

St. Clare's Comprehensive School
Manorhamilton



St. Clare's
Comprehensive

**Respect
Kindness
Success
Community**

PR
OS
PE
CT
US



A message from the Principal

Welcome, I hope that this prospectus will answer some of the questions you may have about our school and give you an insight into the excellent school community at St. Clare's Comprehensive School.



You are at the beginning of a journey in choosing the most suitable school for your son or daughter. At St. Clare's Comprehensive School we feel we have a lot to offer you and we are showcasing some of what we offer here, in our school prospectus. We encourage you to engage both with our written and video content on our school website and to visit us on open night, to get a real sense of our school culture and what we offer in St. Clare's Comprehensive School.

Our core values of Respect, Kindness, Community and Success permeates every aspect of school life. Every student is recognised as an individual with their own characteristics, talents and needs. Our education is holistic. We look at the academic, physical, spiritual and emotional aspects of our

students and aspire to develop our students as well rounded and ready to meet the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

Our core purpose is to ensure the highest possible standard of learning in all classrooms. Every teacher wants what is best for all students. We have a community of highly qualified, dedicated professionals who achieve high standards in their work. Our teachers work hard to ensure all students experience success. They work in partnership with students to build on their strengths, skills and talents in order for them to reach their academic potential.

The role of parents/guardians is considered to be of great significance to us. Creating an environment where school and home work together to nurture both the academic and personal development of every child, to support our students to be leaders of their own learning, and to take responsibility for their future.

St. Clare's Comprehensive School is a community of learners where all students' individual talents and skills are promoted and nurtured. The leadership team, staff and students warmly welcome you and look forward to your visit to our wonderful school.

Maeve Kelly, Principal

Mission, Values & Ethos

St. Clare's Comprehensive School is a Catholic Comprehensive School. The school is established under the patronage of the Minister for Education and the Bishop of Kilmore and is overseen by a local board of management. The school is a member of the ACCS (Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools) which is the national representative association for 97 Community and Comprehensive Post-Primary Schools across Ireland.

Our Mission Statement

To create a caring, disciplined and Christian environment where all students and staff can reach their potential.

School History

St. Clare's Comprehensive was established in 1971 following the amalgamation of two schools, Manorhamilton Vocational School and St. Joseph's Secondary School. St. Clare's Comprehensive was the thirteenth comprehensive school in Ireland. A school was built at Ross Lane and was opened in 1972. For over 50 years led by Principal's Sean Sweeney, John Irwin and Maeve Kelly, St. Clare's Comprehensive continues to grow and develop, and is now the school of choice for over 530 students.

Values

Our school values are at the core of everything we do.

We are a learning
Community



Learning with Respect



Learning with Kindness

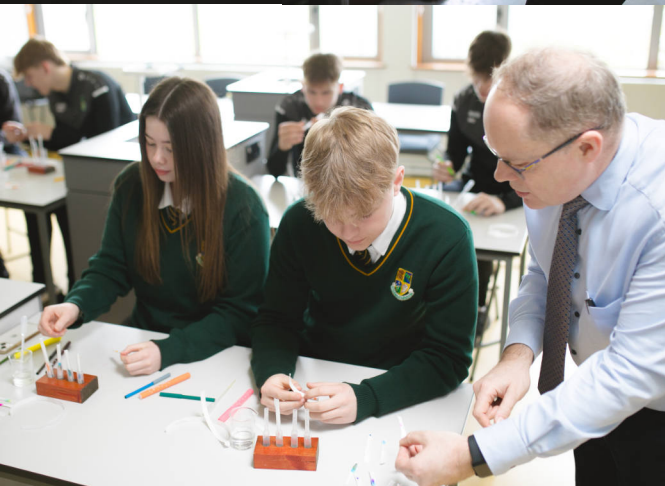
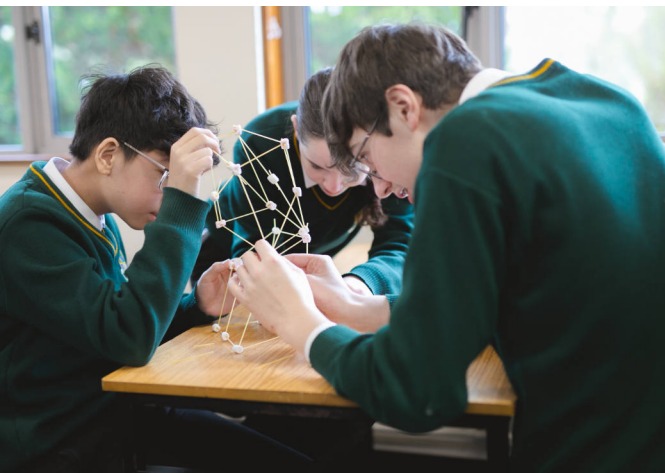


Learning to experience Success



Learning with our Community





Daily Timetable

Monday – Thursday 8.45am – 3.45pm
Friday 8.45am – 12.28pm



Each period is 40 minutes.

All students have an 8 minute wellbeing lesson with a class tutor known as Check and Connect. This allows our students to form a positive relationship with a teacher who is there to support them throughout their time in St. Clare's Comprehensive School.

Academic Excellence

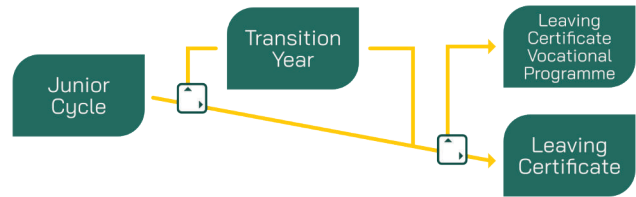


Results in state examinations at both Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle are consistently higher than the national average and many of our students attend colleges and universities in Ireland and abroad, as well as achieving scholarships to some of the top universities. This success is firmly rooted in the excellent relationships between teachers and students, working together in an atmosphere of mutual respect.



Curriculum

St Clare's Comprehensive provides an excellent educational experience which places teaching and learning at the heart of everything we do. We offer a wide range of subjects. We are committed to maximising student choice and that the curriculum on offer provides every student with the opportunity to use their strengths and interests, to thrive and reach their full potential during their time in St Clare's Comprehensive School.



Junior Cycle

Junior Cycle aims to achieve a balance between learning subject knowledge and developing a wide range of skills and thinking abilities. English, Irish and Mathematics can be studied at either higher or ordinary level. All other subjects are studied at common level. Junior Cycle aims to move the focus from assessment by final examination to more ongoing, or formative assessment.

All students have the opportunity to:

- Sample all option subjects in their first 4 - 6 weeks before making their final subject choice decision.
- Study a STEM subject (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths).
- Have a choice of two modern foreign languages: French or Spanish.
- Have the opportunity to progress from Junior Cycle to a broad Senior Cycle curriculum choice.



Core Subjects

Irish	CSPE
English	SPHE
Maths	ICT
Science	PE
History	Religious Education
Geography	

Optional Subjects*

Visual Art	Engineering
Music	Home Economics
Spanish	Wood Technology
French	Business
Graphics	

**Students will study three of these optional subjects.*

Short Courses*

Coding
Digital Media Literacy
Performing Arts

**Short Courses are optional.*



Transition Year

Transition Year is an optional one year educational programme for students who have completed the Junior Certificate, which offers students a wide range of learning experiences aimed at contributing to personal development, social awareness, and work-related learning.

Transition Year Activities in St Clare's presently include Community Connections, Presidents Award (Gaisce-Bronze level), European Studies, Book Club, First Aid Training, Health and Safety training, Development education, Safe Food Programme, PDST Future Leaders Programme, Young Scientist,

GAA , Junk Kouture, Media Studies, Enterprise/Mini company Competitions, Agri-Awareness, Driving Test Preparation and Work Experience, Yoga, Interview Training, Outdoor Pursuits, the Young Social Innovators Programme.



Leaving Certificate

The Leaving Certificate Established is a two-year programme that aims to provide learners with a broad, balanced education while also offering some specialisation towards a particular career option.

Subjects are assessed by an examination paper and by additional assessment methods including oral and aural examinations, practical examinations and assessment of practical coursework at the end of the two-year programme of study. Performance in the examination can be used for purposes of selection into employment, and into further and higher education.

Core Exam Subjects

Irish
English
Maths

Students also study

Career Guidance
SPHE
Religious Education
Physical Education

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

LCVP is similar to the Traditional Leaving Certificate with the added opportunity to enhance business skills by taking a course in Enterprise Education, Preparation for Work and Information Technology.

Many students take the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) which is an intervention designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the established Leaving Certificate. It emphasises enterprise education and preparation for working life.

Optional Subjects*

French	Engineering
Spanish	Art
Music	Construction Studies
Physics	Business Studies
Biology	Home Economics
Chemistry	Physical Education
History	Agricultural Science
Geography	Design and Communications
Accounting	Graphics

**Students will study four of the above subjects*



Special Classes

St Clare's Comprehensive School has three designated special classes. Special Classes enable students with more complex special education needs to be educated in smaller class groups.

Students enrolled in special classes are included in mainstream classes to the greatest extent possible, in line with their abilities. We opened our Moderate General Learning Class in 2002 and our ASD classes in 2021 and 2024.

Our approach in these classrooms is student centred. We work closely with parents and other professionals to ensure that we cater for students' education, physical, emotional and sensory needs. We provide an environment where all students are valued and respected. Students in these classes undertake study of Level 1 and Level 2 learning programmes.



Additional Education Needs (AEN)

We take huge pride in providing a nurturing and inclusive environment in St. Clare's Comprehensive School. Students are supported in a variety of ways:

In-class support

We recognise the importance of in class differentiated content, teaching and assessment for students with different learning styles and needs.

Inclusion

We are committed to providing an inclusive education, which means that all students are included to their level of ability and integrated both academically and socially into the life of our school. We celebrate diversity, encouraging students to learn from each other.

Co-Teaching

Co-teaching is a strategy used in St Clare's Comprehensive to further ensure students with AEN are fully supported. This means that two teachers will work together in one classroom to meet the diverse learning needs within the classroom.

Other Interventions

In addition to in class support and co-teaching we offer tailored interventions, assistive technology and other resources to ensure every student has the opportunity to succeed. Students with Irish exemptions can avail of on-going learning support. Alternatively students may be withdrawn for short term interventions and return to class when progress is made.

Our AEN team meets weekly and works together to ensure we meet the needs of all of our students. Standardised testing is conducted in 1st, year, 2nd year and 5th year to identify any changes in needs among our students and to ensure our students continue to make progress.



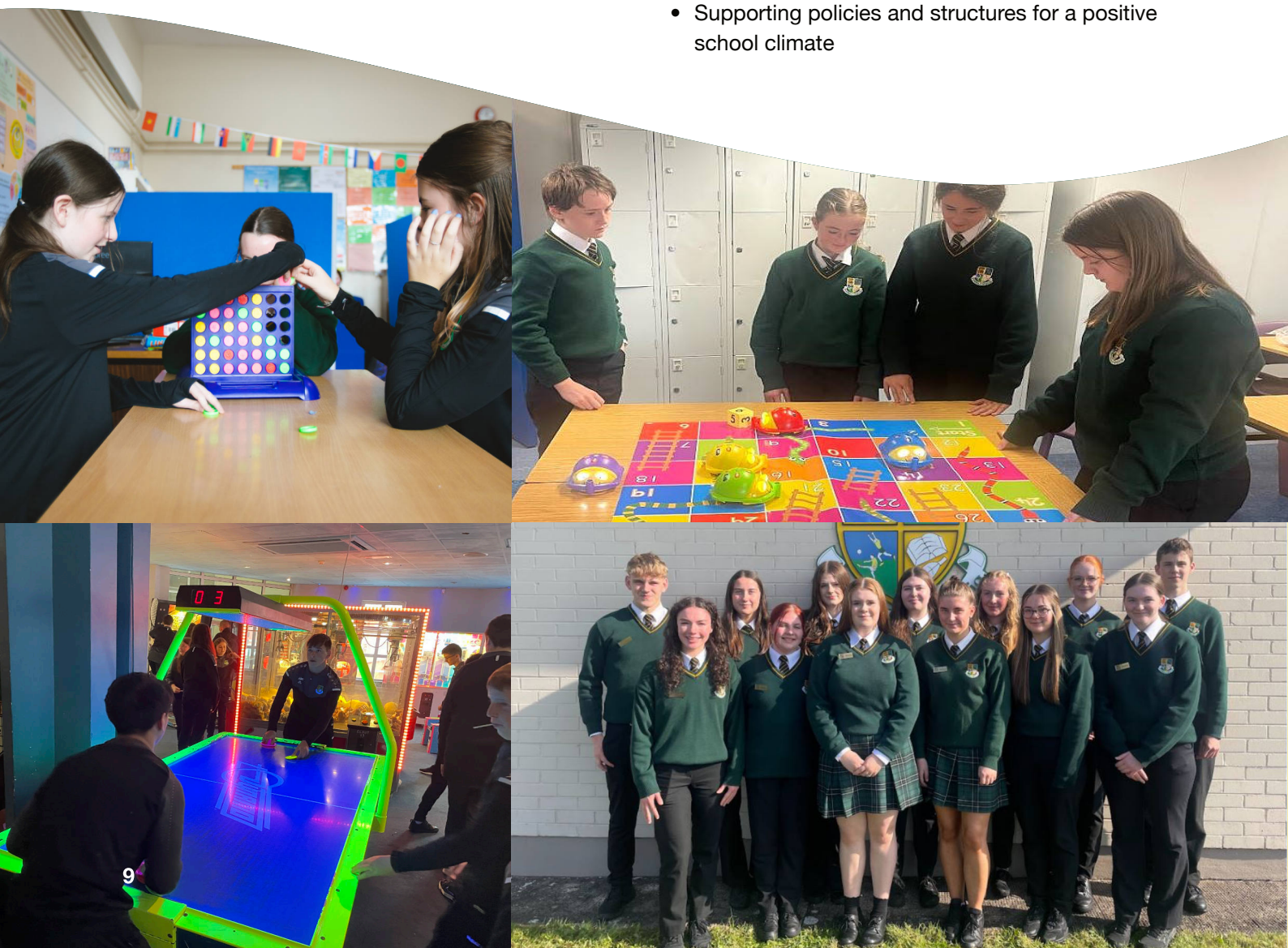
Transition Programme

St. Clare's Comprehensive has an established transition programme to help students make a successful and positive transition from primary to post primary education. Our transition coordinator leads a team of teachers and student mentors to help students during this time.

This transition begins with visits to our feeder national schools to meet 6th class students. We invite students and their parents to join us on open night, to get a real sense of our school culture and what we offer in St. Clare's Comprehensive School. Following enrolment at our school, incoming 1st year students join our school community for a day, to experience what a typical day is like at secondary school. On their first day of secondary school at the end of August, 1st year students are the only year group in the school, this allows them to meet with their assigned student mentors and to settle in before the rest of the school returns.

The transition programme helps students to integrate into their class group and overall year group. It gives them the opportunity for increased social interaction among students outside of formal academic classes. It allows students to meet other students in their year group and to form friendships. It aims to promote contentment and integration in students as they navigate their new environment and new social context. This overall intention is to promote student wellbeing.

- Every student is assigned a student mentor
- Active social activities to broaden friendship circle
- Four six-week subject taster programme
- Supporting policies and structures for a positive school climate

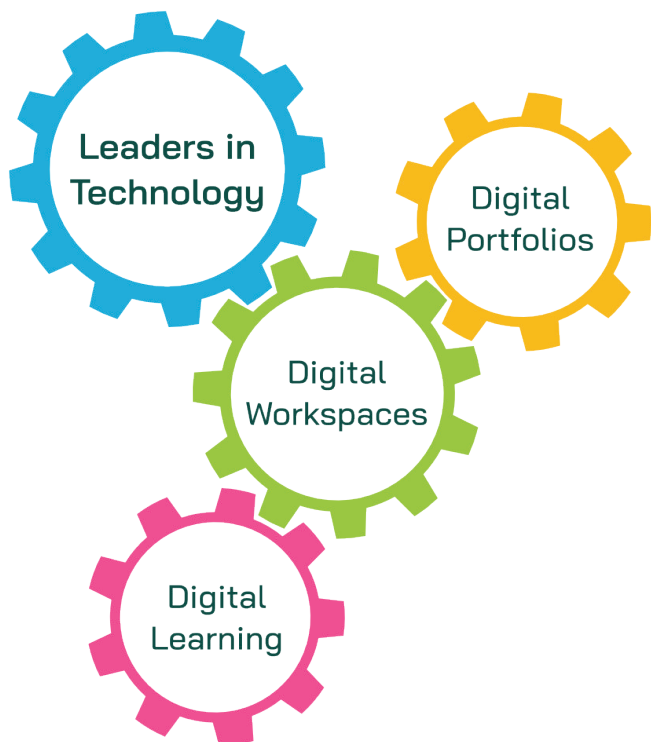


Technology Supported Learning

Staff and students have embedded digital technology into aspects of learning, teaching and assessment which provide opportunities for a more personalised learning space.

St. Clare's Comprehensive School has a high-speed fibre network connection which is distributed by an enterprise grade Wi-Fi infrastructure throughout the school. Individual classrooms have access to digital data projectors, visualisers and other specific technologies where required. Each student at St. Clare's Comprehensive School receives a unique school based sign-in which gives access to online storage allowing interaction and collaboration of digital workspaces and the ability to create showcases of their work.

Teachers use Google Classroom to communicate with their classes, to distribute tasks and to provide feedback. We use mobile Chromebook trolleys so any classroom can use a Google suite of apps where all work is remotely stored to allow access both at school and at home.





Wellbeing

At St. Clare's Comprehensive school we recognise the importance that students who are well, learn well and experience more success at school when they are happy. We have robust structures in place to support the wellbeing of our students.

Our Student Support Team meets weekly to discuss the needs of our students and our school.

Our enrolment, discipline, anti-bullying, pastoral care and child protection policies all ensure students who come to St. Clare's, do so in a safe and secure environment. We constantly endeavour to provide a high quality of care for students as recognised by our various Department of Education and Skills Inspections. Part of this responsibility is to build resilience and a sense of responsibility within everyone in the school community to manage ourselves and our environment.

Chaplaincy

Our school chaplain is a faith presence, committed to Christian values and accompanies each individual in the school community on their journey through life.

Guidance Counselling

The Guidance Counsellors have responsibility for coordinating the guidance counselling service and the learning activities related to that service. As well as accessing other programmes to ensure a holistic approach to student wellbeing and development.

A Continuum of Support

A continuum of support model is applied to St. Clare's Comprehensive Whole School Guidance Plan. In applying the continuum, our whole school Guidance Programme aims to meet the needs of our students along a range of support, Guidance for all in a whole school general approach, Guidance for some through small group interventions, Guidance for a few by focusing on individualised supports and interventions for those in most need.

"Wellbeing is present when a person realises their potential, is resilient in dealing with the normal stresses of their life, takes care of their physical wellbeing and has a sense of purpose, connection and belonging to a wider community. It is a fluid way of being and needs nurturing throughout life"

Wellbeing Policy and Framework for Practice 2018 - 2023

Structures of Support

- Student Mentor System
- Transition Programme
- Check & Connect Class Tutor System
- Year Heads
- School Chaplain
- Guidance Counsellors
- Student Support Team
- Home Youth Liaison Service
- Annual Wellbeing Initiatives
- Weekly wellbeing announcements
- Guest speakers



Student Voice & Leadership

Fostering student leadership is very important in St. Clare's Comprehensive School. It offers benefits to all of our students building self confidence and independence. By giving students a voice we offer them the opportunity to help shape their school community.

Students can develop their leadership skills in the following ways:

- Head Boy/Head Girl
- Student Council
- Student Mentors
- Student Wellbeing Announcements
- Leading Fundraising Activities
- Leading change to student facilities



Student Services

St. Clare's Comprehensive School is fortunate to be located on the outskirts of the town of Manorhamilton where everyone looks out for everyone. We have forged strong links with our local community. It is a safe place of great natural beauty. We are committed to our local community and use the facilities in our local community as well as the natural environment on our doorstep to enhance our teaching and learning.

- Pastoral care
- Wellbeing
- Guidance and counselling
- Chaplaincy
- Support for parents/guardians
- A well-ordered environment
- Liaison with appropriate external services
- Liaison with appropriate external services
- Student Locker Rental
- Information technology facilities
- Canteen providing hot meals at break & Lunch
- Book Rental Scheme
- Student Journal



Beyond the Curriculum

While the pursuit of academic excellence is nurtured at St. Clare's Comprehensive School, we also pride ourselves in our commitment to providing students with an all-round education. St. Clare's Comprehensive School promotes a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These cultural, social and recreational pursuits aim to develop our students' interests and skills so that their experiences in school will take them further in life.

Our students have won numerous awards and excelled in various activities. By nurturing both the academic and personal development of every child, we support our students to be leaders of their own learning, and to take responsibility for their future. St. Clare's Comprehensive School offers its students opportunities to take part in a varied and interesting range of activities, including:

Bi-annual school musical

Traditional Music Group

Choir

Boys & Girls Gaelic Football

Boys & Girls Soccer

Athletics

Yoga

Gaisce

Healthy Schools

Chess Club

Tidy Schools Project

Girls Active

School Tours & Trips

Enterprise

Business in the Community

Book Club

Board Games

Creative Writing

BT Young Scientist Competition





School Uniform

St Clare's, while respecting the individuality of all our students, views the school uniform as an essential part of school life. It represents the high standards that we expect from our students.

By applying a strict uniform code, we are preparing our students for life, in that most workplaces have standards with regard to dress that must be upheld. It also teaches the students the value of neatness, tidiness and projecting a good image of oneself. Each student is expected to wear the full school uniform everyday and to be neat and tidy in their overall appearance.

"Our school uniform is an important aspect of our school culture. Wearing the uniform is a part of our identity as students. It gives us a sense of belonging and a sense of unity." -Senior Student

Boys

- Bottle green jumper with school crest
- White shirt with attached collar
- Clip-on school tie
- Black worsted trousers
- Black shoes
- Crested School jacket

Girls

- Bottle green jumper with school crest
- White blouse
- Clip-on school tie
- Green tartan skirt of knee length or black bootleg trousers
- Plain black tights/black socks
- Black shoes
- Crested School jacket

PE Uniform

- School T-Shirt & Track Suit

School Facilities

Our school facilities are maintained to a very high standard and are conducive to study and learning. We have state of the art Science Laboratories and practical classrooms. Fully equipped PE hall. There is a privately run canteen (Get Fresh Catering) on school premises. Hot food is provided at reasonable prices and is approved under our healthy eating policy.

Lunchtime Arrangements

Junior students remain on the school grounds and have access to hot meals from our canteen. Senior students may go to town. All students have a choice of bringing in their own food or to use the canteen service. A wide range of extra-curricular activities are arranged for lunch time both sporting and non-sporting activities such as:



Book Club

Art Club

Chess Club

Games Club

Music

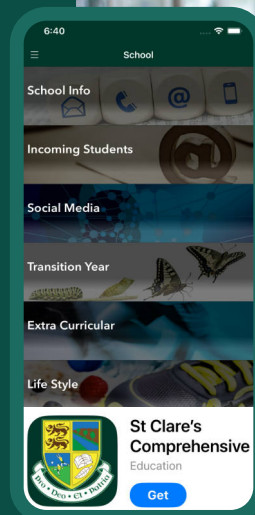
Gaelic Football training

Soccer Training



School App

We have a personalised St. Clare's Comprehensive School App which can be accessed free of charge from the App Store or Google Play Store. This App is an invaluable method of instant communication keeping parents up to date with school news, notices and reports on all our activities. It provides parents with a means to submit necessary notes to the school regarding absences, late arrivals, permission to leave early and return after absence forms which are then monitored by Year Heads. It also allows parents to digitally sign policies, submit medical and picture permission forms.



Why Choose St. Clare's Comprehensive School?



Characteristic spirit of
respect



Results in state
examinations
consistently above
national average



Every student nurtured
to help realise their
potential



Safe, friendly and happy
learning environment



Strong and effective
student supports



Community with
teaching & learning at
the core



Broad and balanced
curriculum on offer



Wide range of extra-
curricular activities



Innovative and forward-
looking learning
community

First Year Students 2026

I like making new friends from other primary schools.

I like the taster programme because it allows you to try subjects before choosing them.

The mentors are very supportive and made it easier to settle in.



I like having different teachers for different subjects.

I really appreciate the kindness of everyone.



All students from every year are helpful and kind.

The taster programme is a great way to figure out what subjects you enjoy and want to choose.

I enjoy having a locker to keep my books in and stay organised.

I have made lots of new friends in 1st year.





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