

**“BE THE BEST
THAT YOU CAN BE.”**



St. Mary's Secondary School Edenderry

PROSPECTUS

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL, EDENDERRY



EMMET McDONNELL
Principal

It is with immense pleasure that we introduce you to St. Mary's Secondary School. This prospectus will provide you with a flavour of our life here in St. Mary's and the opportunity to see the array of pursuits from the academic to the arts, from sporting to musical, from individual to team events.

We aim to provide our students with a holistic education so that they can reach their maximum potential in a student-centred way that celebrates inclusion and diversity. I hope that you enjoy this. St. Mary's Secondary School is a large co-educational voluntary secondary school of approximately 930 students. It caters for nineteen feeder schools in and around the community of Edenderry.

We offer a comprehensive range of courses including Junior Cycle, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme, and the Leaving Certificate Applied Course. In St. Mary's we seek to pursue excellence in everything we do. We encourage students to **"be the best that they can be."**

There is a wonderful atmosphere within the school, which is very evident among our staff and students. We invite you to come and visit our school to see this for yourselves. We look forward to meeting you.

Emmet McDonnell
Principal



BRENDA LAWTON, TOM REEHILL & DAVID FLYNN
Deputy Principals

**"OUR SCHOOL IS
A VERY FRIENDLY
PLACE WITH PEOPLE
WHO CARE."**

Student

**"ST. MARY'S IS
WELCOMING
AND CARING AND
I AM HAPPY HERE."**

Student



The Significance of our School Crest

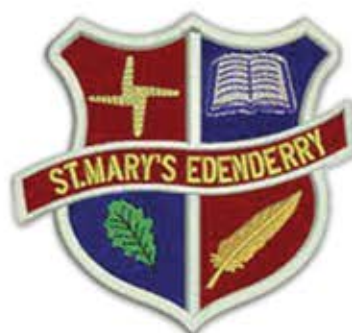
The cross of the patron saint of our Diocese, St. Brigid, indicates that we are a catholic school held in trust by the Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin. As a single image, our school crest proudly displays our combined educational, spiritual and moral core, values and beliefs.

The Left Quadrants

refer to the student as an individual. The oak leaf represents the history of our locality. The single leaf represents each student as an important member of our school community.

The Right Quadrants

contain a book and a quill. These symbolise teaching and learning in our school. We constantly strive for excellence, valuing both tradition and innovation in education



ÉADAN DOIRE MEANS
"BROW OR HILL-TOP OF THE OAKS"

WELCOME FIRST YEAR STUDENTS

WHAT TYPE OF SCHOOL ARE WE?

We are a large inclusive and diverse co-educational secondary school with over 900 students offering a broad and varied curriculum, meeting the needs of all our students. St. Mary's is a Catholic School held in trust by the Kildare and Leighlin Diocese Trust and under the patronage of the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. The purpose of the school is to help students to take their place in society as educated, mature and committed Christians with a philosophy of life which is spiritually enriching, and which will enable them to contribute positively to the society in which they live.

SUPPORTS FOR 1ST YEARS

- Academic Tracking
- After School Study
- Anti-Bullying Team
- Behaviour Support
- Big Brother Big Sister
- Break and Lunch Supervision
- Class Tutor
- Counsellor
- Induction Activities
- Learning Support
- Lunchtime Clubs
- Meitheal Group
- Pastoral Care
- Prefects Support
- Principal & Deputy Principals
- Rainbows Programme
- Subject Teachers

FACILITIES IN THE SCHOOL

- Art Rooms
- Autism Class
- Canteen
- Computer Rooms
- Design and Communication Graphics Room
- Full Sized GAA pitch
- High Speed Broadband
- Home Economic Rooms
- Music Room
- Running/walking track
- Science Labs
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Student Lockers
- Woodwork Rooms

WHERE DO OUR STUDENTS COME FROM?

Students in our school come from a total of 19 feeder schools expanding over four counties; Offaly, Kildare, Meath and Westmeath.

The schools are as follows:

1. St. Mary's Primary School, Edenderry, Offaly.
2. St. Patrick's Primary School, Edenderry, Offaly.
3. Monasteroris N.S., Edenderry, Offaly.
4. Ballybryan N.S., Rhode, Offaly.
5. Scoil Mhuire Naofa, Rhode, Offaly.
6. Scoil Bhríde, Croghan, Offaly.
7. St. Ciarán's N.S., Castlejordan, Meath.
8. Clonbullogue N.S., Offaly.
9. Clocha Rince N.S., Kildare.
10. Cadamstown N.S., Kildare.
11. Broadford & Kilbane N.S., Kildare.
12. St. Conleth's N.S., Derrinturn, Kildare.
13. St. Brigid's N.S., Ticknevin, Kildare.
14. St. Oliver Plunkett, N.S., Killina, Kildare.
15. Scoil San Treasa, Kilshanroe, Kildare.
16. Daingean N.S., Offaly.
17. Scoil Bhríde, Edenderry, Offaly.
18. Gaelscoil, Éadan Doire, Offaly.
19. St. Etchen's N.S., Kinnegad, Co. Westmeath.



SCHOOL SUBJECTS & PROGRAMMES

JUNIOR CYCLE 3 YEAR PROGRAMME

JUNIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS

“WE OFFER A WIDE AND VARIED JUNIOR CYCLE PROGRAMME.”

CORE SUBJECTS

- English
- SPHE
- History
- Gaeilge
- Geography
- PE
- Mathematics
- Religion
- CSPE

OPTIONS

- Visual Art
- Music
- Graphics
- Science
- Modern Foreign Languages (French and Spanish)
- Materials Technology Wood
- Home Economics
- Business Studies
- Technology

We also offer Short Courses in the following:

- Coding
- Digital Media Literacy

TRANSITION YEAR 1 YEAR PROGRAMME

This exclusive one-year programme focuses on developing our students, personally, socially and educationally. Students take ownership of their learning, explore different subjects, activities and become more involved in the community.

Please see more information in the booklet in relation to Transition Year.

SENIOR CYCLE 2 YEAR PROGRAMME

LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS

CORE SUBJECTS

- English
- Gaeilge
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Religion

OPTIONS

- French
- History
- Biology
- Spanish
- Art
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Materials Technology
- Applied Mathematics
- Agricultural Science
- Construction Studies
- Home Economics
- Technology
- Business
- Accounting
- Geography
- Chemistry
- Music
- Physics
- P.E.
- LCVP

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

2 YEAR PRACTICAL PROGRAMME

Two-year programme after completing the Junior Cycle. Students complete one day of work experience each week of this programme.

“WE TEACH THE NEW LEAVING CERTIFICATE P.E. SUBJECT.”

WELLBEING & STUDENT SUPPORTS IN ST. MARY'S

Schools have a central role to play in supporting and promoting students' learning about wellbeing and for wellbeing and we at St. Mary's take our role seriously in working to enhance the wellbeing of our students. We want to ensure that every student can flourish and reach their full potential and feel that our school is an environment where they can do this. Each student will complete 400 hours of wellbeing between 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Year.

“DISPLAYS THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL CELEBRATE STUDENTS' ACTIVITIES & ACHIEVEMENTS, & ALSO PROMOTE SUBJECTS, STUDENT LEARNING & WELLBEING.”

Whole School Evaluation

WELLBEING IN ACTION

- CSPE, PE and SPHE Classes
- Care Team
- Counselling Service
- Lunchtime Concerts
- Non-Uniform Days
- Sports Days
- Themed Weeks
- School Self Evaluation
- Wellbeing Walks



TRANSITION FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

We know how important the transition from primary to post-primary school can be for your child. We strive each year to make this experience a positive one and want to make every student feel welcome in our school. Incoming students complete an induction programme where they are afforded the opportunity to come to the school and be guided around the school by the school's student leadership groups,

partake in fun and interactive activities and meet their classmates, teachers, and year head.



STUDENT SUPPORTS

Anti-Bullying Team: we have a designated team who have a pro-active approach to anti-bullying issues all in line with national legislation and GDPR. Our aim is to instil our school motto “Be the best you can be” in all our students.

Behaviour For Learning: we recognise that our students come from many different backgrounds and have challenges that interfere with school life. The BFL teacher works individually and collectively with these students to help them build better relationships and deal with their emotions in a more positive manner.

Career Guidance: in St. Mary's we have highly qualified counsellors who meet the needs of our students in many ways.

Lunch Club: provides a safe and social environment for 1st to 3rd year students during lunch time. It is a chance to mix with students from different years and share their interests.

Mentoring: Teacher to students mentoring, a check in and connect system to help students.

Pastoral Care: Students are supported in all areas of school life and additional support is offered by the Care Team which is made up of members of management, additional needs teachers, guidance counsellors and the school chaplain. The wellbeing of each student is important, and a strong focus is placed on providing services to help them reach their full potential.

Rainbows Programme: peer support programme for young people who have experienced bereavement or separation.



WELLBEING & STUDENT SUPPORTS IN ST. MARY'S

CLASSES FOR STUDENTS WITH ADDITIONAL EDUCATION NEEDS (AEN)

St. Mary's offers three Autism classes in our Laochra Centre to facilitate students with a diagnosed Autism Spectrum Disorder. We aim to offer an autism specific learning environment within a special class setting and facilitate optimum inclusion with access to mainstream classes as appropriate. We also have two long-standing Mild and Moderate General Learning Difficulty special classes.



WELLBEING IN ACTION



By respecting the individuality of each pupil, staff work to develop their social, physical, behavioural, emotional, and intellectual abilities as part of their individual curriculum and targets set in their Student Support Plans. Students can complete the traditional Junior and Senior Cycle exams or undertake other programmes such as L2LP, L1LP and LCA under guidance from qualified SEN teachers and SNAs. L2LP's and L1LP's are specifically designed for these students in terms of curriculum, assessment, and certification. It is a programme that promotes inclusion and meets the needs of students. Our students' connection to the local community in Edenderry is very important and we prioritise social activities including swimming, shopping for class materials, library visits and excursions to local businesses. Students' development of life skills is very important in our classes, and we encourage their development through home economics, woodwork, and personal care classes.

The Whole School Guidance Framework is intended to be a resource for schools to support the requirements of The Education Act (1998), that schools provide students with "access to appropriate guidance to assist them in their educational and career choices"

STUDENT VOICE IN ST. MARY'S

PREFECTS



These are our senior leaders in the school, this group of 6th Year students represent the student body at school events, support and help both students and staff and lead important initiatives across our school.

STUDENT COUNCIL



The St. Mary's Student Council is a group of elected students from each year group working together in collaboration with students and management to give a platform to the student voice. Students involved get experience in leadership, organisation, and communication.

MEITHEAL



The Meitheal Programme is a training programme for our 6th Year students with the aim of supporting our 1st Year students. It is a programme based on respect between students and enables them to take responsibility for the happiness of others and for the safety and well – being for all who share the school environment. The programme asks students to step beyond their own needs and to act on the needs of others.

“BEING ON THE STUDENT COUNCIL HAS PUT ME IN CONTACT WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL YEARS. ESPECIALLY IN MY STARTING YEARS IN ST MARY'S, THIS HELPED ME GREATLY IN FINDING OUT ABOUT THE STRUCTURE OF EXAMS etc.”

FORÓIGE BIG BROTHER BIG SISTER

Foróige Big Brother Big Sister is an internationally recognised youth mentoring programme that forms supportive friendships for young people. Each year at St. Mary's, volunteers from Transition Year get the opportunity to become mentors to students in the younger cohorts. These 'big brothers' and 'big sisters' spend time developing friendships and providing support to their mentees under the care of the Big Brother Big Sister team.

POPE JOHN PAUL AWARDS

The Pope John Paul Awards are offered to our TY students. It enables participants to take an active role in their school, parish, and community. Awards are earned by taking part in activities each week for 8 weeks (Bronze), 14 weeks (Silver) or 20 weeks (Gold). Those who have completed the Gold Awards in TY may apply to complete the Papal Cross Award which takes a minimum of 26 weeks.

GREEN SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Green Schools Committee is made up of teachers and students who work to make our school a more sustainable place to be. Already we have received our litter and waste flag and have begun working on our water flag. As part of our work, we have held a climate action week, introduced reusable water bottle to the school, encouraged students to use water fountains to refill bottles and our members have also completed water ambassador training.

“I THINK ST. MARYS IS A WONDERFUL SCHOOL WITH AN AMAZING ATMOSPHERE. IT'S A SCHOOL WHERE EVERYONE IS WILLING TO HELP EACH OTHER.”



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE & BEHAVIOUR

At St. Mary's, we pride ourselves on academic excellence and always putting the needs of our students to the fore. We strive to promote the very best of teaching methodologies and create a safe, comfortable, and effective learning environment for our students. Our teachers and SNAs partake in CPD in their specific subject areas and in general education and IT. We are proud to say that all our staff have become Microsoft Certified Innovative Educators through the MIE program with the Microsoft Learning Centre. This enables our staff to use the latest in educational technology to further enhance the learning experiences of our students. We believe that collaboration is one of the keys in effective teaching and learning and each year our staff carefully plan out curriculum content and assessments based on our current students' needs and abilities.

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY PROGRAMME

Our Supervised After School Study Programme is available for all St Mary's students. Each session lasts two hours (4:10-6:10pm). A member of staff supervise each session and students will work independently, free from all distractions of phones, TVs, or music. This is particularly helpful to our exam years as it simulates the exam style environment of the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle Exams. (Cost is €160 for 10 weeks)

AWARDS

We aim to promote excellence and endeavour in the classroom, exam hall, on the sports field or on the stage. As a school we celebrate its successes and encourage our students to be the best they can be by challenging themselves. We recognise our students' achievements through a formal awards structure.



CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

We are proud of the strong code of behaviour established in St. Mary's and its application and role in promoting a safe and healthy learning environment that allows for effective teaching and learning. Having a strong code of behaviour allows the creation of strong relationships among students and between students and teachers.

STATS CORNER

- **2021 and 2022 Leaving Certificate:**
94% of students sitting the Leaving Certificate went on to 3rd Level Education
- Highest percentage of students going on to Third Level Education based on the number of students in County Offaly.



TRANSITION YEAR

- Transition Year (TY) promotes personal, social, and educational development of our students.
- TY provides a bridge to enable students to make the transition from Junior Cycle to a more independent learning environment associated with the Senior Cycle.
- The TY Year provides an extra year in school to mature, an opportunity to explore new subjects and make better decisions about subject choices in 5th Year.
- Our accreditation system ensures continuous assessment, thus allowing students to catch up or develop academically and be better equipped for the demands of 5th Year.



ACTIVITIES

Among others, all our students take part in a drama workshop, First Aid course, self-defence, Mini-Company in Enterprise, enter the Sci-Fest (science project competition), are encouraged to take on the Gaisce Award and/or the John Paul II Award. There are also various guest speakers and workshops organised, Forensic Fun and a Drumming Workshop as well as a week-long sport coaching course.



CORE SUBJECTS

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- French/Spanish
- Enterprise
- Science
- Computers
- Religion
- Physical Education
- Social Education

MODULAR SUBJECTS (Half the year)

(7-WEEK MODULES)

- History/Geography
- Chinese/Active Schools
- Wellbeing/Guidance
- Bridge/Public Speaking/Photography/Chess

PRACTICAL OPTIONS (Students choose any two)

Home Economics • Music • DCG (Design & Communication Design) • Art • Woodwork

ASSESSMENTS

Students are awarded a certificate and graded according to a credit system, which includes continuous assessment of Key Projects, 2 Portfolio Interviews, Credit for Work Experience, and attendance as well as quality of class projects and participation.

HIGHLIGHTS

OUR TRIPS

Achill (3 day stay in the Gaeltacht area, outdoor activities, and water sports) in September, **Gaisce Hike** (25 km hike over 2 days in Ireland) **Foreign Trip** (4-day trip in a European country, with cultural visits and fun activities.) in April/May.



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AT ST. MARY'S

EXTENSION

In September we opened our fantastic new building extension. This project has greatly enhanced our school. It has provided additional learning facilities and provided extra circulation space. It has allowed us to provide new and extended subject capabilities, given our students a modern social space, and added to counselling and pastoral facilities. The extension has delivered 1,450m² of additional. This €3.5 million extension has transformed our campus with a modern, energy efficient two-storey building containing four classrooms, a state-of-the-art Technology room, Science lab, and Design Communication Graphics suite.



NEW PLAYING FIELD

Our new playing field is now in use and has provided our students with a wonderful multi-sport facility. It is located on the well-known *Church Field* site. Opening this facility was a significant moment for St. Mary's as it is the first time the school has had its own playing field. It serves not only as a venue for our field sports teams but also as a great addition to

our Physical Education department and our athletics teams. We will continue to develop and improve these facilities over the coming months and years. It is wonderful to see the field buzzing with activity and energy and we look forward to seeing each new group of First Years using this wonderful amenity.



EXTRA CURRICULAR & SPORTS

SPORT IN ST. MARY'S

St. Mary's offers a varied and ever-increasing range of extra-curricular activities. We are renowned for our excellence in Gaelic football, winning Leinster and All-Ireland titles in boys and girl's competitions. We have numerous basketball and rugby teams for boys and girls, soccer teams, athletics and much more to meet the needs of all our sporting students.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Chess Club
- Chinese
- Creative Writing Workshops
- Drama Club
- Educational Trips
- Gaisce Awards
- Maths Club
- Lunchtime Concerts
- Trad Group
- Musicals
- Public Speaking
- Quiz Teams
- Robotics Club
- School Choir
- Sci Fest
- Trips
- Debating

SPORTS IN ST. MARY'S

- Gaelic Football
- Rugby
- Hurling
- Camogie
- Athletics
- Soccer
- Equestrian
- Golf

“MANY OF OUR PAST PUPILS HAVE PLAYED FOOTBALL AT COUNTY LEVEL.”

WHAT IF I DO NOT LIKE SPORT

Of equal prominence are our musicals, choir, and talent show. These shows provide opportunities for students to perform and to entertain. Our award-winning school choir enriches many of our school events throughout the year. In all our extra-curricular activities, our students have both competed at and won at provincial or national levels.



SHOOTING STARS OF ST. MARY'S

Adam Lewis

Music - Eden School of Music Drummer

Louise Coyne

Ladies All-Ireland Winner with Meath 2021

Edwin Agbaje

Soccer - Ipswich Youth Team

Aaron Mangan

Athletics - Fort Hays State University

Conor Ennis

Minor Footballer of the Year and All-Ireland Winner 2021

Daniel Flynn

Kildare Senior footballer, All Star Nominee 2021

Lee Pearson, Briain Nolan and Gavin Young

All-Ireland Under 20 Winners with Offaly 2021

Louis McGlinchey

WAKO European Championships - Bronze Medal 2021

Ruby Stueven

Athletics - 800m and 1500m runner for Tullamore Harriers





IMPORTANT SCHOOL LIFE INFORMATION



START & FINISH TIMES

Monday to Friday: 8.50 to 15.50
Wednesday: 8.50 to 13.15

BREAKS & LUNCH

Break: 11.00 to 11.15
Lunch: 13.15pm to 13.50pm

CLASS LENGTH

Classes are one hour in duration. Six classes every day apart from Wednesday when you have four classes.

UNIFORM

Red jumper, navy pants & white polo-shirt.
Physical Education uniform is an all-black tracksuit pants, jersey, and quarter zip.

LOCKERS

Every student in St. Mary's gets a locker in their area, here you can leave your books and possessions each day. They are secured with an individual lock and key for each student.

SCHOOL JOURNAL

At the start of each school year every student is provided with a school journal. You are expected to have this with you for every class.

ENROLMENT

Application forms for enrolment in St. Mary's Edenderry are available at reception.

TUTOR & YEAR HEADS

Every 1st Year group have a Year Head and each class group are assigned a tutor who provides a pastoral role to support students through their transition from primary to secondary school.

NUMBER OF TEACHERS & PUPILS

In St. Mary's Edenderry we have over 80 teachers and over 1,000 students in the school, also we have administration staff, canteen staff, cleaning and maintenance, care-taker staff etc.

SCHOOL APP

Every parent needs to download the school app, this is used to send out notifications to students and parents and is used to enter all absences and all lates of students. All payments to the school are also processed through the school app.

BOOK RENTAL SCHEME

Students do not have to buy any of the textbooks they will need in secondary school. Students pay a small fee to rent books for each year and then return these at the end of the year. Students will only need to buy the school journal and notes copies.

COSTS & CHARGES

For information on fees and insurance costs please contact our school reception.



THE HISTORY OF ST MARY'S EDENDERRY

St. Mary's Edenderry Secondary School, as we know it now, first opened its doors in September 1982 following amalgamations of the girls' and boys' secondary schools and the foresight of Monsignor Brennan P.P. Since then, we had extensions in the form of our state-of-the-art gymnasium in 2002 and a further extension in 2011 of our fully equipped woodwork room and classrooms, all under the watchful eye of Mrs. O'Neill. After 28 years of service Mrs. O'Neill retired in 2012 to be replaced by Mr. Rob Halford who further developed the school and expanded our numbers, subjects taught and much more. Which brings us to the present day and our current Principal Mr. Emmet McDonnell, Deputy Principals Mr. David Flynn, Mrs. Brenda Lawton, and Mr. Tom Reehill.



NOTES

ST. MARY'S SECONDARY SCHOOL EDENDERRY



School Principal: Mr. Emmet McDonnell

Deputy Principal: Mrs. Brenda Lawton

Deputy Principal: Mr. Tom Reehill

Deputy Principal: Mr. David Flynn

Office Hours: 8.30 a.m. – 4.30 p.m.

St. Mary's Secondary School
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Follow us on social media:

Twitter: @SMESecondary

Instagram: SME_secondary

School App: St. Mary's Edenderry



OUR STRATEGIC
PLAN 2025



VIRTUAL SCHOOL
TOUR