



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

In 1854 the Sisters of Mercy began providing a Catholic Education for girls in Nenagh and in 1914 the Sisters of Mercy founded an Intermediate School. In 1929 the school was formally renamed, St. Mary's Secondary School.

As in those early days, the education of the whole person to the highest academic standards is the hallmark of St. Mary's Secondary School. A strong Christian ethos permeated the work of those first pioneering sisters and is still intrinsic to the school to this day. Our ethos promotes the dignity of the human person; seeks to inspire a Christian vision of the world; encourages the search for truth, wisdom and beauty and leads to the foundation of mature personalities.

We seek to educate our students to take their place in society as well balanced individuals with a strong sense of truth and justice.

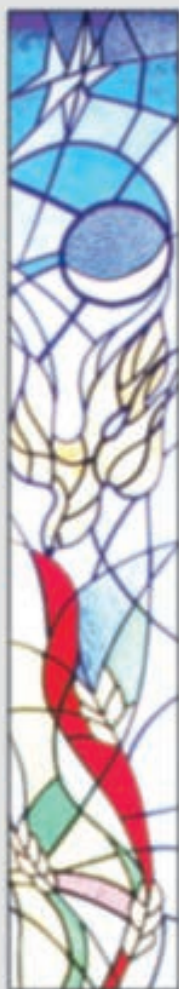
It is a great privilege that so many parents entrust their daughters to us for their education. The success of our students has been exceptional and the majority of our students go on to University and Third Level Institutions in Ireland and abroad. It is a source of immense pride to see our students take their place in the world.

We hope your daughter will be happy, fulfilled and challenged in St. Mary's Secondary School.

Michael Dineen
Principal



St. Mary's Secondary School



ETHOS

Inspired by the vision of the Mercy Congregation and CEIST – Catholic Education an Irish Schools Trust, our school is guided by our core values, which are:

Promoting Spiritual and Human Development

We believe a knowledge of and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ give meaning and purpose to our lives.

Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning

We are committed to excellence and to continually improving the quality of teaching and learning.

Showing Respect for Every Person

We respect the unique and intrinsic value of every person.

Creating Community

Our schools are faith communities of welcome and hospitality where Gospel values are lived and where there is special care for those most in need.

Being just and Responsible

We seek to act justly and responsibly in all our relationships.

St. Mary's Secondary School is a Catholic all girls' school under the Trusteeship of CESIT (Catholic Education an Irish Schools Trust). It is an inclusive community with students, teachers, non-teaching staff, parents, Board of Management and Trustees interacting collaboratively. Our school aims to provide each girl with a holistic education built on respect. We have a strong commitment to the excellence required for each student to reach her full potential as a uniquely gifted and precious human being.

Cuirimid fáilte ar leith roimh gach cailín a thagann chuig ár scoil. Tá tuil againn go mbainfidh gach dalta idir taitneamh agus tairbhe as bheith anseo.





THE SCHOOL

All classes are conducted in large modern rooms equipped with technology to assist interactive teaching and learning.

The school is equipped with a number of specialist rooms for:
Art, Home Economics, Science, Technology, Technical Graphics, Music, Video and Recording, Guidance and Counselling and Resource.

St. Mary's Secondary School has modern information technology facilities and high speed Internet access is available in all classrooms.

A fully equipped Art Studio with kiln is provided for the study of Art.

There is also a spacious Concert Hall and a modern P.E. hall.

The school's canteen, which is open during lunchtime, provides snacks and hot lunches.

Other facilities include a Prayer Room, Library, Social Area and general purpose area of Music/Drama room.

Further development of our facilities is planned with future development of new classrooms and enhancement of our sports facilities.



St. Mary's Secondary School



THE SCHOOL

St. Mary's Secondary School has a strong ethos of care for all students. The personal and social development and well being of each student is central to our philosophy of education. The following structures are in place:

- a Tutor for each class
- b Year Head for each year group
- c Buddy system
- d Senior Prefect

The Principal, Deputy Principal, Guidance Counsellors and voluntary Chaplain work in close co-operation with the Class Tutors and the Year Heads.

Career Guidance

The Guidance Counsellors provide support and information on subject choice as students move from First Year into Second Year and again as they move into Senior Cycle, with briefings for students and parents on Programme choice. Guidance and information are offered in dedicated Guidance Classes at Senior Cycle and also at individual level, as required. The overall aim of our Guidance Programme is that students are enabled to choose wisely, plan realistically and face the next phase of their lives, further studies or work, with confidence.

All Senior Cycle students are guided and helped in the procedures required for entry to all Third Level Education in Ireland (CAO) and England (UCAS).

Religious Education

The challenging task of handling on the faith is one that is shared by family, parish, and school. In St. Mary's, Religious Education is supported by a voluntary chaplain. Retreats, liturgies, fund raising for charities and guest speakers are an integral part of the programme. Our students are encouraged to be reflective and active young Christians, with a commitment to core gospel values. The school aims to promote respect for different faiths, fostering inclusion and understanding.

Board of Management

- 4 Nominees of the Trustees/CEIST
- 2 Nominees of the Teaching Staff
- 2 Nominees of the Parent's Body

The Secretary of the Board of Management is the Principal

In School Management

- Principal
- Deputy Principal
- Assistant Principals
- Special Duties Teachers





Parents' Council

At the beginning of each school year, the Parents' Body elects two representatives from the different areas in the catchment region.

Students' Representative Council

Each class has an elected representative on the Student's Representative Council (first introduced in 1976). It is presided over by the Student President, elected by the student body. There are two teachers on the Council, one representing the staff and the second is the Principal's representative.

Uniform/Dress Code

In school, students are prepared for life, learning respect for self and for others. Personal grooming and an appropriate dress code are important life skills.

Students are expected to be well groomed at all times and must wear the school uniform as listed. PE attire should be worn for PE class and appropriate clubs, only.

Positive Behaviour

The culture and ethos of St. Mary's Secondary School are focused on personal development, respect for all and a positive approach to learning. The Code of Behaviour seeks to recognize and reinforce patterns of positive behaviour in students and encourage attitudes and values that nurture same. All students should be afforded an opportunity to reflect on their actions. Support structures are in place to assist students in taking responsibility for improving their behaviour and to validate and reinforce effort and commitment.

Communication with Parent(s)/Guardian(s)

We recognize the value and necessity for inter-communication between home and school.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) are welcome to make an appointment to discuss concerns or seek advice. Annual Parent-Teacher Meetings are organised for each year group.

School Reports are issued twice yearly for the non-examination classes at Christmas and in June. Junior & Leaving Certificate students' reports are sent when they have completed their Pre-Junior and Pre-Leaving Certificate examinations. Transition Year Reports are issued in December and in May.

Information Evenings are organised during the year with advice on subject choices and programme activities.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) receive a newsletter in the first and second terms giving important dates of events and meetings and other relevant information.





CURRICULUM

St. Mary's Secondary School has a long tradition in Curriculum innovation. We offer a wide variety of programmes, which aim to develop the unique talents and abilities of each individual student.

Current Programmes available in our school are:

- Junior Certificate
- Transition Year
- Leaving Certificate (including Leaving Certificate Applied and Leaving Certificate Vocational Programmes)
- A Resource class, which can incorporate FETAC modules and Junior Certificate subjects at foundation level.



St. Mary's Secondary School

PROGRAMME OF STUDIES

Junior Cycle Subjects - First Year

Irish, English, Mathematics, Religion, History, Geography, French, German, Science, Business, Home Economics, Art, Technology, Technical Graphics, Music, Choir, Physical Education, Speech and Drama, Civic, Social & Political Education, Library Studies and Social, Personal & Health Education.

Second and Third Year Core Subjects

Irish, English, Mathematics, Religion, History, Geography, C.S.P.E. Physical Education, S.P.H.E. along with four Optional Subjects from the following: French, German, Science, Business, Home Economics, Art, Technology, Music and Technical Graphics.

Resource Class Students

Resource class students follow a Curriculum with a greater concentration on English, Mathematics and personal and social development.

Senior Cycle Subjects

Transition Year is an optional one-year programme before commencing the Senior Cycle. (See extra information on Transition Year).

Leaving Certificate Programme (traditional) is a two-year course

The Core Subjects are: Irish, English, Mathematics, Religion, and (for most) a modern European Language with three further subjects selected from a list of Optional Subjects that includes:

History	Geography	Art	Music	Home Economics
Accounting	Business	Economics	Biology	Chemistry
Physics	Design & Communication Graphics	Technology	Agricultural Science	

(All subject to demand)

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme is a two-year programme, which prepares students for the transition from school to adult and working life, including further education. Work experience, project work, and experiential learning are integral parts of this programme.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme is a two-year programme, based on a combination of Leaving Certificate subjects and further 3 link modules, the central focus of which is to foster a spirit of innovation and initiative in young people.

A Learning Support and Resource Teaching Programme is in place for those who are eligible for it. This includes Screening and Testing, Team Teaching, Small Group coaching in Literacy and Numeracy, including English-as-a-Foreign Language and one-to-one tuition is also provided.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There is a strong commitment to a wide range of Extra Curricular Activities, which are well resources in terms of facilities and teacher involvement. While St. Mary's is best known for it's achievements in Camogie, there is something to interest everybody and all are encouraged to participate.

Artistic, Cultural, Religious and Sporting

These include:

- Art
- Choir
- Drama and Stage productions
- Debating
- Public Speaking
- Educational Tours
- Music
- Theatre visits
- Visiting poets and novelists,
- Retreats
- Prayer services
- Class Masses
- Carol Service
- Fundraising Carol singing
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Camogie
- Cross-country running
- Orienteering
- Outdoor Pursuits
- Tennis
- Swimming
- Volleyball
- Equestrian
- Lent and Advent Penitential Services
- Youth Leadership Programme the President's Award/Gaice
- Inter-class and Inter-School quizzes





St. Mary's Secondary School



TRANSITION YEAR (OPTIONAL)

Transition Year is an optional one-year programme before commencing the Senior Cycle. Transition Year in St. Mary's (first introduced in 1975) is focused on promoting maturity with the emphasis on developing skills and independent study habits. The Transition Year Programme offers a broad variety of topics and subjects thus laying a solid foundation for the Leaving Certificate Programmes.

Subjects which have been offered in the past include:

English	Irish	Mathematics
European Languages	History	Geography
Home Economics,	Physics	Chemistry
Biology	Music	Drama
Public Speaking	Media Studies	Camera and Studio work
Business with Mini Company	Architecture/Craft/Art	Work Experience
E.C.D.L. Chinese Language	Law	Design and Communication Graphics
Social Concern	Religion	First Aid
Youth Leadership Programme	Outdoor pursuits	Stage Production.

