

Introduction

Boyne Community School is a co-educational, progressive, caring school which caters for the educational needs of young people in our catchment area. We value each individual student and strive to ensure that every boy and girl achieves his / her full potential.

At the heart of the school's success is a team of dedicated staff. They create a student centred environment which is conducive to excellent academic achievement and personal development underpinned by our mission statement.

We encourage our students to be ambitious, creative, socially aware and to uphold our school motto of Meas [respect], Mórtas [pride] and Muintearas [belonging] so that they can take their place in society as confident, well educated citizens.

In pursuit of academic excellence, we offer a wide range of education programmes including Junior

Certificate, JCSP, TY, Leaving Certificate, LCA and LCVP.
The school provides an excellent choice in academic and practical subjects. We also have a wide variety of extra curricular and co-curricular activities as well as superb facilities. These are all aimed at ensuring that every student receives the best possible educational experience in a supportive environment. Students of Boyne Community School thrive because they are encouraged, cared for and have a real sense of belonging.

We also recognise fully the importance of the partnership between home and school. Boyne Community School is fortunate to be well supported by parents/guardians who care greatly for the education of their sons and daughters. Such a relationship between school and home is especially important in 1st year during the transition from Primary to Post Primary. That is why we introduced the Transition Programme which informs parents and students together about all aspects of school life. Working together in partnership ensures that each student develops the skills and confidence to succeed in life.



School Mission

The mission statement of Boyne Community School is based on our school motto "Meas, Mortas, Muintearas" It states:

"Boyne Community School aspires to become a community focused on learning, which respects difference and upholds the dignity and rights of each person. We are committed to fostering the academic, personal, physical, social, spiritual and moral development of each individual"



Junior Certificate: (3 years)

All students take the following core subjects:

English

Maths

History

Geography

Science

Information Technology

Irish

Religion

Physical Education

Social, Personal and Health Education

Civic, Social and Political Education

Optional subjects include:

French

German

Home Economics

Art

Technical Graphics

Materials Technology Wood

Metalwork

Music

Business Studies

All students will receive the JCSA at the end of their three years of junior cycle. In addition to this, students are given the opportunity to follow the Junior Certificate Schools' Programme.





Leaving Certificate: (2 years)

All students take the following core subjects:

Irish

English

Maths

Religion

Physical Education

Career Guidance

SPHE

Each student chooses four subjects from the following list:

Accounting, Agricultural Science, Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Construction Studies, Design and Communication. Economics, Engineering, French, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, Music and Physics. Applied Mathematics is also offered during the school day.

In addition to the traditional Leaving Certificate students are offered the opportunity to follow:

- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
- Leaving Certificate Applied Programme.

Code of Behaviour

We believe that maintaining good order in classrooms and in school is of the utmost importance for students to work effectively and to reach their potential. The school operates a fair, efficient and effective positive behaviour system. Mutual respect, co-operation and natural justice are integral features of this policy. The Code of Behaviour policy is implemented by the following key people:

- Classroom Teacher
- Class Tutor
- Year Head and Assistant Year Head
- Deputy Principal
- Principal

Students are expected to behave in an orderly manner not only in school but also on their way to school, on buses and in the local community. Their behaviour should at all times be exemplary. All students on admission are required to adopt our Code of Behaviour.

Boyne Community School is also part of the Cool Schools' Programme and has a dedicated Anti-Bullying Team of staff as well as an annual Anti-Bullying Week and events to promote mutual respect for all members of the school and the community.



Pastoral Care

The school is committed to ensuring the welfare of the student and has put in place a support system which aims to cater for the pastoral needs of each student:

- Year Head and Assistant Year Head deal with pastoral and behaviour issues.
- Class Tutors meet with classes weekly.
- Mentors: these are trained senior students assigned to first year classes.
- Chaplain: involved with teaching and student welfare etc throughout the year.
- Three Guidance Counsellors: available for career guidance.
- Educational Psychologist: service assigned by the DES.
- Attendance Officer:- tracks students' attendance.
- HSCL (Home School Community Liaison): liaises between home and school.
- School Completion Co-ordinator:- focusses on student retention.
- SPHE: a three year programme in Wellbeing delivered to all students.
- Cool Schools Anti-Bullying Programme.
- Supervised Evening Study.
- Pastoral Care Team:- meets every week.

Additional Educational Needs (AEN)

Students with AEN are provided with support based upon their individualised needs. This support involves liaison with the student themselves, their form tutor, year head, subject teachers and other members of staff. Parents play an integral part in this support system.

Cuan Slán

Boyne Community School also has a class specifically for six students who are on the Autism Spectrum. Students are supported to achieve their individual potential using a combination of mainstream and Cuan Slán classes and curriculae appropriate to each learner.

Transition Programme

Here in Boyne Community School we acknowledge that the transition to secondary school can be quite challenging for students. With this in mind we have in place a staggered Transition Programme that allows students familiarise themselves with their new environment in a very supported fashion. Each student will meet with their Tutor and be given a tour of the school. Over the course of the first few days students will work on their Transition workbook, this covers areas such as school layout, how to manage their lockers and develop better organisational skills. Working through this Transition Workbook encourages students to acknowledge the differences that exist between primary and secondary school. Students feel more confident and independent as they settle into their new environment.

First Year Parents' Morning

"Parental involvement on a child's learning is eight times more important than any other factor, in

increasing a child's achievement in school" (Feinstein & Symons 1999)

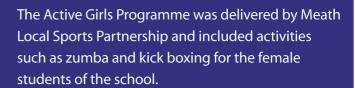
With this quote in mind we are very keen to ensure that all our parents / guardians are aware of how they can support their son/ daughter in their new school environment. When students start in First Year all parents are invited to attend an information morning. This event runs through all aspects of school life here in Boyne Community School. It provides parents / guardians with the opportunity to clarify issues around the day to day life of our school. Feedback from this year's Parent Morning was very positive, with all parents / guardians who attended agreeing that it was a very beneficial morning.

Parent feedback:

"This was great for creating a sense of belonging."
"Overall a great introduction for first time parentsfelt very welcomed and informed".

Sports Enrichment and Enhancement

Basketball in Boyne Community is represented by junior and senior students, both male and female. In 2019/2020, 3 teams completed in the North Leinster Schools Competition, with one team competing recreationally against other schools in the county.













Extra Curricular

Music

Boyne Community School has a very strong tradition of music. We cover all aspects of the Junior Cert, Leaving Cert, Transition Year and Leaving Cert Applied curriculum whilst offering a wide range of extra-curricular music activities for students.

Students are encouraged to join our school's Choir, Irish Traditional Music Group and Lunchtime Concerts. In recent years, our students have participated in The Waltons Music for Schools, (bottom photo) Wesley Music Festival (first and second photos), and Navan Choral Festival. Music lessons in Guitar, Ukulele and Drums are also available to students. Bodhran drumming workshops (fourth photo) take place throughout our school year.

Dawid Walega, 2nd year, (left) performed in the John Field room, National Concert Hall on September 2nd 2019 as part of the Feis Ceoil Young Platform Series. He was described on the night as a young virtuoso of the future. He played Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata and Chopin's Prelude No. 16.

Arts Evening

Arts Evening is an opportunity for our students to showcase their talents both on and off the stage. Our talented group of young actors took to the stage in our annual variety show performing a selection of one act plays, dramatic monologues and comedy sketches. The evening also includes a variety of musical entertainment and an art exhibition.

Right: Boyne Community School Performing Arts 2019 who performed at the Walton Music Festival.











Extra Curricular Sports

Boyne Community School has a proud and successful tradition of sporting excellence, with many past and present students competing at County and Inter County level. In partnership with the local primary schools and the numerous organisations such as the GAA and soccer clubs in our catchment area, a wealth of talent has been produced which Boyne Community School has nurtured. The school competes in the Leinster schools competitions at all levels.

Boyne Community School were recently crowned North East Leinster Soccer Champions at U15 and U17.

The school also competes regularly at: hurling, gaelic football, camogie, girls' football, soccer, basketball, golf, athletics, cross-country, rugby, tag rugby and show jumping.

Below: Boyne Community School Senior Hurling Team 2019/2020: North Leinster Champions, Leinster Champions and All Ireland Finalists. and (right) Conor Quigley accepts the Leinster Senior 'C' Hurling shield.



Above: Boyne Community School Senior Ladies Football Team

Below: Boyne Community School 1st Year Soccer Team, Meath Futsal Winners, 2019.





Wellbeing

The Framework for Junior Cycle (2015) provides for a new area of learning at junior cycle called Wellbeing. Wellbeing will cross the three years of junior cycle and build on substantial work already taking place in schools in support of students' wellbeing. This area of learning will make the school's culture and ethos and commitment to wellbeing visible to students. It will include learning opportunities to enhance the physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing of students.

ESRI research found that 'children with higher levels of emotional, behavioural, social and school wellbeing had higher levels of academic achievement subsequently (at ages 11, 14, and 16)'. Therefore wellbeing and learning are inextricably connected. In Boyne Community School we will work in tandem to promote mental, emotional and social health. There is overwhelming evidence that students learn more effectively if they are happy in their work, believe in themselves, and feel school is supporting them. This is in keeping with our ethos of promoting high academic standards.

In Boyne Community School our wellbeing programme will be informed by staff and student input, building on the existing work in P.E., CSPE & SPHE. SPHE provides particular opportunities to foster the personal development, health and wellbeing of the individual student, to help him/her to create and maintain supportive relationships and become an active and responsible citizen in society. Physical Education Programme fosters the balanced and harmonious development and general wellbeing of the student through a diverse range of experiences providing regular, challenging physical activity. CSPE builds an awareness among students of their role in their community and how they can contribute to the wellbeing of others.

Spinathon is an event to raise money for the mental health support group Jigsaw. Huge thank you to all the staff and students that got involved last year.



Guidance

Guidance in schools refers to a range of learning experiences provided in a developmental sequence that assist students to develop self-management skills which will lead to effective choices and decisions about their lives. It encompasses three separate but interlinked areas of personal and social development, educational guidance and career guidance. (NCGE Section 1.4, P3

Boyne Community School aims to help each student achieve his/her full potential academically, spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially in a happy secure environment. In accomplishing this, the Guidance Counsellor is seen as having a central role in the continuous developmental guidance process of each individual student, which begins prior to the entry of the student to the school.

The mission statement of the Guidance and Counselling service in Boyne Community School is to create a safe, caring and supportive environment to assist our students to make informed choices in the personal and social, educational, and vocational

areas of their lives. We recognise that each of our students present as an individual with his/her own script and that our students come from a variety of different experiences. We endeavour to adapt a person centred approach and to accept each of our students in his/her own right within the context of the student body in Boyne Community School. The enhancement of self-esteem and life skills and the development of potential - academic, personal and emotional - leading to greater personal autonomy for all students are the Guidance and Counselling department's goals.

The objectives of the Guidance Programme are:

- To help students develop an awareness and acceptance of their strengths, talents and abilities
- To facilitate students in identifying and exploring opportunities
- To enable students to grow in independence and take responsibility for themselves
- To help students make informed choices about their lives and to follow through on these choices

Mentors

Boyne Community School encourages our students to act as leaders. We run leadership training for Fifth Year students that prepares them to take on the role of mentor for our incoming First Years. This work starts before the return to school when mentors do their leadership training and are equipped with the skills necessary to support and encourage our incoming students.

The mentors meet with their class groups on the first day of school and get to know their respective class groups. They will work with the First Years during the year encouraging them to take part in lunchtime activities such as badminton, table tennis, reading club and many more.



Transition Year

Transition Year is a one year programme offered to students who have completed the Junior Certificate and is an optional year for students. It is a unique programme which is designed to act as a bridge between the Junior and Leaving Certificate programmes.

Transition Year offers students the opportunity to mature and develop without the pressure of an examination. It encourages social development and recognises the need for students to grow in independence while at the same time maintaining tuition in all the core subjects.

Subjects included in our programme are Irish, English, Maths, Science, P.E, Art, Music, Architecture, ICT, Mini Company and Gaisce. Work experience is also an integral element of the course and various modules are studied throughout the year including First Aid, Self Defence and Positive Thinking. Many tours and day trips are also organised for the group during the TY year. One of the highlights last year was walking the Camino in May.

Avon Rí in Blessington Co. Wicklow (right) hosted our TY bonding trip this year. Activities for our new Transition Year students included kayaking, rock climbing, archery, zip lining and orienteering. The purpose of the day was to help the new group get to know each other through team building and personally challenging activities. Students were treated to a well deserved lunch as they overlooked beautiful scenery in the Wicklow mountains. The perfect start to TY 2019/2020.







Student Council

The Student Council represents the students in the school and their role is to enhance the communication between students, management, staff and parents. They make a positive contribution to every aspect of the school community.



Parents' Association

We have a very active and supportive Parents' Association which reflects the close partnership between home and school. The Parents' Association is involved with Mock Interviews for Leaving Certificate students, Open Night, fundraising for the school and other events.



Facilities

Our state of the art gymansium is used by the students during the school hours and by local clubs and organisations during the hours after school. The school also benefits from a comprehensive library as well as excellent I.T. facilities including a Language Lab which is used for Irish, German and French lessons.

The school canteen is also available for all students during lunchtimes.



Open Night

Due to restrictions we will not be holding an open night this year.

There is a video on our website about the school and subject choices open to first years.

Health & Safety

We have every possible Health and Safety measure in place at Boyne Community School to ensure students' wellbeing. Photos used in this prospectus are from early 2020.



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