

## Mission Statement

The school's mission statement states:

***St. Kilian's Community School works to ensure that each and every pupil is enabled to learn to the best of his/her ability and to mature with confidence and dignity.***

The school endeavours to achieve this mission in all its activities.

The following Core Professional Purpose and Operating Principles were drawn up in consultation with parents, staff and management and reflect the values which underpin school life at St Kilian's:



ST. KILIAN'S COMMUNITY SCHOOL

*Learning....  
for Excellence,  
for Life,  
for All*

TO ENSURE THE BEST POSSIBLE EDUCATION FOR OUR STUDENTS,  
WE BELIEVE THAT EVERYONE:

- HAS RIGHTS WITH RESPONSIBILITIES
- MUST BE TREATED FAIRLY AND EQUALLY
- SHOULD BE SUPPORTED TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE
- SHOULD GET VALUE FOR THE TIME THEY SPEND
- MUST BE SHOWN RESPECT
- SHOULD FEEL WELCOME AND HAVE FUN
- MUST BE ABLE TO ACCESS HIGH QUALITY FACILITIES.

## **Ethos**

St Kilian's Community School operates under the trusteeship of the Franciscan Order, the Marist Sisters and the Kildare-Wicklow Education Training Board.

St Kilian's has always seen its role as providing the best possible quality of education for the young people of Ballywaltrim, Bray and North Wicklow, regardless of their ability or social and economic background. We offer a broad curriculum, and place a major emphasis on the pastoral care of our students. We believe that our school is a community and we promote mutually respectful relationships between all members of that community.

Students from St. Kilian's CS have excelled in a range of academic areas and pursuits from football to the sciences, from business to publishing, and from mathematics to journalism. There is a proud record of academic and sporting achievement, and past pupils have contributed significantly to local and national politics, sport and the professions. The current staff at St Kilian's includes several former students.

The Ballywaltrim, South Bray and North Wicklow areas have also expanded and changed almost beyond recognition since the foundation of the school in 1981. St Kilian's CS has developed and adapted to meet the ever-changing needs of its students, and to prepare them for the great opportunities and challenges that life presents in the twenty-first century.

## **Chaplains in Community Schools**

Provision is made for the appointment of a Roman Catholic Chaplain in all Community Schools. The School Chaplain is appointed by the Board of Management on the nomination of the local Bishop. The terms and conditions of such appointment are set out in DES CL 57/2008. The Chaplain is appointed in addition to the school allocation of whole time teacher equivalents, and is paid a teacher's salary by the Department of Education and Science.

The Chaplain is required to teach four hours of class instruction per week. Other Chaplaincy duties include visitation of homes, religious services, retreats and celebrations, as well as counseling. The Chaplain is also expected to take an interest in the extra-curricular activities of the school, to encourage young people to be involved in the community, to be available during state examinations and to be in contact with the adult education student body.

Chaplaincy is a full-time job and requires full-time commitment. As a staff member, the Chaplain is expected to share in the corporate responsibility for discipline and good order. In this context, it is reasonable to expect that the Chaplain shares supervisory duties, but it is important that the special role of the Chaplain in developing the spirituality of students and in providing a strong Christian witness is not compromised by too much involvement as a disciplinarian. Although no specific provision is made for the appointment of a Chaplain in Comprehensive Schools, Boards of Management are advised to seek such an appointment

as a matter of equity. In the case of the five Protestant Comprehensive Schools the appointment of a School Chaplain should, of course, be subject to the nomination of the appropriate Church authorities.

## **The Role of the Chaplain in St. Kilian's Community School**

'The school Chaplain, as a faith presence, committed to the values of Christ, and on behalf of the Church and school communities, accompanies each person on the journey through life'.

The position of the School Chaplain comes from provisions set out in the Deeds of Trust for Community Schools. Chaplaincy is an essential component in the structure of the school. The school as a whole must be involved at every level in the development and exercise of the role of the chaplain. The Chaplain works in close co-operation with the Board of Management, Principal, R.E. Department, Career Guidance Teacher, Home School Liaison Community Officer, teachers and pupils, participating in pastoral care meetings, student support team, school planning, evaluation and in-service

In St. Kilian's the Chaplain provides a pastoral care service for all students, staff, past pupils and families. The Chaplain accompanies members of the school community on their journey through life. He/she also responds to the spiritual and religious needs of the students and the whole school community respecting the denominational, religious and personal convictions of all.

### **Pastoral Care**

The Chaplain is here to show the individual concern and love that God has for everybody. The chaplain shows care for students struggling with a wide range of obstacles, including: self harm, family problems, confusing relationships, friendship issues, peer pressure, self-esteem issues, bullying, bereavement and separation, stress and anxiety. The Chaplain is also present to share in their joyful experiences.

### **Pastoral Counselling**

The chaplain has the privilege of walking part of life's journey with each student. Within a faith context, the Chaplain is present to students, staff and parents/guardians when they need to share their worries, concerns and troubles with someone in confidence.

The School Chaplain is a safe person for young people to connect with at school, providing a listening ear, caring presence, and message of hope. This means that the Chaplain is always available to each student and is willing to just sit and listen to what is going on for them at that point in their lives. Where necessary the Chaplain will liaise with parents and recognise when a student needs to be referred on to another professional.

In St. Kilian's the Chaplain is available to students throughout the school week, both in classroom settings and at the Chaplain's office. A comfortable reflection room is available to students where they can meet with the Chaplain. Students can use the open door policy

of the Chaplain to drop in or make an appointment for a more suitable time. In addition to dropping into the Chaplain's room themselves, a student visit may arise when they are referred by teachers, or when a member of staff or parent/guardian is concerned about a particular student.

## **Confidentiality**

In personal meetings with the Chaplain the confidentiality rule is followed in accordance with child protection guidelines, i.e. the Principal and or parents/guardians are informed if it is felt that the student is in danger, a danger to him/herself or to others. The same applies if it becomes known that another person is in danger.

## **Care Team**

Issues concerning the health and welfare of the students are dealt with by the Care Team, both individually and through their regular meetings. The Chaplain is a member of the Pastoral Care Team where he/she can liaise with the Deputy Principal, Guidance Counsellor, Home School Community Liaison officer, School Completion, SEN Coordinator and Student Welfare Officer.

In consultation with families, in-school and /or externally sourced supports are put in place for students, where appropriate.

## **Spiritual Guidance**

The Chaplain animates the spiritual life of the school community and offers opportunities to develop a meaningful relationship with God.

The Chaplain cares for the young people's spiritual needs also. While many young people have difficulty with organised religion, they recognise their need for God. They have spirituality. The chaplain is in the privileged position to guide students and to explore various prayer methods which bring peace and fulfilment. Working alongside the Religion Department with the school, the Chaplain ensures the school community has time to celebrate its identity in religious worship.

## **Retreats**

The Chaplain organises retreats for different year groups. The retreat provides the students with an opportunity to reflect on their own lives, the issues they may face every day and where God fits in to it.

## **Liturgy and Sacraments**

The Chaplain facilitates the celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This includes organising school masses (e.g. Opening of school year mass,

Carol Service, Lenten Reconciliation service, Carol service), prayer services in accordance with the liturgical year, meditation etc.

The Chaplain highlights the liturgical seasons. The Chaplain along with the RE teachers provides each student with opportunities to learn new ways of talking to God. Prayer experiences are offered to help develop a relationship with God.

## **Social Outreach and Justice**

The Chaplain promotes a spirit of concern for others within and beyond the school community. The Chaplain may help the students take part in fundraising work for charities to help those in need. For example, fundraising for St. Vincent de Paul, Alone, Trócaire, homeless organisations, etc.. Helping those in our own community through community service programmes is also an area that the chaplain may help students become involved in. For example, helping out with a 'meals-on-wheels' programme.

Raising awareness of social justice problems and moral issues in our locality and worldwide, for example, poverty, child labour, war, human rights etc..

## **School/Parish/Home Links**

Our school is in St. Fergal's Parish, Ballywaltrim. The Chaplain seeks to strengthen the connection between school and the local community by encouraging students to become involved in their own local Church and Faith communities.

The Chaplain, in conjunction with the Home School Liaison coordinator, provides a vital link between home and school, especially where a student is experiencing difficulties either at home or in school. This can take the form of visiting or ringing parents, listening to their concerns, providing relevant help or referral, or holding coffee mornings for the parents of the first years. The Chaplain may also visit students during times of illness or long absenteeism from school.

## **Religious Education**

Typically, the Chaplain teaches four hours of Religious Education every week. The Chaplain, as an R.E. teacher, works with the other members of the Religious Education Department in the subject planning for their department and all that this entails.