



STUDENT & PARENT

HANDBOOK

2026-2027

**Southeast's
premier
performing
arts school**

ESTABLISHED 2006



**Building
confidence
& creativity
through theatre**

AGES 4-18



www.innovations.ie

 InnovationsTheatreSchool

 InnovationsTheatreSchool

 @innovations.gorey

Welcome to Innovations Theatre School!

HANDBOOK 2026–
2027

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We want every child to have the best possible experience at Innovations, whether in classes, extra rehearsals, shows, or other special events. Most of the time, the students have a great time, and we receive positive feedback from them and from parents. However, we are aware that difficulties can sometimes arise, and we aim to keep these to an absolute minimum.

We want to assure you that we are always looking out for the children and ensuring that they are as happy as possible during our sessions. We ask our students to come to class ready to participate, respecting their classmates and teachers, and we communicate this regularly.

If we see or suspect any problems in class, including instances of bullying, we will sensitively inform you at the earliest opportunity so that we can work together in the best interests of the child.

Likewise, if you hear reports of any issues your child is having at Innovations, whether it involves other students, staff, or helpers, we ask you to communicate with us so that we can address the situation as quickly as possible. It's better to be informed of something that might be minor than to only find out when it has become more serious, so please don't hesitate to reach out.

We take a zero-tolerance approach to bullying. If your child experiences unkind words, exclusion from a group, exposure to inappropriate material, pushing, hitting, or other negative contact during class time, please notify us immediately. We take seriously how our students are treated and how they interact with each other. Similarly, if they are unhappy with how teachers or other helpers are treating them, we want to know as soon as possible. Our policy here is very strict — stricter even than most schools — because not only is feeling safe and secure key to the creative process, but we take child protection extremely seriously.

Our policies are available to view in detail on our website at innovations.ie/policies: Child Protection Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Anti-bullying Policy, Data Protection Policy, Attendance, Drop-Off and Fees Policy, Cookies & GDPR Policy, and Waiting List Policy. Paper copies are available on request. We want to be in partnership with you for the sake of your children.

Best Regards,

Lily & Susan

CO-OWNERS, INNOVATIONS THEATRE SCHOOL

Creative Director & Teacher: Lily Henrich-Doyle · 087 140 2866

Administrative Director: Susan Bell Flavin · 086 157 0330

Class expectations

Students are expected to respect one another and follow the instructions of the staff and student teachers, and to be dressed and ready to begin classes at the appointed times so the class is not delayed.

All mobile phones must be put away during class. Students must not take photos or videos in class or post them on social media. Please leave valuables at home, as we cannot accept responsibility for lost or stolen articles.

The right is reserved not to re-enrol students at the discretion of the Directors.

What to wear & what to bring

We don't have a strict uniform policy for classes, only that the student wears clothing and shoes they are comfortable dancing in — comfortable clothes you can move in and trainers are perfect. Most of our students are in a uniform all week, so we love to see them express themselves in what they wear. And we do love to see Innovations shirts and hoodies!

Not suitable: tight jeans, heavy shoes or boots. Please tie long hair back and leave valuables at home.

All children should bring a bottle of water to class. They can bring a small snack. NO sweets or fizzy drinks. NO popcorn. NO NUTS

Fees & how to pay

Fees are €170 per 10-week term. We have three 10-week terms per year. Additional classes and rehearsals during show weeks and Easter break are no extra cost to the parent.

Sibling rates per term: 2nd child €110, 3rd child €90, 4th child free of charge.

You can pay online via our parent portal or at class with card or cash. You can opt to pay every 5 weeks *by half term. No refunds will be given for missed or dropped classes.

Venues, drop-off & parking

Classes: Gorey Educate Together Secondary School. Shows: Gorey Little Theatre.

Please note that while our classes take place at Gorey Educate Together Secondary School, we are not affiliated otherwise with the school. Please contact us directly (details on cover) as needed.

All junior students (5-10yrs) must be signed in and out by a parent or guardian. You can do this at the desk or use the QR code on the door.

Senior students (11yrs+): for safety purposes and to avoid carpark congestion, we ask that senior students be dropped off at the entrance to Gorey Park and walk down to the school (100m). However if you feel it is important to drop your child to the carpark we allow for exceptions to this rule.

Students should not be in or around the school venues when they are not in classes, unless they have been specifically called in by school staff.

How we communicate

WhatsApp Parent Group. This is set to no-reply to keep it from getting congested but you can always message us directly as needed. Don't be afraid to ask questions! Closer to show week you will get handouts or personal messages about costumes and times etc.

Email is our main channel for enrolment and fees, so please keep your address up to date. Facebook: InnovationsTheatreSchool · Instagram: @innovations.gorey · innovations.ie

Innovations T-shirts and other merch

We do require students to purchase an Innovations T-shirt as these are worn in the winter showcase, and we encourage students to wear them to class also if they like, to show school pride! Information on how to order through the parent portal will be made to you in the first few weeks of class.

We also have other merchandise available — including the very popular Innovations hoodies, dance bags and beanies. These are not required to purchase, they are only for added fun. Parents feel free to get yourselves some Innovations merch and wear with pride!

Photos & video

We take photos and videos at classes and rehearsals for our own database and to feature on the Innovations website and social media. We do not identify students by name, and we will never sell video or images.

If you do NOT want your child(ren) included in such images, please inform us immediately. Please note that as we film and photograph our shows, opting out of photos will limit the performances in which your child can participate.

Absence & illness

We encourage you to avoid absences where possible, and we do reference attendance when casting. If your child will be absent please send in a message before class on Saturday so we can mark it as an explained absence.

Once a student has been cast in a role, 100% attendance is expected: exceptions are only made for emergency circumstances, which do not include holidays, communions or confirmations that result in more than one missed class. A place in the school may be forfeited for ongoing non-attendance.

Keep your child at home if they have a temperature or are unwell, and tell us as early as possible during show weeks so we can adjust rehearsals.

Show participation: costumes & tickets

All students take part in the Winter Showcase and the Big Show. Costumes are provided or a simple list is sent home closer to show week.

Tickets: all tickets for shows are sold through gr8events.ie. Parents are given advance time to book tickets before they are made available to the public.

Auditions & casting

We do require students to take part in the audition process for our two yearly shows. This is a key part of confidence building and it is a very gentle and encouraging process.

We will provide specific information closer to the show date about the audition process. Please always keep an eye on the parent group chat.

First aid, allergies & medication

Please ensure you fill out this information on the parent portal, and also contact us directly to notify us of any severe allergies or medical information you feel relevant. Update us if anything changes during the year.

Staff hold first-aid training and there is a first-aid kit at every venue. We are a nut-free school. Any medication brought to class must be clearly labelled and handed to a teacher.