



St Ciarán's Community School

Kells, Co. Meath.



Omnes Virtutem Sequentes



Prospectus

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Welcome

Welcome to St Ciaran's Community School. We hope that this prospectus will answer some of the questions that you may have about the school and give you a vivid picture about school life. It seeks to portray the broad curriculum, excellent facilities and the many activities both circular and extra-circular available to students.

St. Ciaran's Community School is a community of students, staff and parents. We believe in empowering and equipping students to achieve their potential no matter what their aptitude. We value the unique contribution of each individual student in an atmosphere of tolerance, partnership and shared respect. We provide a nurturing climate in which students can grow and develop academically, socially, culturally, physically and spiritually.

With the support of Parents and Guardians we strive to challenge, motivate and encourage students to achieve their full potential. This is realised through our excellent student centred teaching and wide and varied curriculum as well as our sincere dedication to your child's social and personal development. We celebrate all aspects of our student's achievements each year with an Awards Ceremony commemorating those students who have excelled in the State Examinations, achieved Full Attendance, contributed positively to both the school and wider community and prevailed at sports. We are very proud to reflect the top grades and points obtained by our students in both Leaving and Junior Certificate Examinations and we are delighted their success has gained the Naughton Foundation Scholarship and All-Ireland Scholarship annually. Our students are widely recognised for their Community Spirit and Volunteering through gaining an ever increasing number of Gaisce and JP2 Awards.

Easing the transition of all students from Primary to Post-Primary School is of paramount importance to our team of teachers and staff. Our staff will strive to help your son or daughter integrate full into our school community and achieve their full academic and personal potential. We have Transition and Wellbeing Programs in place such as *Friends For Life* to ensure your child has a positive and enjoyable transition. We also have a strong support system in place which consists of a Care Team, Guidance Counsellors, Chaplain, Year Heads for each year group and Class Tutors for each class group. We recognise the fact that young people often require a little help to cope with some of the difficulties they may encounter. We seek to do that in as caring a manner as possible. We will always be available to discuss your concerns and to help students and we look forward to working with you in the future.

***“We believe in empowering and equipping students
to achieve their full potential”***

Mission Statement

Our school supports and encourages the academic, spiritual, moral and physical development of all students. We strive to create and maintain a strong work ethic and an ethos of cooperation and mutual respect in a caring and inclusive environment.

Tacaíonn ár scoil le forbairt acadúil, spioradálta, mórálta agus fisiciúil na ndaltaí uilig a chothú. Cothaítear spiorad oibre láidir agus cleachtas comhoibriú agus measa i dtimpeallacht atá tacúil do chách.

School Ethos

In St. Ciaran's we aim to create a safe and caring environment for staff and students. Students are encouraged to develop a sense of personal responsibility for their own behaviour and to give respect and expect respect.

Our Goal:



We consider examination success very important, but we hold in equal importance the development of the whole person; fostering a sense of responsibility and autonomy which will enrich the individual and the society in which they live

Our students receiving the Meath Garda Youth Award

Our History

St. Ciaran's is a Co-Educational Community School open to all students from the catchment area irrespective of ability, gender or religious beliefs. We provide a comprehensive range of subjects and a wide range of extra-curricular activities. St. Ciaran's Community School opened in September 1988 and originated from the amalgamation of two schools that had existed side by side – the Christian Brothers' Secondary School (established in 1894) and Kells Vocational School (established in 1932).

Curriculum

At present St. Ciaran's offers 5 programmes. Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate, Leaving Cert Applied and Transition Year Programme.

Junior Cycle

Key Skills of Junior Cycle

Working With Others



- Developing good relationships and dealing with conflict
- Co-operating
- Respecting difference
- Contributing to making the world a better place
- Learning with others
- Working with others through digital technology

Managing myself



- Knowing myself
- Making considered decisions
- Setting and achieving personal goals
- Being able to reflect on my own learning
- Using digital technology to manage myself and my learning

Managing



Information & Thinking

- Being curious
- Gathering, recording, organising and evaluating information and data
- Thinking creatively and critically
- Reflecting on and evaluating my learning
- Using digital technology to access, manage and share content

Staying Well



- Being positive about learning
- Being healthy, physical and active
- Being social
- Being safe
- Being spiritual
- Being confident
- Being responsible, safe and ethical in using digital technology

Communicating



- Listening and expressing myself using language
- Using numbers and data
- Performing and presenting
- Discussing and debating
- Using digital technology to communicate

Being Creative



- Imagining
- Exploring options and alternatives
- Implementing ideas and taking action
- Learning creatively
- Stimulating creativity using digital technology

Junior Cert Core Subjects

English	Religious Education	C.S.P.E.
Irish	History	S.P.H.E.
Maths	Geography	

St Ciarán's operates a system of 'mixed ability' in Junior Cycle classes, as almost all subjects in the Junior Cycle will be examined at a common level with the exception of; English, Irish and Maths which will have Higher Level and Ordinary Level Exams.

Short Courses

P.E	Digital Literacy
Subject Options	

In addition to the core subject's students choose three other subjects from the nine option subjects:

Art	Business Studies	Home Economics
Material Technology (Wood)	Science	Material Technology (Metal)
German	French	Technical Graphics
	Music	

Students have the opportunity to sample a number of subjects in their first year during the period of rotating options.

What is different about the new Junior Cycle?

Each subject will have Two Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs), one conducted in second year and one conducted in third year. Classroom-Based Assessments (C.B.A.'s) will be undertaken at a common level and during class time. The C.B.A.'s will be assessed by the classroom teacher who will give feedback to the students on areas of strength and areas to improve on. A written Assessment Task that will be based on the second Classroom-Based Assessment and will be submitted to the SEC for marking along with the state-certified examination. C.B.A.'s will be reported on in the J.C.P.A. using the following descriptors which are clearly laid out for each subject assessment by the department and the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) : Exceptional, Above expectations, In line with expectations, Yet to meet expectations.

Final assessment and reporting

The state examination that students sit in their subject at the end of their Junior Cycle will also be graded differently. Instead of A, B, C, D, E, F and NG the following descriptors will now be used:

Distinction	90-100%
Higher Merit	56-89%
Merit	55-74%
Achieved	40-54%
Partially Achieved	20-39%
Not Graded	0-19%

Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

The 2019/2020 cohort of first year students are the first group to sit all Junior Cycle subjects under the new specification. The Junior Certificate has been replaced by the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The JCPA will reward achievement across all areas of learning as applicable: - Subjects, Short Courses, Wellbeing, Priority Learning Units and Other Areas of Learning. Students will receive their JCPA in the autumn following third year, when all assessment results from the SEC and the school are available and confirmed.

Transition Year Programme



Our students receiving their Pope John Paul II Awards

Students hiking 25km as part of their Gaisce Award

The Transition Year Programme is a unique one-year programme that promotes the personal, social and educational development of students and prepares them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society. T.Y. enables students to make the transition from the more dependent type of learning associated with Junior Cycle to the more independent learning environment associated with Senior Cycle and equips them with the skills necessary to achieve their full potential in the Leaving Certificate exam. T.Y. encourages the development of a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem solving skills. In addition to traditional subjects Transition Year Students participate in a wide range of interesting modules such as:

ICT	Sign Language	Drama
Film Studies	Enterprise Education	DCG
YSI	Forensic Science	Mindfulness
Digital Media	Art	French
Mini Company	Yoga	Music



T.Y. Play

Every Year T.Y. students get a chance to hone their acting skills in a T.Y. Production.

Leaving Certificate

All students study the core subjects, English, Irish, Mathematics, Physical Education & Religious Education. In addition to the core subject's students choose four other subjects from the following options:

Accounting	Construction Studies	History
Art	Engineering	Home Economics
Biology	French	Physics
Business	Geography	Technical Drawing
Chemistry	German	Agricultural Science
Applied Maths	Economics	

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

This is a distinct, self-contained, two year Leaving Certificate Programme. It is designed to help students develop practical skills and to prepare for the world of work and offers alternative methods of learning and assessment for students. Work experience forms a key part of this programme.

“A significant number of our students obtain in excess of 500 points in the Leaving Certificate exam. Each year we have many students who are awarded scholarships by various universities both at home and abroad.”



Career Guidance- Counselling	2 Metalwork Rooms	Home Economics Kitchen
2 Computer Rooms	Technology Room	Needlework Room
Mac Room	Gymnasium	Basketball Courts
3 Science Laboratories	Canteen/ Assembly Hall	Playing Pitches
Demonstration Room	Broadband access throughout	Art Room
2 Woodwork Rooms	Laptop Trolley	

Book Rental Scheme

In St. Ciarán's we operate a book rental scheme for all Junior Certificate students for all their subjects over the three-year course. Parents have found this scheme extremely helpful.



Our "Rooted in Reading" winners

Student Support

Well-Being

Being healthy, creative and staying connected with the community is vital for positive development. Participation builds resilience, pride and a sense of shared responsibility.

During themed weeks students engage with social issues, from anti-bullying initiatives to well-being. Student Voice, An Gaisce and J.P. II facilitate leadership development. Our students partake in specific programs such as Friends for Life (Junior) and Elevate You (Senior) which fosters leadership, resilience, gratitude and mindfulness.

Tutor

Each class is assigned a Tutor. The role of the Tutor is primarily a pastoral one. The class tutor gets to know all the students in the class; observes any signs of need for help or attention; is open to approaches from students in the tutorial class; and, as necessary consults with other relevant members of staff (Chaplain / Guidance Counsellor / Year Head) about them. They keep in close contact with the class to ensure that the students are settling in satisfactorily and that the class works well together.

Year Head

There is also a Year Head and he/she meets First Year students individually to get to know them. The Year Head works with the Class Teacher to try to make each student's experience of life in St Ciaran's a productive and happy one. The Year Head also deals with matters of discipline.

Mentor/ Prefect

In addition, each class is assigned Senior Mentor who helps the First Years integrate into the life of the school. They play a key role in facilitating the transition from primary to secondary school and the school invests greatly in their formation as mentors and prefects. These students receive specific training in mentoring and in listening skills and take up leadership positions within the student body.

Chaplain

The Chaplain encourages and fosters an awareness of spirituality within the school and provides the students with an opportunity to express their own religious identity. The Chaplain endeavours to be available "any time, any place anywhere" to all members of the school community – students, staff, parents and develops an open and trusting relationship with all those whom he comes into contact.

Guidance Counsellor

The Guidance Counsellor works with the school Pastoral Care Team to assist all students to develop to their full potential. As part of their work they see them on an individual basis to help them with personal, social and educational problems. The Guidance Counsellor is also available to meet parents/guardians to ensure that students are able to make the best possible choices for their futures. During the school year there will be a number of opportunities, facilitated by the

school, for students to attend College Open days.

Student Mental Health

In association with Jigsaw, St Ciarán's is involved in an initiative providing a mental health service specifically aimed at young people. Jigsaw projects bring people and services together to give young people somewhere to turn to and someone to talk to in their community

Learning Support & Special Educational Needs

Students with specific learning difficulties are catered for through the provision of a Resource Teaching service in the school. Specialist help is available for students with general learning difficulties through the learning support team, working in co-operation with subject teachers. This support can be offered on an individual, small group, in-class or whole class basis. Special Needs Assistants offer other support to individual students and are an important part of the Learning Support team.



Students raising Mental Health Awareness by partaking in the Darkness into Light Walk

Extra-Curricular

St. Ciarán's Community School sports ethos is intrinsically linked to our Mission Statements aim of supporting development makes available as many sports as possible to as many students as possible.



1st Year Students winning their Leinster Division

There is a great tradition of Gaelic games within the school and we are represented in football, hurling and handball. The school has won many Leinster League titles over the past few years in Gaelic football as well as a number of All Ireland Handball titles.

The school is proud to see the development and success of many past students who have gone on to win inter-county recognition, provincial and even All Ireland medals. The school also has teams participating in Leinster Soccer Schools Competitions at Under17, Under-15 and Under-13. Indeed, a number of our students have won soccer scholarships to American Colleges.



There is also a strong tradition of Basketball for both boys and girls and school teams have been very successful in North Eastern and All Ireland competitions over the past few years. In our short history we have had several All Ireland winning athletes, both boys and girls, with past students going on to win athletics scholarships. In our short history we have had several All Ireland winning athletes, both boys and girls, with past students going on to win athletics scholarships and represent Ireland at

St. Ciarán's has also had success in the area of Equestrian Sport and has produced a number of International Competitors in the different disciplines such as Racing, Show Jumping and

International level. St. Ciarán's also participates in several school golf competitions. We have so far produced one All-Ireland winning team and a number of golfing professionals.

The school also has Junior and Senior rugby teams participating in Leinster League and Cup competitions and has an active coaching programme organised and supported by the I.R.F.U. and North Meath RFC.

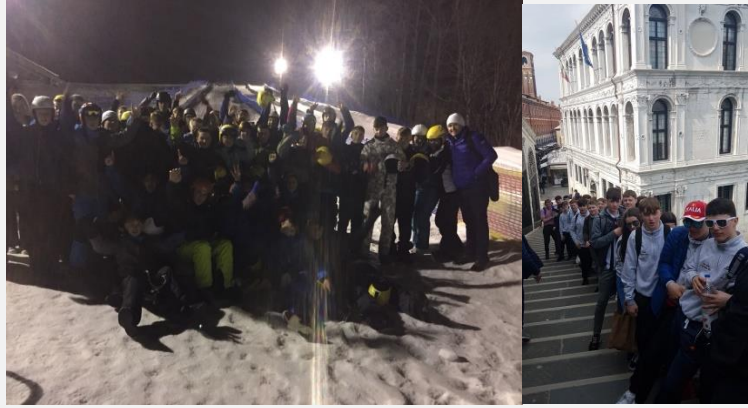
Eventing. Our current Equine Team has been prevalent on the Show Jumping Circuit winning virtually every competition they have entered.

School Tours

School tours provide great educational opportunities and cultural experiences as well as helping students forge relationships with one another and consolidate their relationships with their teachers.

Ski Trip

The Ski Trip occurs every second year. This year we went skiing to Folgaria in Italy where our Second and Third Years also got the opportunity to visit Verona and Venice.



Students Tobogganing after a day of Skiing

Students sightseeing in Venice

Within the school year groups are brought on trips that are connected to their studies – over recent times groups have gone to the Ploughing Championships (Agricultural Science), the Young Scientist Competition (Physics / Chemistry / Biology) to see numerous plays (English) and for field trips (Geography / LCA / LCVP) and our Transition Years also visited Carlingford Adventure Centre for team building. 1st and 2nd year students are also offered the opportunity to take part in personal development activities at Carlingford Adventure Centre.



Zambia Immersion Project

Senior Students are given the opportunity of developing a deeper understanding of the developing world through the Zambia Immersion Programme which culminates with a trip to Zambia.



"I am really happy in this school, the teachers are very nice and the prefects are good fun and very kind to us."

"If I was to advise people coming in I'd tell them not to worry, St. Ciaran's is great everyone is very understanding and friendly and there's loads of fun stuff."

"I have gotten on really good so far. I made lots of new friends. The school is a very friendly environment. I love most subjects. The teachers are very nice and friendly."

"The people in the school are very friendly. I was scared coming into the school but the bigger students and teachers made me feel welcome."

1st Years Comments

"I really enjoyed my month and a bit, it was very fun, I was never bored. There were loads of activities and events to fill my needs, the teachers are nice and

"I was scared at first if I'd miss class or get lost or walk into a different classroom but so far I have had a great time I have made a lot of new friends and its great. I'm really glad to be a St Ciaran's Community School Student!"

"I was worried cause I didn't have anyone coming with me from my Primary School but I've made loads of friends, it's like a fresh start."

"I got on well. I settled in straight away, even though I didn't know anybody in my class. Everyone was very friendly."

"I like the school. It has a lot of facilities that our Primary School hadn't. I like the way we can pick some of the subjects we do, specially the new ones like Home Economics and Woodwork."