you identify 'key' members of the school community who can help you?
- Can you describe how each support can help you in school?
- Can you identify a person you can contact to help you with your worry?

