



# St. Mary's C.B.S.

## SCHOOL PROSPECTUS





# Welcome

Dear Parent, Thank you for taking the time to look through our prospectus and for considering St. Mary's Christian Brothers' School as a suitable school for your son. We enrol boys from 1st to 6th class - infants are catered for in our two feeder schools, Presentation Primary School and Sisters of Charity N.S.

The transition to a new school is a very big step in the life of every child and choosing the right school for your son is one of the most important decisions you will ever have to make. We hope that this prospectus will help to make that decision easier for you, and from it you will get not only the information you need but also a sense of the caring and welcoming community that is St. Mary's C.B.S.

With our dedicated, supportive and talented staff at St. Mary's, we strive to ensure that the time your child spends at primary school is happy, memorable and rewarding. Our experienced teachers deliver a broad, balanced and creative curriculum. They aim to nurture the individual talents and abilities of each child and provide a holistic education that prepares them for tomorrow's world and their future in it. We are an all-inclusive school that opens our arms to the entire community and celebrates individuality and diversity.

At St. Mary's, it is our belief that education should lead change and that the future for our children and our community is brighter if children live and work together in

an atmosphere of reconciliation and trust. Differences are respected, diversity is a resource and our cultural heritage is celebrated.

We value every child and recognise the importance of clear trust and open communication between home and school. This vital communication, as well as being mutually beneficial, will aid our children to develop into young people who are secure, happy, socially well-adjusted, proud of their achievements and who can contribute positively to the rapidly changing world that we live in.

If you have not yet visited the school, please do call or email to arrange a visit. Only then can you really get a true sense of what we can offer for your son's primary education.

Eóin Morrissey, Principal





## Catholic Ethos

St. Mary's C.B.S. is a caring and inclusive school, rooted in our local parish community where we hope to play a central role in everyday life. Committed to the development of the whole person, we hand on Christian values and a shared Irish culture to the next generation.

The vision that underpins Catholic education is rooted in the life of Jesus Christ and emphasises that every person is made in the image of God. Parents, teachers and the parish work together in providing a child-centred education which includes preparation for the sacraments.

Our school is regulated by the Department of Education and Skills through the national curriculum. The school teaches all aspects of the curriculum and are committed to a quality education built on the professionalism of teachers and other staff.

It is our aim to achieve the highest academic quality, while developing and fostering all the talents and abilities of our pupils. We appreciate individuality and difference. Children from all backgrounds are welcomed into our school. We have respect for all religions and welcome children of all faiths and none. Our core aims are to provide a broad and comprehensive education, to recognise the needs and to develop the talents of each pupil.



# Teaching & Learning

We teach the New Revised Primary School Curriculum (1999) and take great care to enrich learning through first hand and practical experiences. By providing a broad and balanced curriculum we are able to recognise and develop individual talents and interests. Educational excursions and visitors into school focus and widen the children's understanding of the topics we cover. We use, whenever appropriate, a cross curricular approach to teaching and learning where skills and knowledge can be used and developed across a range of subjects.

Pupils are taught as individuals, in small groups and in classes. We monitor and assess every stage of learning to make sure individual children are given extra support when necessary and a higher level of challenge where appropriate. Parents are regularly informed of progress through Parent-Teacher meetings, annual reports and informal meetings.



# Every Child Matters

At St. Mary's C.B.S., we make sure we know each child really well. We want to ensure that everyone enjoys school and feels safe and secure. Our mission statement emphasises the importance of fostering all aspects of each child's development: social, emotional, physical, moral and cultural as well as academic.

It is the firm belief of the school that all children should be given as many opportunities as possible to excel and reach their potential. From 1st through to 6th class, the children's self-respect, confidence and ability to work both independently and cooperatively is positively promoted. We teach our children to have self-discipline and a sense of responsibility for their own well-being and for that of other people and the environment.

We actively encourage children to promote a healthy lifestyle. Children have lots of opportunities to take part in sport and develop healthy minds and bodies. Children learn about the importance of a balanced diet both through Science and P.E. lessons. Our culture, heritage and language are promoted at every opportunity.



## ICT

Information and computer technology (ICT) plays an important part in our children's education and pupils are actively encouraged to be confident in using computers to support and enhance their learning from an early age.

St. Mary's is well-equipped with computers and overhead projectors. As well as an ICT suite, the school boasts a mobile laptop station. This allows pupils to engage with learning in all curricular areas, using a "hands on" approach.

## Our School Uniform

All pupils of St. Mary's are obliged to wear the appropriate school uniform and the school tracksuit for P.E. The school uniform consists of grey trousers, navy v-neck jumper with grey V and the crest, sky blue shirt and navy tie. The school does not insist on a particular supplier or make of clothing.

For Physical Education a navy sweatshirt with school crest, plain navy tracksuit pants and a sky blue polo shirt should be worn. The school tracksuit must be worn on P.E. days. It may also be worn on school outings as specified by the teacher.





## Our Facilities

St. Mary's C.B.S. campus is situated in the Irishtown area of Clonmel in the southern part of County Tipperary.

In addition to the ten standard classrooms (one of which is currently being used for learning support), we have five other special education rooms, a computer room, a large General Purpose Room that is used for assembly, music, choir, band, arts and crafts, PE, guest speakers and other special events.

We are very fortunate to have a large playground.

We also offer an ASD preschool which includes two purpose built classrooms, a sensory room, a ball pool and a beautiful outdoor soft play area.

Adjacent to the school we have privileged access to the local GAA field. The school is located within a two minute walk of our local St. Mary's parish church and St. Mary's Parish Hall.

### OUR TIMETABLE

9.00 am      School Starts

10.55 - 11.10 am      Morning Break

12.45 - 1.15 pm      Lunch

2.40 pm      End of school day

N.B. 1st class finish at 12.45 each Friday

## Our Staff

St. Mary's prides itself in its young, vibrant and passionate group of teachers.

The staff boasts a wealth of gifts and talents, which are shared to ensure the happiness and success of our children and their commitment goes far beyond the school day.

## Learning Support

St. Mary's prides itself on its inclusiveness, and we endeavour to cater for the needs of every child under our care. Our learning support and resource department provide comprehensive programmes to children of diverse abilities.

Gifted and talented students are encouraged to reach their full potential. Boys are facilitated and supported to pursue their own personal projects and enabled to access programmes for gifted students. Our purpose built ASD Preschool promotes independence and increases the young children's self confidence in a fun and enjoyable environment.





## Opportunities for all

A major strength of St. Mary's C.B.S. is our commitment to provide a wide range of opportunities both within the school day and as extra-curricular activities.

These activities include; hurling, gaelic football, rounders, athletics, olympic handball, tag rugby, soccer, quizzes and information & computer technology. All children have the opportunity to avail of swimming lessons in the local Clonmel Swimming Pool.

Opportunities to partake in musicals allow for the children to perform for a variety of audiences. All children, from 1st to 6th class, are given opportunities to perform in school productions. We boast an impressive Céilí Band, while our highly acclaimed school choir perform regularly at religious ceremonies and other events locally.

Art forms a central part of our school life so boys with a talent in this area are encouraged and nurtured.

All the boys take part in the Junior Achievement programme where representatives from local industry come in to mentor and help create a culture of enterprise within the education system. We also provide a savings scheme for all pupils in conjunction with our local Post Office.

We are very active in promoting the Green Schools code having been awarded An Taisce's Green Flag in the past while.



# Parents are Teachers too

I dreamed I stood in a studio,  
And watched two sculptors there,  
The clay they had was a young child's mind  
And they fashioned it with care.  
One was a teacher, the tools he used  
Were books and music and art;  
One was a parent, with a guiding hand  
And a gentle, loving heart.  
Day after day the teacher toiled  
With touch that was deft and sure,

While the parent laboured by their side  
And polished and smoothed it o'er  
And when at last their task was done,  
They were proud with what they had wrought,  
The wonderful piece created  
Could neither be sold nor bought.  
And each agreed they would have failed  
If they had worked alone,  
For behind the parent stood **THE SCHOOL**,  
And behind the teacher stood **THE HOME**.





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