



**TULLOW
COMMUNITY
SCHOOL**

Prospectus



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 about 700 students. The diverse backgrounds, abilities and talents of the students create 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 in which to work and study, and which has four main areas of concern at its heart: academic achievement, sporting prowess, creative ability and lifelong learning. The blending together of these different parts of the school results, 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, in order 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, a new all-weather pitch 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 or 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



Paul Thornton
Principal



Alice Ashe
Deputy Principal

Mission Statement

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

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)
- Two-day to three-day Induction Programme for 1st Year students



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

Working Day

8.50 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. (Monday-Thursday)

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

Students are only allowed to leave the school grounds during lunch-break (12.35 – 1.15 p.m.) provided they have permission from parent/guardian.

School Services Fees

School Services Fees are due each year. This fee is used to pay 24-hour personal accident insurance, many extra-curricular activities and sporting activities. Without the help of the school services fund, we would not be in a position to continue to offer all of these important facilities to our students.

Supervised Study

A scheme of after-school study exists for those who wish to avail of it, and takes place in the school under the supervision of a member of the teaching staff. Monday to Thursday from 16.20 to 17.50.

How important is Attendance and Punctuality?

- The School places a high priority on attendance and punctuality and is very proactive in encouraging full attendance.
- All attendances and lates are tracked and inputted into the school VSware system. This enables the School to print out a comprehensive list for attendance and punctuality for each student. Parents/Guardians will have access to VSware and can monitor students' attendances/lates on a daily basis.
- It is the legal obligation of the school to inform Tusla (Education Welfare Board) of absences of 20 days or more.
- If students reach 20 days absence, parents/guardians will be notified by letter of this occurrence.

Note

- Absence 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 signed out by a parent/guardian at reception.

A note must be given to the class tutor on return to school.



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 the 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)

General Appearance

As a sign of respect for oneself and for others, a neat, tidy and well-groomed appearance is essential for all students. Hair should be neat and tidy, within the natural colour range and suitable for school and work.

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





Finalists in the Junk Kouture 2016



Students helping to raise funds at an American Tea Party.



Tullow Community School stage a musical every two years. Mamma Mia, October 2016.

Why is the School Journal important?

- The Journal is compulsory and must be in a student's 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 a student misses 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 that it is neat and that 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 8.40 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.
- If used outside of these times, the phone will be confiscated and kept in the Principal's office. 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. No sharing of lockers by students is permitted.



Out of Bounds

To ensure that 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 and 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

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 and 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 the behaviour of all the members of the school community are widely known and understood

The Code of Conduct - “Mol an Oige agus tiocfaidh siad”

The Code of Conduct is based on a rights and responsibility rationale and is positive, student centred and sets high expectations.

The school rules are seen as guidelines to promote a positive and caring community. The guidelines are explained in ten simple statements and form a contract to be signed by student and parent in the the student Journal.

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.

Junior Certificate Curriculum

The Junior Certificate and Junior Certificate School 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. 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, Home Economics, Business and Technical Graphics. In October, students pick 2 of these option subjects for their exams.

Languages

- Irish
- English
- French
- German

Science

- Science

Humanities

- History
- Geography
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)
- Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE)
- Computers

Practical

- Art, Craft & Design
- Metalwork
- Woodwork
- Technical graphics
- Home Economics

Business

- Business

Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP)

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, JCSP 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:

English, Irish, Mathematics, Religious Education, Physical Education, Computer Studies (5th Years), Career Guidance (6th Years), Pastoral Care

Optional Subjects:

Art, Craft, Design, Technical Drawing, French/German, History, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Construction Studies, Home Economics (Soc & Sc.), Accounting, Business

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”.

St Anne’s College of Further Education (QQI Levels 5)

One-Year Office Administration Course.

(Suitable for adults interested in learning how to use computers, or in improving their existing knowledge)

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



Pastoral Care

The Pastoral care system and code of behaviour are strongly linked in the school. We feel that, by creating an environment of care and support, good behaviour is encouraged and reinforced. 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 or six 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.

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/class teacher.

Tutor

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

Tutors together 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 (Meitheal) for the new First Year students. This is a great support for the students as relationships are forged between the senior 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, Chaplain, Guidance Counsellor School Completion Personnel and Year Heads. They meet every week to put in place relevant supports for students in need. A co-ordinated approach is taken and the team decides which students are in need of support and determines how this support is to be implemented.

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 for the students. Students may self-refer or may be referred on for counselling through intervention from the care team. Parental permission to engage in counselling is sought for all students under 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.



Chaplain

The Chaplain provides pastoral care for students and staff in Tullow Community School and responds to the personal needs of individual students on a day-to-day basis. Students can discuss, in a confidential and supportive environment, any concerns and difficulties they may have. Students are most welcome to drop by the office and chat in a friendly and informal way.

This service is student based and follows through to home and family life, particularly with regard to illness, bereavement and loss. The Chaplain's priority is to treat students with respect and dignity in all situations within and beyond the school.

The Chaplain's Office is located upstairs in the new Pastoral Care suite. She is available to students of all denominations and none, and will be pleased to contact other religious ministers for students at any time.

The Oratory, a quiet place for reflection and prayer, is also located in the Pastoral Care Suite. If students or staff find the stress, strain and general haste of school life to be too much at times, the Oratory is a place where they can experience silence, reflection and prayer.

Learning Support Team

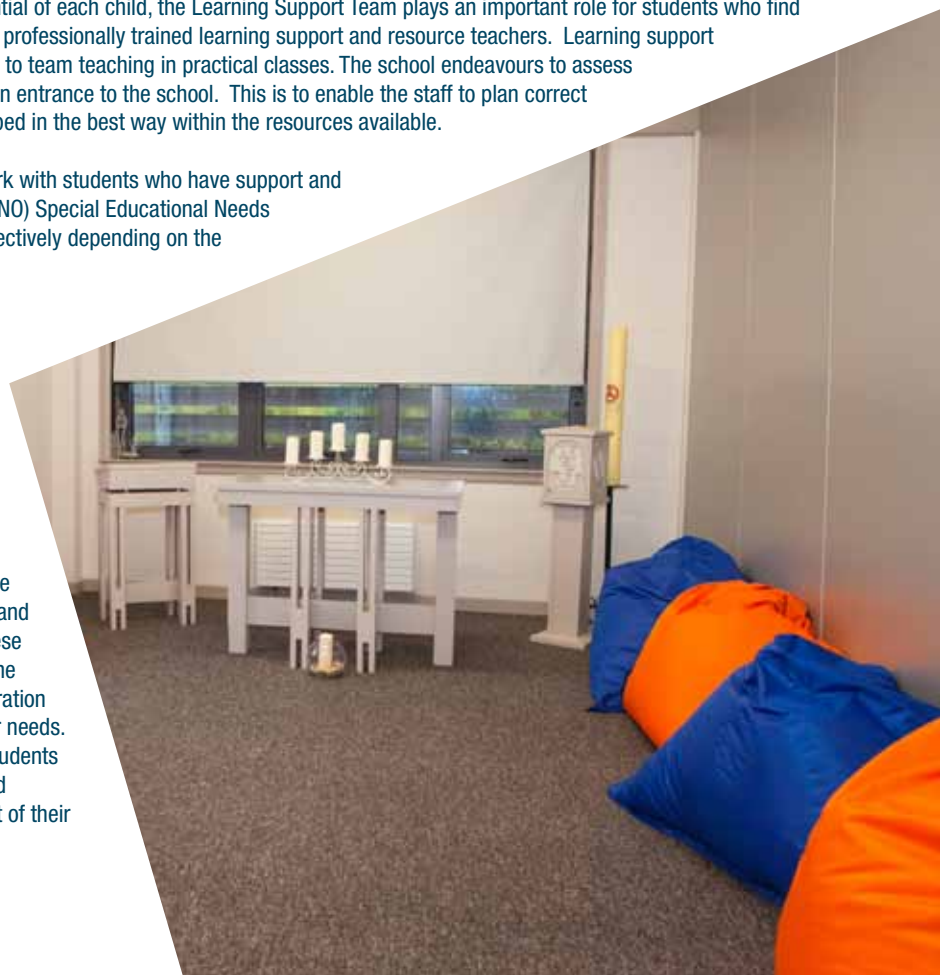
As part of the school's philosophy to develop the individual potential of each child, the Learning Support Team plays an important role for students who find school challenging in various ways. The school has a number of professionally trained learning support and resource teachers. Learning support in the school can take many forms, from small group withdrawal to team teaching in practical classes. The school endeavours to assess the strengths and weaknesses of all students in the core areas on entrance to the school. This is to enable the staff to plan correct support systems on the timetable so that 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 psychologist's 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.

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 that 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.



SCHOOL RULES

Pupils' Behaviour

1. Pupils are expected to be honest, courteous, respectful and helpful to one another and to the staff at all times;
2. Rough or boisterous behaviour/play is strictly forbidden inside the school. This is particularly applicable to toilets, assembly areas and corridors,

Workshops and Laboratories;

3. Smoking, including e-cigarettes, is illegal inside the school grounds or premises;
4. Gum-chewing and Tippex are forbidden in school;
5. Mobile Phones are strictly forbidden in class.

Attendance and Punctuality

6. Pupils must be in time for morning registration, before 8.50 a.m. in the morning and before 1.15 p.m. in the afternoon. Late arrivals must register on arrival.
7. All absences and unpunctuality must be explained in writing by parents in the school journal;
8. Pupils must remain in the school or school grounds from 8.50 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. daily. Unauthorised absence from school will be regarded as a serious offence;
9. All requests for permission to leave school during school hours must be accompanied by a note from the parent/s to the Class Teacher in the school journal.
10. All pupils are expected to remain in school during lunch hour except those whose parents have completed a "lunch hour indemnity form";
11. In exceptional circumstances, permission to leave school at lunch hour may be given if a request is made in writing by a parent - on such occasions, the Class Teacher will issue a 'Pass'.

Property

12. All pupils' property:- coats, bags, books, etc., should carry his/her name;
13. The Management of the School cannot accept any responsibility for loss or stolen property. Large sums of money and other valuables should not be brought to school unless absolutely necessary. In such cases, the money or valuables should be handed into the office for safe custody and a receipt obtained.
14. Pupils are expected to show respect for school property - no writing on desks or walls. Property deliberately damaged or broken will have to be replaced by the person concerned.

Movement within the School

15. Inside the school, pupils should walk and never run. They must keep to the left whenever possible and, at all times, on the corridors, (one-way system in Canteen and Social Areas);
16. Pupils should assemble quietly outside the classroom door until the teacher allows them to enter;
17. Each pupil must use the desk and chair assigned to him/her in each particular room.

Uniform

18. Pupils must wear School Uniform at all times during school hours and when representing the school. It is not optional.

The uniform consists of the following:

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

Girls: Navy trousers or knee-length skirt
Blue and white check blouse
Navy Pullover with crest knitted in.

Boys: Navy trousers
Blue and white check shirt
Navy Pullover with crest knitted in.

All Students:

Black shoes, NO RUNNERS
Absolutely no denims, cords or jeans.

P.E. Gear

Runners (non-marking)
Tracksuit (shorts & T-shirt)
Shower gear (togs, towel, flip-flops)

Paul Thornton
Principal

Alice Ashe
Deputy Principal

Senior Classes (5th & 6th Years)

Girls: Navy trousers or knee-length skirt
Blue and white check blouse
Blue Pullover with crest knitted in

Boys: Navy trousers
Blue and white check shirt
Blue Pullover with crest knitted in

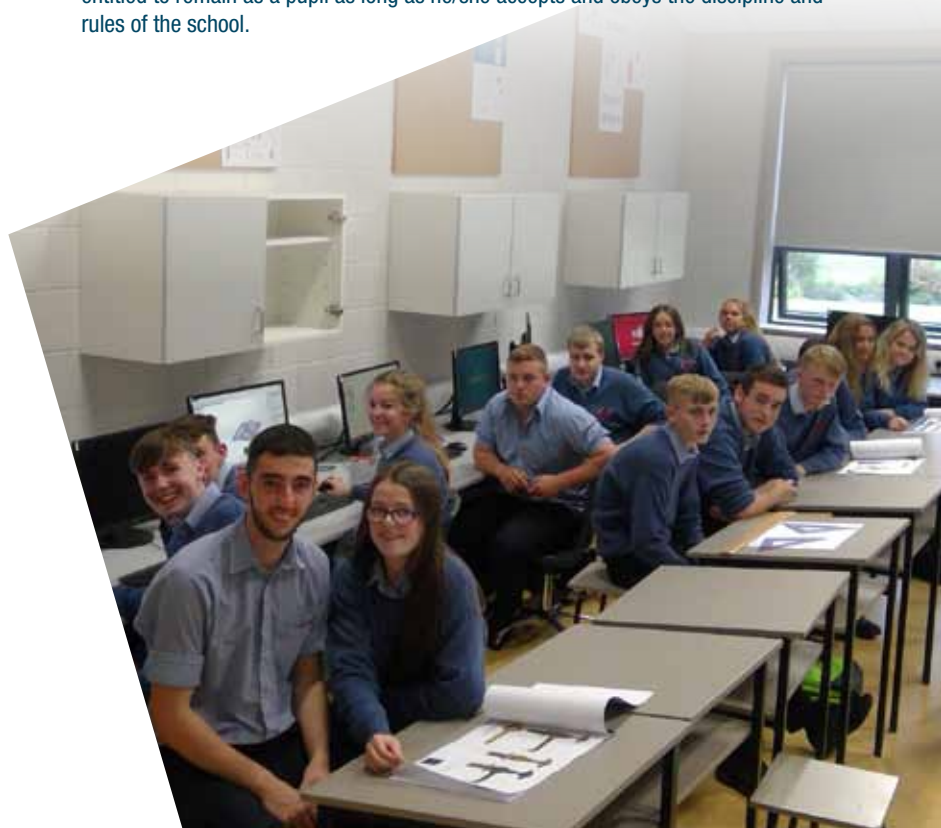
Only the following items of jewellery may be worn in school:


a ring, a watch and a pair of ear studs.

Make-up:

Make-up and cosmetics worn by students must be approved by the Principal, Deputy Principal or Year Head.

Once a pupil enters the school, he/she is subject to the discipline of the school and is entitled to remain as a pupil as long as he/she accepts and obeys the discipline and rules of the school.





Tullow Community School
The Mullawn,
Tullow,
Co. Carlow

Tel: (059) 9151473
Fax: (059) 9151472

Email: info@tullowcs.ie

www.tullowcommunityschool.ie

