



Castlerea Community School

Castlerea, Co Roscommon, Ireland

WELCOME

I am delighted to welcome you and your son or daughter to Castlerea Community School. This prospectus is designed to give you an insight into life here in CCS and provide you with some introductory information about our school. You are invited to our open evening, which will give you a greater perspective on our school and allow you the opportunity to engage with our students and staff.

We look forward to meeting with you.



Eileen Ryan
Principal



Jarlath Burke
Deputy Principal



MISSION

Castlerea Community School is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in education in a caring environment of mutual respect so as to foster the full potential of its students and staff. In partnership with parents we strive to create a desire for life-long learning, respect for the individual, an awareness of the needs of the disadvantaged, concern for the environment and an appreciation of our own unique culture.



CURRICULUM

JUNIOR CYCLE:

NEW JUNIOR CYCLE – 3 YEARS

The New Junior Cycle began in September 2014 with the introduction of a new subject specification for English. This will be followed by the introduction of Science for 1st year students enrolling in September 2015 and this new framework will continue to be introduced across all schools in a phased in basis until September 2019.

TRADITIONAL JUNIOR CERT – 3 YEARS

Castlereagh Community School offers a wide range of subjects at Junior Level. Students follow a set curriculum which leads to the Junior Certificate at the end of three years. All classes are of mixed ability and streaming only takes place for the core subject of Mathematics in Second Year. Students are encouraged to achieve their best and to take as many higher level subjects as is appropriate. First year students will have the opportunity to experience each of the subjects available to them in our taster programme, before choosing their subjects for examination.



Core Subjects: (7)

English
Irish
Maths
Religious Education
History
Geography
CSPE

Non-examination Subjects:

PE
SPHE

Optional Subjects: (4)

Science
Business
Home Economics
Music
Art
Materials Technology (Wood)
Materials Technology (Metal)
Technical Graphics
Applied Technology
French
German



CURRICULUM

SENIOR CYCLE:

Students entering Senior Cycle in CCS have four programmes to choose from:

- Transition Year (TY)
- Traditional Leaving Cert (LC)
- Leaving Cert Applied (LCA)
- Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)

TRANSITION YEAR (OPTIONAL) – 1 YEAR

Transition Year is a unique one year programme between the Junior and Senior cycles. It provides a bridge to enable them to make the transition from the more dependent type of learning associated with the Junior Certificate to the more independent learning environment associated with the Leaving Certificate. It encourages personal and social development and recognises the need for students to grow in independence.

Transition Year fosters academic achievement as students prepare for a Leaving Certificate programme, further study and adult and working life. It encourages the development of a wide range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem solving skills. Transition Year offers students space to learn, mature and develop.

The Transition Year is an activity based self-directed programme, which entails learning both inside and outside the classroom. The course allows them to build personal confidence, encourages maturity and to develop new skills and education for college and working life.

As well as continuing with the traditional subjects such as English, Irish and Maths, students participate in a range of interesting modules such as:

Driver Education, First Aid, Mini-Company, School Bank, Law



Education, Young Scientist, Learn to Earn, Media Studies, An Gaisce, Tour, School Musical, Work Experience, Outdoor pursuits, Field Trips.

LEAVING CERT APPLIED – 2 YEARS

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self – contained two year Leaving Certificate, available to students who wish to follow a practical or vocationally orientated programme. A key aspect of the programme is enabling students to prepare for adult and working life. The Leaving Certificate Applied is different in a number of ways:

- It is a practical programme that makes wide use of active and student centred learning methodologies.
- It includes seven Student Tasks that bring together the different learning experiences that the students have gained from the courses they have taken.
- It uses a unique system of assessment. The students' work is assessed over the two years of the programme and they gain credits as they go along. Practicals, interviews and terminal written papers are among the different forms of assessment used. The students' communication, problem solving and practical skills are also assessed.

CURRICULUM

TRADITIONAL LEAVING CERT – 2 YEARS

In general, students taking this option study seven subjects:

Core subjects:

English	Irish	Maths
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Optional subjects:

Accounting	Construction Studies	Home Economics
Art	Engineering	History
Agricultural Science	German	Music
Biology	French	Physics
Business	Geography	Technology
Chemistry	Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)	

Non-examination subjects:

SPHE	PE	Computers
Religion	Career Guidance	



LEAVING CERT VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP) – 2 YEARS

LCVP is similar to the traditional Leaving Cert with the added opportunity to study courses in Enterprise Education and Preparation for the World of Work. These modules are assessed prior to the terminal examinations in June and involve an element of work experience. Students wishing to take the LCVP must satisfy certain criteria regarding specific subject combinations.



LEVEL 2 LEARNING PROGRAMME (L2LP)

Castlerea Community School is an inclusive school which seeks to ensure that all students, no matter what their difficulty, are enabled to acquire personal, social and academic skills, participate fully in school life and to achieve success.

The Special education class, or Room 4 as we know it, has been an integral part of CCS since 1999, combining mainstream education with learning support and more recently with FETAC modules for a small number of our students. From September 2017 onwards, Level 2 Learning Programme will be offered under the new Junior Cycle programme. This programme based on Priority Learning Units (PLU's) will target the very specific group of students with general learning disabilities in the higher functioning moderate and low functioning mild categories.

The PLUs will focus on developing the basic social, pre-vocational and life skills of the students involved and include: Communicating and literacy, Numeracy, Personal care, Living in a community and Preparing for work.

Special Needs Assistants (SNA's) offer other support to individual students and are an important part of the learning support team.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Here, at Castlerea Community School, we encourage our students to participate in extra-curricular activities. These activities can help develop social and cultural skills as well as adding an enjoyable element to school life. Our activities include:

Athletics	Competitions
Soccer	Young St. Vincent de Paul
Basketball	Young Scientist Competition
Gaelic Football	Table Tennis
Badminton	Board Games
Gymnastics	Green Schools
Film	Active Schools
Field trips	Homework Club
Dance	Fundraising / Active Citizenship
English Debating/ Díospóireacht Gaeilge	Quizzes
Gaisce President's Award	Music events
School Choir	Film/DVD club
School tours (home and abroad)	Regional Business Competitions
Art Competitions	Music Videos streaming Web TV
Volunteering in community JP II Awards	



"I feel very welcome every morning."
First Year student



FACILITIES



Gymnasium



Library



Specialised & fully equipped practical rooms –
Woodwork, Metalwork, Technology and DCG



3 Science Labs



Demo room



Kitchen



Dress design room



Art room



Music Room



Sacred space



Football pitches



Computer room



High speed broadband connection



Elevator for wheelchair access
throughout the building



Resource rooms



SUPERVISED EVENING STUDY

Supervised study commences September and continues until the end of May and affords students the opportunity to study in a quiet and warm environment. Sessions run from 4.15p.m. to 6.15p.m, Monday to Friday. As places are limited, a waiting list is operational and preference is given to students from 3rd and 6th year.



*“I met loads of new friends,
Secondary School is so much fun,
I like the big selection of subjects.”*

First Year student

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

	Class times
Monday & Wednesday	09.00 – 16.00
Tuesday & Thursday	09.00 – 16.00
Friday	09.00 – 13.15
Supervised Study Mon - Thurs	16.15 – 18.15
Supervised Study Friday	14.00 – 16.00



SUPPORT SERVICES FOR STUDENTS

PASTORAL CARE:

The aim of our pastoral care system is to ensure that the care of each student, in all aspects of their well-being and development - academic, physical, moral, spiritual, emotional and socially - are catered for in a meaningful way by the school. To achieve this, each year group is assigned a Year Head, assisted by a team of Class Tutors. These members of staff work with management, teachers, the Guidance Counsellor and the Chaplain to ensure the welfare of every student and that the needs of all students are met.

Each class in First, Second and Third year has one SPHE (Social Personal Health Education) class per week. The SPHE programme includes modules on substance abuse and prevention, relationships, care and respect for personal and school property, general health and safety, study skills, attendance, classroom behaviour and other issues. In addition to this, the support of outside agencies are engaged to strengthen and compliment this programme by the hosting of seminars and guest speakers.

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN:

The 1998 Education Act states that educators should “promote the moral, spiritual, social and personal development of students”. The school chaplain has a key role in ensuring that these needs are being attended to in the school. Here in Castlerea Community School, the role of chaplain is part of a team and works closely in conjunction with school management, pastoral care teams, guidance counsellor, all staff and the Religious Education department. Personal relationship and genuine personal presence is at the core of what a compassionate Chaplain must be. The School Chaplain is present to those who find themselves at threshold times in their lives. He is available to students by appointment or on teacher referral, to listen and empower them to move forward when attending to various issues in their lives. The Chaplain responds to the spiritual and pastoral needs of the school community and endeavours to meet

people authentically at the point of their need. He journeys with students, staff and the families of this school community in a spirit of freedom, equality and compassion.



PREFECTS:

Senior Students form an important role in supporting their fellow students. By acting as positive role models, they set standards for younger students to aspire to. The role of the prefects in the school is predominantly to support first year students with the transition from Primary to Secondary school, by operating a “buddy” system, meeting regularly with their buddies and organising events and activities for them.



“I look forward to coming to school now.”

First Year student



SCHOOL UNIFORM

GIRLS' UNIFORM

Pleated Tartan Skirt

Navy Trousers

White Polo Shirt / White Blouse

Navy Crested Jumper

Black Shoes

Crested School Jacket



BOYS' UNIFORM

Grey Trousers

Grey Shirt

Navy Crested Jumper

Black Shoes

Crested School Jacket



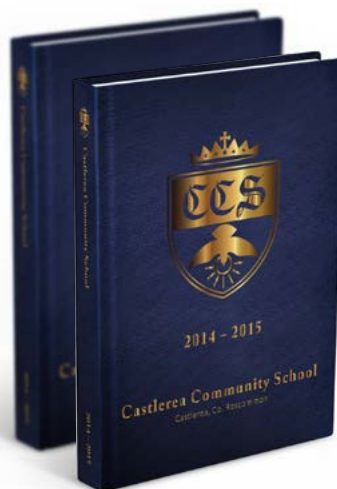
"I think the school is big but it didn't take long for me to know my way around."

First Year student

STUDENT JOURNAL

Each student is required to be in possession of a school diary and he/she must bring it to all classes. This diary is available for purchase at the beginning of the school year and is designed to:

- Keep a record of all homework and class activities.
- Provide a point of communication between teachers and parents/guardians.
- Record all requests by parents for students to leave school.
- Monitor student attendance.
- Assist in organising homework on a daily basis.





STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council forms an integral part of school life here in CCS, giving students an opportunity to voice their opinions and play an active role in the development of the school. The Council consists of a representative body of students, elected from and by the general cohort of students in the school. A member of staff will liaise with the Student Council, assisting them in playing a partnership role with the staff and school management.



PARENTS COUNCIL

The Parents Council was re-established in 2014 and it plays a significant role in the life of the school. It acts as a very valuable link between the homes and the school, representing the views of parents, informing parents of developments in education and in the school, directing policy formation, organising events of mutual interest to parents and students and helping with the provision of extra resources and fund-raising. Membership of the council is open to parents/guardians of all students attending the school and are elected at the annual general meeting.



“PE is great fun. I am learning but also have fun learning new things and meeting lots of new friends.”

First Year student



GUIDANCE COUNSELLING

The Guidance Counsellor’s role is to assist students in making informed decisions regarding personal, social, educational and career issues throughout and after their education. Castlereagh Community School. She is involved in classroom activities, one-to-one counselling, career planning, subject choice, programme options, interview preparation and the assessment of educational and vocational abilities. Guidance class is taken by all students to provide them with a general knowledge of various careers and further education options. The Guidance Counsellor works with all students on an individual basis to develop study plans and complete college and access programme applications. A drop-in guidance service for all of our students, past and present, is also provided.





Castlerea Community School

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