



## **The Guidance Service**

The role of the Guidance Counsellors' is to provide a support for students in the areas of personal development and counselling, career and vocational guidance. The welfare of the student lies at the heart of all Guidance practices.

The ethos, which underpins St. Mary's Secondary School, is the provision of a caring community of learning where each individual student is valued as a unique human being. We find that from our Ceist ethos the teacher-student relationships that are established here are strong.

Each student brings with them a unique background of culture, religion, values and beliefs and these are respected within the school community.

### **The Guidance Role**

#### *Personal Guidance and Counselling*

A person-centered, solution-focused approach to counselling is favoured in St. Mary's Secondary School

#### *Career and Vocational Guidance*

It is the Guidance Counsellors role, not necessarily to find students the perfect career, as is perceived by many to be our central duty, but to gently challenge their self beliefs and clarify and priorities their values to enable them make the right choice for themselves.

### **How the Guidance Service works**

The Guidance Service at St. Mary's Secondary School is available to all students. We work on a referral basis; students may be referred by teachers, parents or themselves. During 1<sup>st</sup> year, all students are shown where the Guidance Office is located and can meet with the Guidance Counsellor if in need of support settling in.

Permission slips are given to the students who make an appointment and these are shown to the class teacher to excuse them from class. A Pastoral Care Team is in place to provide supports for students and communications between students and teachers where necessary.

## **Services Include**

- Personal Counselling, as required
- Various Career interest and Aptitude Tests.
- Subject Choice Information and Assistance for Junior and Senior Cycles
- Range of visiting speakers on social, personal, health and career topics
- Study Skills, Goal Setting
- Career Guidance Classes (web-based career research, goal setting, Career Interest Tests)
- Senior Cycle Vocational Guidance 1/1 Meetings
- CAO, PLC, UCAS Applications, Scholarship, Grant and Access College Information

## **Code of Ethics (2002)**

Confidentiality between the Guidance Counsellor and pupil is preserved. Information is only revealed with the pupil's consent or:

- (i) where concealment would result in danger to the pupil or others
- (ii) when required by the Law or designated guidelines, e.g. Child Protection
- (iii) for the purpose of professional consultation or supervision