

SCHOOL STATEMENT OF COLAISTE CHOLMAIN

Mission Statement

“Colaiste Cholmain, a Catholic Voluntary Secondary School for boys only, aims to be a Christian community which respects all members of staff and nurtures each and every student to achieve maximum potential and to develop the whole person within a caring and respectful school.”

Definition:

1. In this plan and any of its constituent policies, Codes or Rules, the term "parent" includes a guardian of the student and any [person](#) at law liable to maintain the student or entitled to his custody.
2. In this plan the term “son” includes any student whose guardian is any person other than the parent/s.
3. In this plan the terms parent or guardian includes any student over 18 years of age.

INTRODUCTION

St. Colman’s College, Claremorris is an all boys Catholic secondary school. It was founded in 1945 by Fr. John Colleran at the request of the local community. It is situated in its own grounds a mile from Claremorris. From its foundation, it has grown and developed to fulfil the changing needs and be a school for our time, a school for all our students and a school for all our community.

St. Colman’s is an all-ability school with the vision of giving a life-chance to every student. Teaching is arranged to suit students of different ages and abilities. Our care is for the development of the whole person, spiritually, academically, practically, physically, socially and culturally. To fulfil that aim we provide a wide choice of subjects and encourage everyone to participate in extra curricular activities.

Quality of teaching and learning is emphasised. High standards are expected and achieved. We are conscious that the future belongs to those who prepare for it. We attempt to nurture and develop the vision, the capacities and the enthusiasm of our students to take possession of their future with confidence.

Time in school is not just preparing for life; it is life for five or six years. School time is a time of living and growth. We start with the boy and finish with the young man. A good school should offer opportunities to enjoy life, to work, to play, to pray, to discover ones self-worth. A good school should be like a good home, where everyone belongs; everyone is accepted, encouraged, helped and given the chance of success and the space to grow. St. Colman’s strives to be such an institution and is committed to the ideal of equality in all aspects of school life.

St. Colman’s aim is to value every boy for himself and to help, encourage and challenge every boy to realise his self worth, experience success and achieve his full potential.

Status

St. Colman's College was established in 1945 as a diocesan secondary school. The Archbishop of Tuam as the trustee is the guarantor that the school will be run in accordance with Catholic ideals and philosophy.

Ethos

Since its foundation the school has endeavoured to maintain a Catholic ethos and promote the Christian values of the community it serves. It recognises the need to develop the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, physical, social and cultural potential of all pupils. The curriculum includes formal religious instruction. The school chaplain helps to provide for regular Mass and other liturgies for the school community. There is a comprehensive Trustee's Vision Statement available on request and on the school's website.

Education

The purpose of the school is to help pupils to develop their personality and skills and to prepare them for living, for further education and for working life. The school aims to provide as wide a curriculum as possible, within the resources available, in order to cater for the aptitudes, interests and needs of the pupils.

The Partners

Parents

Parents play a vital role in the progress of each student in the school. We expect that students are given the time and suitable environment for homework. Parents should ensure that students wear the correct uniform. They should also ensure that the necessary books are available, check that the homework given is attempted and sign the homework diary/notebook where necessary. The school recognises the need for parental involvement and support if it is to achieve its aims. This partnership policy is encouraged through the parents' committee, regular parent teacher meetings and contact with individual parents. Parents and school are able to communicate regularly about a pupil's progress by using the school diary/notebook. A Newsletter is produced and issued to parents intermittently. Progress reports are sent home at the end of October, January, Easter and in June.

This school has an active and supportive Parents' Council, elected every two years.

Students

Students are ultimately responsible for doing their homework, being on time for class and activities, having the necessary books and equipment and being of good behaviour. In addition to students having the right to a high quality education in an environment free from harassment and bullying, they also have the responsibility to treat each other, the teachers and ancillary staff with respect. They should also respect the school facilities and equipment. Senior students must accept more responsibility for their work and behaviour.

Student Council

As recommended by the Education Act, St. Colman's elects a Student Council, which represents the views of students and facilitates communication and activities within the school.

It also adds to the feeling of belonging and ownership of the student body. See the Student Council Policy for further details.

Teachers

Teachers see their role as being that of providing students with a professional and high quality educational service. Their role is to cover the relevant curricula, to ensure that all students are given and complete their homework and to foster a studious, caring and Christian atmosphere.

Community Links

The school has always benefited from the strong support of the local community. It welcomes community involvement. The involvement of staff and students with local communities and community participation in the life of the school has been enriching, beneficial for both sides. Programmes such as LCVP, LCAP and Transition Year encourage interaction with the community, businesses, other schools and local and state agencies.

School Structures and Resources – Brief Outline

Management

The Board of Management consists of the Principal (Board Secretary) of the school, together with eight others nominated as follows: two parents of students of the school who are proposed by the parents, two members of the teaching staff of the school who are proposed by the staff, and four others of the Patron's choice.

The term of office of the Board of Management is three years. Meetings are held on a monthly basis or more frequently if required.

The Principal is responsible for the day to day management of the school. After a process of consultation he delegates authority and responsibility to the Deputy Principal, the Assistant Principals and the Special Duties Teachers, as required.

School Facilities

- Twenty Classrooms with networked computer workstations and data projectors.
- Two dedicated Science Laboratories with adjoining preparation rooms, each possessing a networked computer workstation and a data projector
- One Science Classroom with networked computer workstations and a data projector.
- Technical Drawing/Graphics Room with networked computer workstations and data projector.
- Woodwork Suite with networked computer workstations and data projector.
- Metalwork/Engineering Room
- Library/Special Needs Room with a networked computer workstation and a data projector.
- Two dedicated information technology and multimedia rooms incorporating sixty six computers, data projectors and broadband internet connection.
- Lunch/Dining Room
- Gymnasium, changing rooms and games equipment
- Art Room with twenty "Apple" computers, a networked computer workstation and a data projector.

- Two outdoor football pitches, one all-weather
- One all-weather practice area.
- Three dedicated play areas surfaced in tarmacadam
- A tennis Court
- Two handball alleys and two practice basketball courts
- Staff Room
- Principal's Office
- Deputy Principal's Office
- LCA Room/Planning Room
- Secretarial Office

School Financial Resources

The financial resources of the school are provided by a combination of grants from the Department of Education and Science, School levy and fundraising. The Board of Management is responsible for the allocation of school resources.

Curriculum

As a recognised school under the Education Act 1998, the school follows the curriculum laid down by that Act, which may be amended from time to time. St. Colman's College offers a unique blend of academic and practical subjects in a disciplined and caring environment. Strong emphasis is placed on academic excellence. We encourage each student to realise his maximum potential. Students follow a five year programme of study, or if they take the optional Transition Year Programme, a six year curriculum.

A broad range of subjects is offered for Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate. In addition to the compulsory/required subjects, students have the option of studying languages, science, business, art, technical graphics, construction, engineering, and music. Students are taught in mixed ability classes except for Irish, English and Mathematics where setting applies. Provision is made for those with Special Education needs.

Special Programmes, such as the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and the Leaving Certificate Applied are offered. The College has operated a very distinctive and successful Transition Year Programme for the past number of years.

Teaching Staff

The College has 27 members of the teaching staff in the year 2013-14.

Ancillary Staff

Two full-time Secretaries
 One full-time Caretaker
 One Assistant Caretaker
 Two Special Needs Assistants
 One ICT Intern
 One Science Lab Assistant

Pastoral Care

St. Colman's is concerned with the complete welfare of each student. There is a strong caring structure involving Year Heads, Class Tutors, Class Teachers, Programme Co-ordinators, Guidance Counsellor, Special Needs Teachers, Prefects and the School Chaplain. It is important that each student feels happy and comfortable at school. The school has an **Anti-Bullying** Co-ordinator and a strong Anti-Bullying Policy incorporating regular questionnaires, close-circuit television monitoring and supervised breaks. The code of behaviour sets out the arrangements for a fair but firm disciplinary system designed to ensure a caring community and a secure environment in which to work and play. We also have a Positive Behaviour Policy and an Awards system to reinforce positive behaviour. The college places great importance on having good relations with parents. Both formal and informal meetings are arranged each year and the college has an active Parents' Association. A Pastoral Care Committee oversees the Pastoral Care policy of the school.

Achievements and Awards

Students have represented the school at regional and national level, winning All-Ireland titles in Gaelic Football, Cross-Country, Water-Polo, Track and Field Athletics, Tug-o-War and Swimming. Student of the Year Awards take place each May, with a number of students in each year group being recognised. They are selected on the basis of dedication to study, co-operation and punctuality. Teachers and students select senior prefects each year. These Prefects and the Students' Council are the voice of the student body.

Extra-Curricular Activities

A range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities complements the academic work of the school. We endeavour to cater for the growth and development of the whole person outside the classroom. Opportunities are provided in cultural and community fields including: debates, musicals, instrumental music, quizzes, pioneer society, European tours.

Special Educational Needs

The school welcomes students with disabilities and Special Educational Needs and fosters an inclusive approach to education. At the earliest possible opportunity the Special Needs Department, in consultation with parents, teachers and other interested parties will take all the necessary steps to identify students with Special Educational Needs and become familiar with their needs. We will request, inter alia, the following:

- A copy of the student's Medical/Psychological Report
- A copy of the student's Individual Educational Plan, if available.
- A Professional Assessment.
- A report from the student's Primary School

Where further resources are required the Department of Education and Science will be requested to provide the necessary assistance e.g. Special Needs Assistant, Specialised Equipment, Transport, etc. Where such resources are not forthcoming from the Department of Education and Science, we may have to postpone admission until the Department of Education and Science put such resources in place.

We will do all we possibly can to provide for the needs of a special needs or disabled student seeking admission to the school.

Equality of Access and Participation

In line with recent Equality Legislation St. Colman's College aims to be an inclusive school which prevents and combats discrimination. We are a school community that respects, values and accommodates diversity across all nine grounds in the equality legislation – gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race and membership of the Travelling community. We encourage positive experiences, a sense of belonging and outcomes for all students across the nine grounds. Outcomes include: access, participation, personal development and the achievement of education credentials.

School Books

Students are provided with a Book List in May of each year. They can purchase books second-hand from students, former students or in local bookshops. Some students who have tablet devices may also purchase ebooks. Teachers are responsible for ensuring that students are made aware of the textbooks required for each class. Parents and Students are however responsible for ensuring that students have the necessary textbooks.

The school operates the Department of Education book grant scheme for necessitous students. Management will decide which students are eligible for this scheme.

The School Day

09-10 am	School Begins
11-00 am	Small Lunch
11-10 am	Return to Class
01-00 pm	Big Lunch
01-50 pm	Return to Class
03-50 pm	School Ends (Monday – Wednesday)
03-40 pm	School Ends (Thursday and Friday)
04-00 pm	After-School Study