

ARDSCOIL MHUIRE
CORBALLY, LIMERICK

PROSPECTUS



Welcome

Ardscoil Mhuire is an inclusive all-girls voluntary secondary school under the trusteeship of CEIST. Our school firmly believes in offering a progressive curriculum, as well as an extensive range of extra-curricular activities, which promote the holistic development of all our students. It is vital that every child receives the best possible education available and we are confident that Ardscoil Mhuire can provide that quality education for each of our students.

Our staff are highly qualified and are totally committed to their students, ensuring that each student is prepared for, and performs to, the highest possible academic level. An inclusive climate of learning exists, in which every student is enabled to develop their own unique talents and potential and our dynamic and committed teachers inspire the best in each of their students.

The quality of care given to our students is of paramount importance. This care permeates all aspects of school life and is evident in the excellent relationship of mutual respect which exists between staff and students.

Ardscoil Mhuire is a vibrant school community and parents/guardians, as primary educators of their children, have a vital role to play. We look forward to working in partnership with you, the parents/guardians, to motivate and support your daughter to reach her personal and academic potential and prepare her for life after secondary school.

The best ambassadors for our school are our students, so please visit our school, meet our staff and students and see what Ardscoil Mhuire has to offer.

History of Ardscoil Mhuire

Ardscoil Mhuire traces its origins to the first Mercy Convent founded in Limerick in 1883. Our school is an all-girls voluntary secondary school under the trusteeship of CEIST. Our core values, which are deeply embedded in the culture of our school, are focused on the educational development and well-being of all students. These core values revolve around promoting spiritual and human development, achieving quality teaching and learning, showing respect for every person, creating community, and being just and responsible.

Through the living of these core values in our school community each of our students are cared for and supported, assisted and motivated to achieve academically, afforded the opportunity to develop socially and personally through their engagement in extra and co-curricular activities, and aided in developing a strong moral compass through the living of values within a school which is a faith community.



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Mission Statement



Ardscoil Mhuire provides a Christian environment where all persons are valued and assisted to reach their full potential.





A Broad School Curriculum

Junior Cycle

A comprehensive Junior Cycle curriculum is offered in Ardscoil Mhuire. This underpins our school's vision which revolves around supporting and assisting all students to reach their full academic and personal potential. Students are encouraged to work to their full potential and to take as many Higher Level subjects as possible. First Year classes are not streamed. In Second and Third Year core subjects (i.e. English, Irish and Mathematics) are banded and set according to ability. Students are afforded the opportunity to undertake all subjects in Term One of First Year so that they can make an informed choice as to which option subjects they wish to continue to pursue. In line with the NCCA and the Department of Education, all students now take Wellbeing as a core subject.



Art	Geography	Music
Business Studies	History	Physical Education
CSPE	Home Economics	Religious Education
English	Irish	Science
French	Mathematics	ICT
SPHE	Wellbeing	

Transition Year

This is a one year optional programme within our school. Our programme encourages personal and social development and affords students the opportunity to develop self-directed learning styles and engage in a wide variety of experiences both inside and outside the classroom. Our Transition Year programme has an excellent reputation. We encourage students to rise to new challenges and to explore new and exciting opportunities. Students are afforded the opportunity to acquire new skills while continuing to study core academic subjects. They are also introduced to subjects which will be made available to them at Leaving Certificate level. This enables them to make a more informed choice. The TY programme is enhanced by a wide range of activities such as Work Experience, Joint Musical production with St. Munchin's College, Young Social Innovators, Steer Clear Driving Course, Irish Red Cross First Aid Course, Sign Language Course, President's Gaisce Awards, Junk Kouture, Enterprise competitions, and much more.



A Broad School Curriculum



Senior Cycle

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

The Leaving Certificate is a two year programme. All students take at least seven subjects while also having the opportunity to undertake an LCVP Module. A broad range of subjects are offered to students following comprehensive Career Guidance advice and Subject Option information sessions. Subjects are allocated depending on student interest and availability of resources.



Accounting	English	Physics
Art	French	LCVP
Biology	Geography	Mathematics
Business	History	Music
Chemistry	Home Economics	Physical Education
Economics	Irish	Religious Education

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED (LCA)

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) is a two year programme. It has a strong practical and vocational emphasis and is suited to the student who wishes to follow a course aimed at acquiring practical skills. The fundamental goal of this programme is to prepare students for the transition from school to Post Leaving Certificate Courses, Higher Education Links Scheme and working life. Work Experience is a compulsory element of this programme.



Child Care	Irish	Science
Craft and Design	Information Technology	Social Education
Drama	Leisure and Recreation	Visual Art
English	Mathematics	Vocational Careers
French	Religion	Vocational Preparation



Transition to Secondary School Programme

MAP

The Moving Across Programme is an Ardscoil Mhuire transfer programme aimed at assisting students in their transition from primary to secondary school. The programme is delivered in the initial weeks of the first term and is run over two days.

Students get an opportunity to get to know their classmates, to explore the structures of their school, and to become familiar with rules and procedures. In addition, work is done on organisational skills, homework and study, target setting and tips for maintaining balance in life between study and leisure.

Learning Support and Resource Teaching

The school has a highly qualified Additional Educational Needs Department providing one to one, small group or team tuition based on needs and eligibility. The AEN Team liaise with staff, parents, and outside agencies as appropriate.

Special Needs Assistants offer other supports to individual students and are an integral part of the learning support team. A NEPS psychologist is assigned to the school and liaises with the AEN Team.



Pastoral Care



“A caring which may happen is not as valuable as a caring which must happen because a structure and a programme exists in the school”.

In Ardscoil Mhuire we strive to ensure the development of all members of our school community through fostering and promoting relationships based on respect. We wish to create a sense of belonging to our school community where each individual is valued and their uniqueness is recognised. We promote a school community that is caring and positive and where work is carried out in an environment that is both safe and secure for all. We believe Pastoral Care is the responsibility of the entire school community.

Pastoral Care is an integral part of our mission and as such it requires a formal structure to ensure its effectiveness in our school community. In Ardscoil Mhuire we believe Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life.

Many structures and initiatives have been introduced to support and care for students in the school.

- Class Tutor and Year Head System
- Career Guidance Counsellor
- CARE Team
- School Chaplain
- Blue Box
- Subject Teachers
- Learning Support
- Home School Community Liaison
- School Completion Programme
- Links with outside agencies and supports
- Mentoring Programme
- Moving Across Programme
- Induction Programme
- Social Personal and Health Education
- Anti-Bullying Programme
- Friends for Life
- School Meals Programme
- Restorative Practice





Extra and Co-curricular Activities

Sport

As part of its commitment to the development of the whole person, Ardscoil Mhuire has a strong tradition of extra-curricular activities. Students are encouraged to participate in some of the many activities offered in our school.

Sport plays a major part in the life of the school. Our school offers a wide range of sports such as Soccer, Camogie, Gaelic Football, Basketball, Tag, Sevens and

Full Contact Rugby, Badminton and Hockey. All classes receive timetabled Physical Education

instruction. Ardscoil Mhuire has access to a state of the art Sports Complex at Grove Island Corbally for its Physical Education classes. Transition Year has an intensive sports programme that includes Yoga, Pilates and Fitness classes. The school organises day/overnight trips to multi-activity outdoor pursuit centres. This also forms part of our first year orientation programme.



Extra and Co-curricular Activities



Our mission statement is a promise that our students will be assisted in reaching their fullest potential. In fulfilling this promise we offer a wide range of extra and co-curricular activities, outside of sport, in the hope that your daughter may develop her natural skills and talents, becoming a happier and more well-rounded individual in the process.

Our school has a proud tradition of excellence in public speaking and debating. While our debating teams are nationally recognised for their performances at the highest level, we primarily measure success in terms of the confidence built in our students, the critically respectful voices that they develop, and the enjoyment that they have along the way. Consequently, our school offers many opportunities for our students to get involved in public speaking and debating. They compete in national competitions such as the Concern Debates, where our teams regularly perform best in Limerick and Munster, as well as placing within the top teams in the country. They also participate in the Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition, Poetry Aloud, or the Gael Linn Debates. We are the current champions of the Limerick City Junior Debating Competition, the first school to win it three times, and a regular among its finalists. Additionally, our successful and popular Junior Debating Club allows our students to hone their skills and just try it out, without the pressure of competition.

Music is the beating heart of our school community. This is evident through our very talented choir, prestigious Music Academy, orchestral groups, amazing annual school musical in partnership with St Munchin's College, Ceolchoirm and talent show. Your daughter will have every opportunity to express herself creatively through the medium of song or dance.

The school's Drama Club enables your daughter to build her confidence and hone her stagecraft under incredibly caring tutelage. Ardscoil Mhuire has also been selected by the Arts Council of Ireland as a Creative School which gives our students the opportunity to express their creativity across numerous disciplines at an annual showcase event.

If your daughter is more scientifically minded she will feel perfectly at home participating in Scifest and the BT Young Scientist Competition. Our school continues to build on significant successes in these competitions.

Through school-wide initiatives like the Mental Health Committee, Active Schools Committee, Green Schools, Creativity Week, the Gaelbhreach, or Irish Flag, Walk and Talk, Pay it Forward and Webwise Ambassadors, our students are encouraged to get actively involved and to advocate for a diverse range of issues. These cover everything from promoting positive mental health and physical activity, protecting the environment, giving form to their creativity, nurturing a love for the Irish language, and simply being kind to one another, in person and online. Every student in our school gets the opportunity, from day one, to get involved in these worthy activities.

There is truly something for everyone in Ardscoil Mhuire. Our school is blessed with an incredibly active, enthusiastic, and positive school community.





The School Community

Student Representative Council

Ardcoil Mhuire actively encourages students to participate fully in the life of the school. We have a vibrant and busy Student Representative Council. Under the guidance of a member of our teaching staff, and working with the Deputy Principal/Principal and Board of Management, the SRC provides students with an active voice in the policy making process in our school. Representatives from all years are elected by the student body to sit on the Council for an academic year. A Sixth Year Head Girl is elected every year by the school community to represent students both in the school and within the wider community. The Council promotes opportunities for leadership, teamwork and active citizenship.



Parents Council

Parents, as primary educators of their children, have a vital role to play in the school community. Their voice makes an important contribution to school life. The Parents Council welcomes parents from all year groups to take part in our vibrant and growing school community. The principle aims of our Parents Council are:

- To promote the school, its image, aims and philosophies by encouraging active participation of all parents.
- To promote better understanding between the management, teachers and parents.
- To support school management in developing school facilities and policy formation.
- To support the management, teachers and pupils in any areas where they require help concerning the school or its activities.

The Council meets regularly during the academic year, and its AGM is held at the beginning of each academic year. Membership of the Council is voluntary. Future opportunities for parents to get involved in the life of the school are provided through Open Nights, Information Meetings, Parent-Teacher meetings, and Parents' classes.

Academic Monitoring



Ardscoil Mhuire has a rich history of academic excellence. Students and staff are dedicated to the realisation of full academic potential.


Ardscoil Mhuire supports and promotes the highest standard of teaching and learning in the classroom. Additionally, various structures are in place in the school which focus on monitoring each student's academic progress so that they can be constantly encouraged and motivated to work to reach their potential.

- Every student's progress, in all subject areas, is monitored through regular class tests. House examinations are held in October (First Years only), December, and May. The results of these tests are published on VSware and teacher comments are given.
- Twice a year, Academic Cards are awarded to students in all year groups in each subject area. The purpose of the academic cards to acknowledge a student's hard work, dedication and academic progression.
- Academic progress reports are published on VSware twice a year in order to keep parents regularly informed about their daughter's work ethic and academic development.
- A parent-teacher meeting is held yearly where parents can discuss their daughter's academic progress with all their subject teachers.
- In order to encourage First Year students to study and adapt to the workload in secondary school, the first hour of after school study is offered to this year group free of charge.
- Study skills talks are given to all year groups including First Years in order to guide them to study effectively. Additionally, subject department teachers offer guidance to students on a continuous basis.
- An Academic Awards Night is held once a year for First, Second, Third, and Fifth Year groups. First Year students who are nominated by their teachers in any of their subject areas will be invited to attend this night in the Strand Hotel. This is a very effective way of acknowledging and rewarding each student's hard work and commitment.
- An Academic Council is in existence in the school, whose role it is to ensure that these structures are put in place so that high academic standards are maintained and enhanced.



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