



Tullow
Community
School



TULLOW COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Principal's Message

Tullow Community School is a community school which endeavours to serve the educational needs of the local community and has an enrolment of 620 students. The diverse backgrounds, abilities and talents of the students creates a wonderful web of relationships which last a lifetime.

The best way to describe Tullow Community School is to say that it is a living and busy place to work and study which has four main areas of concern: academic, sporting, creative and lifelong learning at its heart. The blending together of these different parts of the school result hopefully in an inclusive and holistic education for each student delivered in a caring and happy environment.

Tullow Community School provides a Christian education in the spirit of the educational traditions of its Trustees and operates on the basis of due respect for the beliefs of all.

We provide an educational environment in which students are challenged, irrespective of ability level or background, to realise their individual and collective potential in a caring learning environment.

We are committed to the holistic development of individual students and to preparing them for adult life. We do this by promoting personal and collective responsibility, respect for the ethos and traditions of the school and respect and personal regard for all members of the school's community. Positive self-esteem is promoted in an atmosphere encapsulated in the school motto.

If we look first at the academic work, prospective parents are always told that the fundamental principle that guides all our decisions is the quality of teaching and

learning. Tullow Community School has always been a provider of quality education and we continue to push the boundaries of learning and teaching through the use of ICT and the introduction of the learning portal. All classrooms have computers and projectors and therefore a world of educational resources is at their fingertips.

The professional and dedicated staff of the Community school is our greatest asset and through their enthusiasm and selfless work they encourage our students to have enquiring minds, to challenge the status quo and to love learning.

Tullow Community School is involved in many different sports and extracurricular activities such as soccer, football and hurling, rugby, basketball, creative art, debating, foreign tours and musicals. Athletics is a year round event and allows each student to develop in individual sporting areas. We also have three large pitches on our grounds of eleven acres and a gymnasium with a newly equipped fitness centre.

It is now widely recognized that creativity is the hallmark of a quality education. In our ever changing and challenging world, qualities such as creativity, lateral thinking, flexibility and coping skills are fundamental if individuals and societies are to survive and progress. Through our programmes in Art, ICT, Drama, Debating and Public Speaking these essential skills are developed. Our students are encouraged to think globally and to understand their role in developing society.

I hope that you will consider Tullow Community School as you make the very important decision as to where you will send your son/daughter for their education. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns and I look forward to meeting you and working with you in the future.

Paul Thornton
Principal



School Curriculum

Junior Certificate Curriculum

The Junior Certificate and Junior Certificate Schools Programme are on offer in the School.

Our aim at Tullow Community School is to ensure a smooth transition of students from primary to post primary school.

We wish to motivate our students to engage with and enjoy the school.

We challenge our students to realise their full potential in the three years of Junior Cycle by experiencing a broad, balanced and coherent programme of study.

<p>LANGUAGES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irish • English • French • German <p>SCIENCES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science <p>PRACTICAL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art, Craft & Design • Metalwork • Woodwork • Technical graphics • Home Economics 	<p>HUMANITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • Geography • Physical Education • Religious Education • Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE) • Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE) • Music & Choir • Career Guidance <p>BUSINESS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Studies
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Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

Pupils qualify for this if they opt for certain vocationally oriented Leaving Certificate subjects. They also take two additional modules (short courses) concerned with the world of work. The programme is designed to foster a spirit of enterprise and initiative. It can be regarded as a "Leaving Certificate Plus".

All students arriving in first year are provided with a timetable which allows them to 'taste' particular subjects for a short duration. Examples of the 'taster' subjects include: Art, Metalwork, Woodwork, Music, Choir, Home Economics, Business, Technical Graphics, Guidance, and Drama. Parents and students attend an Options Night and after this students choose their options for the Junior Certificate Exams.

Junior Certificate Schools Programme

The Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP) is aimed at those students who are in need of support in the Junior Cycle. On completion of the Junior cycle, JCSP students, like all other junior cycle students, receive a Junior Certificate that includes a list of the subjects taken in the Junior Certificate examination and the grades achieved in these subjects.

In addition to this certificate JSCP students also receive an individualised "student profile". This is a profile of the skills, knowledge and achievements of each student. It covers a broad range of personal and social skills, in addition to academic achievements.

Leaving Certificate Curriculum

Core Subjects:	Optional Subjects:
English	Art, Craft, Design
Irish	Technical Drawing
Mathematics	French/German
Religious Education	History
Physical Education	Geography
	Physics
	Chemistry
	Biology
	Construction Studies
	Home Economics (Soc & Sc.)
	Accounting
	Business
	Computer Studies
	Music

School Completion Programme

This programme aims to have a significant positive impact on levels of pupil retention in primary and second level schools. It works with home, school and community to provide in-school, after school and holiday support.

St. Anne's College of Further Education (FETAC Levels 5 & 6)

One Year Business and Information Technology Course.

One Year Business & Computer Retraining Course (Suitable for adults interested in learning or improving their knowledge of computers.

VTOS Scheme and Maintenance Grants available for those who are eligible.



Code of Behaviour

Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct in Tullow Community School aims to:

- Create a climate that encourages and reinforces good behaviour
- Create a positive and safe environment for teaching and learning
- Encourage students to take personal responsibility for their learning & behaviour
- Help young people to mature into responsible participating citizens
- Build positive relationships of mutual respect and mutual support among students, staff and parents
- Ensure that the school's high expectations for behaviour of all the members of the school community are widely known and understood

The Code of Conduct is:

- Based on a rights and responsibility rationale
- The school rules are seen as guidelines to promote a positive and caring community
- Student centred
- Sets High expectations
- Positive
- "Mol an Oige agus tiocfaidh siad"
- Ten simple statements
- Each is explained
- Contract to be signed by student and parent in Journal

CODE OF CONDUCT

Once a student is enrolled in the school, s/he is subject to the discipline of the school and is entitled to remain as a student in the school only as long as s/he accepts and obeys the discipline and rules of the school.

- Students must respect the school premises, furniture and equipment and where a student does cause damage or loss in the school, s/he will be responsible for making good the loss.
- Students must be respectful and obedient to their teachers and other members of the school staff.
- All students have the right to learn and to enjoy a classroom atmosphere that is conducive to learning. No student shall have the right to undermine the teacher's authority in the classroom or to take any action, which tends to undermine or destroy it.
- Students must respect the rights and property of other persons in the school and must never take any action, which would injure or deprive another of any of his/her legitimate possessions or entitlements.
- Students must adhere to all Health & Safety regulations and behave in a manner that will not endanger themselves, fellow students or staff.
- Students must attend school regularly and punctually and wear the full school uniform at all times in school and when representing the school.

- Students must not leave the school grounds without permission and any such occurrence will be regarded as a serious breach of the school's code of conduct.
- It is the students' responsibility to give adequate time and attention to homework.
- Students must not possess or use the following banned substances: tobacco, alcohol, Tippex or chewing gum whilst in the school or on the school grounds.
- Students must not use their mobile phones in class.

Discipline System

The school has developed a discipline system. At the core of this system is the Teacher/Student Relationship. Each student is encouraged to grow and take increasing responsibility and ownership for his/her own life and education. Students and teachers have copies of the discipline system in their journal therefore the system is transparent and easy to follow.

Tutors along with the year heads play a vital role in looking after student welfare in the school. Parents can make an appointment to speak with the tutor or the year head if they have concerns about their child's academic or personal development.



Information for Parents and Students

History of the School

Tullow Community School was established in 1978 from the amalgamation of the Brigidine Convent Secondary School, the Patrician Brothers Secondary School and Tullow Vocational School. It aims to provide a comprehensive system of post-primary education open to all the children of the community. The school is co-educational and multi-denominational.

Transition from Primary to Secondary School

Smooth transition from Primary to Secondary School is vital for the wellbeing of every student. The School places great emphasis on this process. The following are the key steps in our transition programme:

- Open Night (November)
- Entrance Assessment (Spring)
- Parent/Student Meeting with Principal, Year Head (May)
- First Day Induction
- Home School Community Liaison Teacher
- Options Meeting for Parents and Students (Early December)
- Senior students support the transition by acting as mentors to 1st year students

Working Day

9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Monday to Thursday)

9.00 a.m. to 1.15 p.m. (Friday)

Students are only allowed to leave the school grounds during lunch-break (12.30 -1.15pm) provided they receive a note from their parents or have a Lunch-Time Pass.

School Services Fee

School Services Fees are payable each year as follows:

- €50 for the first child in the school;
- €20 for the second child;
- €10 for the third child.

There is a maximum of €80 payable for each family.

(Included in these fees is a contribution to the Parents Association for Personal Accident Insurance for eligible students)

Supervised Study

A scheme of after-school study exists for those who wish to avail of it, and takes place in the School Library under the supervision of a member of the teaching staff.

Insurance

The Parents' Association operates a scheme of Personal Accident Insurance for students which will operate even in cases where there is no negligence on the part of the school. Full particulars of this scheme are available from the school office. (See note under School Services Fees above.)

The following information is intended to create a happy environment for all members of the School community.

How Important is Attendance & Punctuality?

- The School places a high priority on attendance and punctuality and is very proactive in encouraging full attendance.
- All attendance and lates are tracked and inputted into the school data system. This enables the School to print out a comprehensive list for attendance and punctuality for each student. This is sent to parents/guardians on a term basis with the exam results.
- If students reach 20 days absence, parents/guardians will be notified by letter of this occurrence.

- Those students who reach 20 days absence will be tracked on a daily basis with Parents/guardians being notified by phone call or text message if their child has failed to attend school.

Note

- Absences slips can be found on the back of the Journal and must be filled in and signed by a parent/guardian on return to school.
- If for any reason a student must leave the School premises during school time that student must be collected by a parent/guardian. A note/phone call will not suffice.

Must Students wear a School Uniform?

The purpose of the school uniform is to ensure equity and have uniformity of dress amongst the student body.

All students are asked to wear the full uniform at all times.

Uniform Required

Junior Classes (1st, 2nd & 3rd years)

- Navy Trousers or alternatively a knee length skirt for the girls.
- Blue and white check shirt/blouse
- Navy Pullover with the School crest incorporated.

Senior Classes (5th & 6th years)

- Navy trousers or alternatively a knee length skirt for girls.
- Blue and white check shirt/blouse
- Blue Pullover with the School crest incorporated.

All Students

Black Shoes are the only acceptable footwear for all students.

- P.E. Gear:
- Runners (non-marking soles)
 - Tracksuit (shorts & T-shirt)
 - Shower gear (togs, towel & flip flops)

Only the following jewellery may be worn in school:
A ring, watch, and one pair of ear studs.



Information for Parents and Students

Why is the School Journal Important?

- The Journal is compulsory and must be in a students' possession at all times.
- It is an important document and must be used for recording homework.
- All students have a study plan in their Journal.
- The Journal must be signed and dated by a teacher if a student leaves class to use the toilet.
- There are perforated absence slips at the back of the journal. These are to be filled in by parent/guardian if you miss a school day.
- The Journal is to be used for late/uniform stamps and messages to/from home.
- Year Head and subject teachers will check the Journal regularly to ensure it is neat and homework is recorded accurately.
- Parents are requested to sign the Journal once a week to monitor their child's progress.
- If a student mislays the Journal s/he must report the loss to their Tutor. The Tutor will arrange for the purchase of a new School Journal.

Is There a School Canteen?

There is a Breakfast Club (on the balcony of the Gym) open to all students from 8.20 a.m. until 8.50 a.m. each morning. Students can avail of breakfast (tea, toast, & orange juice) before starting the school day. This service is free of charge.

The canteen opens at 11.00 – 11.15 am for small break and 12.35 -1.00 p.m. for lunch break. Hot and cold drinks, rolls, sandwiches and confectionary are for sale at these times.

All food must be consumed in the canteen area. This is to reduce rubbish being left around the School building.

Can Students Use a Mobile Phone?

- Where mobile phones are necessary, students are expected to have them switched off at all times and out of sight during the school day except during lunch break. The use of video/camera phones is totally prohibited.
- Outside of these times the phone will be confiscated and kept in the Principal's office for one week. The phone must then be collected by a parent/guardian.

Will all Students get a Locker?

Lockers are supplied for students use and may be rented from the School at a cost of €15. At the end of the year if the locker is left in good condition and the key is returned the student will get €10 refund. It is at the discretion of the teacher how the lockers are allocated.

Out of Bounds

To ensure adequate supervision occurs at break times students may only access certain areas of the school grounds. Out of bounds areas will be specified by the school.

Chewing Gum

Gum is prohibited as it potentially destroys furniture, carpet, shoes, clothes and hair.

Bullying

Every student and staff member in Tullow Community School has a right to learn and work in a safe environment. Members of staff accept a collective responsibility, under the direction of management, to act in preventing bullying/aggressive behaviour by any member of the School. The School also recognises the important role of the parent/guardian in monitoring their child's social & moral development. Through an increased awareness of the potential damaging effects of bullying Tullow Community School has developed supportive strategies for the prevention of such behaviour.

Parents Council

Tullow Community School has a vibrant and hard working Parents Council who meet monthly and do great work supporting the School through the following:

- Inputting on Issues
- Fundraising for the School
- Partaking in Policy Development
- Representing the Views of all Parents on the TCS Parents forum



Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care

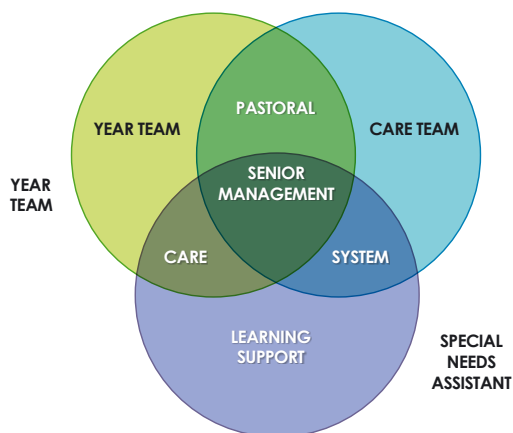
The Pastoral care System & Code of Behaviour are strongly linked in the School. We feel by creating an environment of care and support it encourages and reinforces good behaviour. This in turn creates a positive and safe environment for teaching and learning.

In Tullow Community School we endeavour, through the Pastoral Care system, to support the welfare of each student. Pastoral Care is:

- The responsibility of all who are involved in the school.
- Strongly supported by the Year head/tutor system, mentoring, the care team, the learning support team and the academic council.

Over the course of the five years that your child is attending the school they have access to a wide range of support systems that can help in their personal, social and academic progress. This pastoral approach to student welfare forms a key philosophy in the school.

Pastoral Care System – Student Support Services



Year Head

Year heads are responsible for the welfare and academic progress of all students in their year group. Each year group within the school has a specific year head looking after their well being. Each class grouping in the school has a tutor.

Tutor

A tutor is a teacher who meets the class at registration each morning and checks that students are in full uniform, have their journal and marks the attendance.

Tutors along with the year heads play a vital role in looking after student welfare in the school. Parents can make an appointment to speak with the tutor or the year head if they have concerns about their child's academic or personal development.

Each student is encouraged to feel a valued member of the community with rights and responsibilities.

Mentors

Senior students are trained as mentors for the new first year students. This is a great support for the students as relationships are forged between the seniors and new students in this process and it helps with the transition to the school.

Care Team

The care team in school consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Guidance counsellor, Home School community liaison teacher, and year heads. They meet every week to put in place relevant supports for students in need. A co-ordinated approach is taken and it is decided amongst the team who will and how each student will be supported.

Home School Community Liaison

The HSCL teachers' job is to work directly with parents. This teacher helps the school to create positive links with the home and in so doing forms a strong partnership between home and school. Amongst other jobs, this teacher organises and runs courses of interest to parents, visits the home of all first years as part of the transfer to secondary school process and visits homes to help parent's best support their child in school. This teacher is a resource for all parents within the school. At present the HSCL is being facilitated by Tullow Community School Completion Programme.

Guidance Counsellor

Guidance and Counselling is an integral part of the school's educational provision. The Guidance and counselling service in Tullow Community School aims to provide for the personal and career development of each student. The services provided by the Guidance Counsellor encompass three main areas:

1. Educational Guidance: e.g. study skills, subject choice, coping with learning difficulties.
2. Vocational/Career Counselling: e.g. aptitude tests, provision of career information, decision making.
3. Personal Counselling: Students can meet with the Guidance Counsellor on a one to one basis. Students can self refer. School staff and parents/guardians are also welcome to contact the Guidance counsellor if they have concerns.

Counsellor

The school also offers the services of a fully trained Counsellor on a part-time basis for the student. Students may self refer or may be referred on for counselling as part of intervention from the care team. Parental permission to engage in counselling is sought for all students less than 18 years of age.

The principal may refer students to outside agencies such as HSE or NEPS (National Educational Psychological Service). Such referrals are made in consultation with Parents/Guardians.



Pastoral Care

Learning Support Team

As part of the schools philosophy to develop the individual potential of each child, the learning support team plays an important role for students who find school challenging in various ways. The school has a number of professionally trained learning support and resource teacher. Learning support in the school can take many forms from small group withdrawal to team teaching in practical classes the college endeavours to assess the strengths and weaknesses of all students in the core areas on entrance to the college. This is to enable us to plan correct support systems on the timetable so students are being helped in the best way within the resources available.

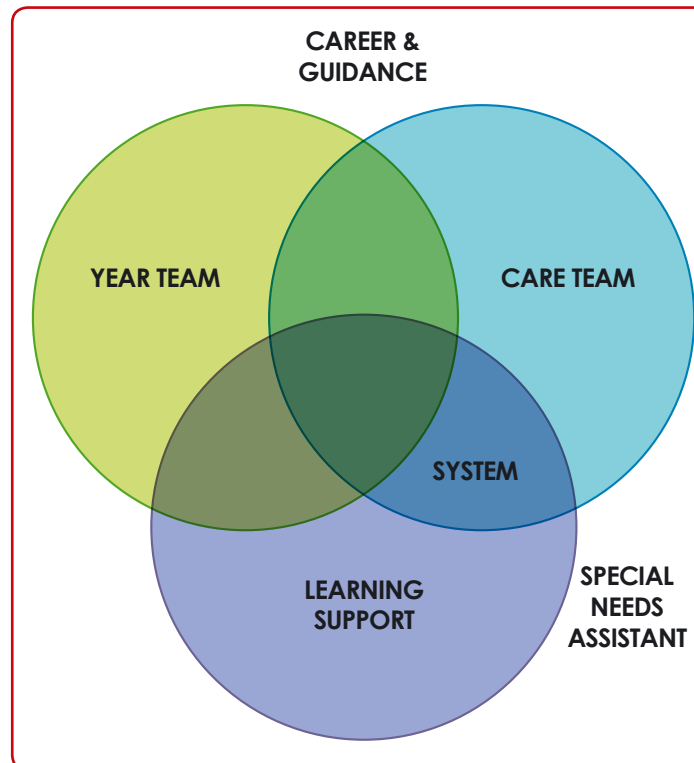
The school has a number of special needs assistants. These work with students who have support and care needs as determined by a psychologists report and the (SENO) Special Educational Needs Organiser for the area. They may be assigned individually or collectively depending on the needs of the students.

The college has a number of teachers who are trained as EAL (English as an additional language) teachers. These teachers provide support for students where English is not their first language. This is time tabled to occur at Irish time.

Mission Statement

“To nurture the wellbeing of all.
So that they may grow in knowledge,
conscience and compassion”

The Code of Conduct in Tullow Community Schools aim is:



To contribute towards the development of all aspects of the individual, including aesthetic, creative, cultural, emotional, intellectual, moral, physical, political, social and spiritual development for personal and family life, for working life, for living in the community and for leisure.

It is in the interest of students, parents and teachers that harmonious relations should prevail between school and home. Ideally the school is an extension of the home and as such, it should reflect the characteristics of a good home. This implies those students and teachers should work in an atmosphere that is conducive to learning and where discipline, order and mutual respect are fostered.

All students, irrespective of their abilities, must be given an opportunity to learn and to ensure that this is not disturbed, there must be rules and regulations. These rules must be reasonable and fair and must be understood by all concerned. In drawing up these rules, the School Authorities must be cognisant of the needs of the weaker and more disadvantaged students and take into consideration that not all students see the curriculum as being relevant to their needs. On the other hand, they must ensure that the brightest students who aspire to higher education are facilitated and encouraged to work towards the fulfilment of their legitimate aims to reach their goals in life.

Pastoral Care System - Student

Tutors along with the Year Heads play a vital role in looking after student welfare in the school. Parents can make an appointment to speak with the tutor or the Year Head if they have concerns about their child's academic or personal development.





St. Anne's

St. Anne's was opened as part of Tullow Community School in 1979. It is situated on the grounds of the Brigidine Convent but accessed through the main school grounds. Courses are designed to provide students with the necessary practical and interpersonal skills to work successfully in businesses large and small. Over the years St. Anne's has had many graduates find successful employment throughout the country and all around the world.

An example of the courses offered:

Advanced Computer and Business Training Course

FETAC Levels 5 & 6

One year intensive course leading to examinations in:

- Fetac Level 5
- ECDL
- From beginners to Advanced Level

This course is highly intensive and best suited for Post Leaving Certificate Students. It is open to mature students.

Course Directors

Ms. Geraldine O'Toole and Ms. Marian O'Brien

Contact Tullow Community School

Tel: 059-9151473 Email: tulcomcw@eircom.net

Sample Course Content

Basics of IT
File Management
Applications and use of Computers in Business and Society
Hardware, Software, Ergonomics, Security
Internet and Email
Database (Access)
Word Processing
Spreadsheets
Presentation – Power Point
Desktop Publishing
Communications
Business French/German
Typewriting/Audio Typewriting
Legal Secretarial Work
Information & Administration



Tullow
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