

BORRISOKANE COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Prospectus



etb

Bord Oideachais agus
Oiliúna Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary Education and
Training Board

Mission Statement

We seek to promote a caring and committed college community which will facilitate the education of our students and where each individual is valued as a unique human being.

'Is ar scáth a chéile a mhairimid'

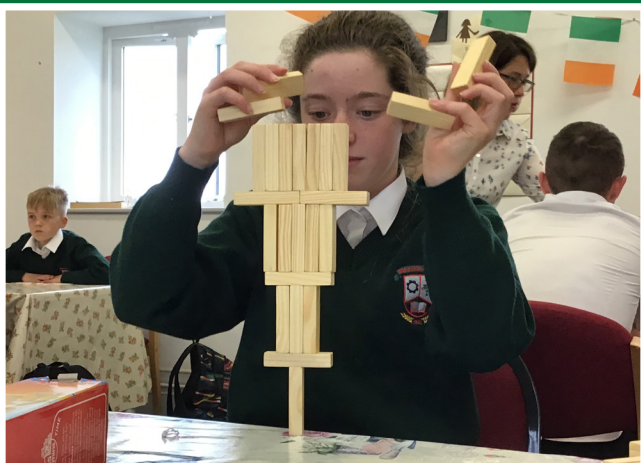
Points of Interest

- Caring Approach to Education
- All subjects taught to Higher Level
- Excellent Academic Reputation in State Exams
- Majority of students go to Third Level
- Supervised Study Monday to Thursday 4:20 to 6:30
- Students remain on College Campus during lunchtime
- College Grounds Supervised from 8.15 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Buses to and from the college door
- Positive Bullying Policy
- Strict but fair discipline structure
- Good Reputation for Delivery of a Quality Service



SCHOOL HOURS

Mon. to Thurs.: Assembly 9.00am to 9.10am – Break 11.06 to 11.25 – Lunchtime 1.21pm to 2pm – School Finishes 3.56pm
Friday: Classes commence 8.45am – Lunchtime 11:39am to 12.09pm – School Finishes 2.05pm



CONTACT DETAILS

☎ 067 27268 📠 067 27144 ✉ info@borrisokanec.c.ie @ www.borrisokanec.c.ie
 🐦 @borrisokanec.c.ie 📷 : Borrisokane Community College 📘 Borrisokane Community College

Welcome

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am delighted to present you with our new College Prospectus. I would encourage you to look through it carefully to help inform you and your child's decision about post primary education.

We operate in an atmosphere where every individual is a valued member of our school community and through the provision of a comprehensive curriculum, we ensure that they are given every opportunity to develop to their full potential.

Borrisokane Community College aims to provide an education in its broadest sense for all our students. Our reputation for outstanding academic achievement, extensive sport/recreational facilities and programmes, positive discipline system, close and continuous contact with families and experienced pastoral care personnel is well established. We promote excellence in all areas of college life.



We are proud of our students' success, working their way through our College, afterwards in their course of study and in their chosen career. The majority of our students continue their studies in Irish Universities and Institutes of Technology as well as in colleges overseas. Other students have achieved great success and advancement in their chosen areas of employment. This gives us a great sense of pride, to see that we are playing a major role in helping to establish so many fine young people on the road to a successful future.

I would be delighted to meet you and your child on Open Night or at any other time that is convenient to you.

If you require any further information please visit our website or contact the school directly, I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Carr *Principal*



Staff

<i>Principal:</i>	Matthew Carr
<i>Deputy Principal:</i>	Paula Molloy
<i>School Chaplain:</i>	Sr. N. Hartigan.
<i>Languages:</i>	Orla Cunningham, Noel Cronin, Eimear Lyons, Aoife Forde, Marie D'Arcy, Ramona Morgan, Lisa Doolan, Darren O'Connell, Mairead Maxwell, Davina Fogarty, Hannah Costello, Elaine Linehan, Cait Ryan, Lisa Duffy, Orlagh Heavey, Laura Mahoney, Aoife Minogue.
<i>Technology Studies:</i>	Macdara MacLochlainn, Mark McGinn, Peter Dillon, Sean Ryan.
<i>Science/Maths:</i>	Paula Molloy, Martin Hanrahan, Niamh O'Sullivan, Eileen Kenny, Mary Brady, Davina Fogarty, Rachel Ahern, Catherine Keogh, Ruth Dillon, Laura Walsh, Deirdre Kyne, Denise Lally, Katorina Maher.
<i>Business Studies:</i>	Martin Hanrahan, Tomas Maher, Marie D'Arcy, Deirdre Kyne.
<i>History/Geography:</i>	Aoife Forde, Paula Molloy, Ramona Morgan, Eimear McGrath, Mairead Maxwell, Catriona Maher, Cáit Ryan, Darren O'Connell, Áine Shanahan.
<i>Home Economics:</i>	Marianne Bergin, Cornelia Walsh, Eimear Cahalan, Ceire Hogan.
<i>Information Technology:</i>	Tomas Maher, Davina Fogarty, Deirdre Kyne, Mark McGinn.
<i>Art:</i>	Eileen Forde.
<i>Physical Education:</i>	Orla Cunningham, Eileen Kenny, Eimear McGrath, Ruth Dillon.
<i>Music:</i>	Noel Cronin, Lisa Duffy.
<i>Religion/S.P.H.E.:</i>	Clare O'Brien, Marianne Bergin, Annette Tierney, Cornelia Walsh, Eimear Cahalan, Ceire Hogan
<i>Career Guidance:</i>	Annette Tierney, Trudy Carroll.
<i>Resource:</i>	Angela Butler, Jackie Hayes, Ramona Morgan, Louise Ryan, Niamh O'Sullivan, Aine Shanahan.
<i>Secretary:</i>	Evanna Morrissey
<i>Caretaker:</i>	Eamon Brophy
<i>Special Needs Assistants:</i>	Ann Ryan, Margaret Connolly, Mary Brooks, Antoinette McLoughlin, Kathryn Condon.



Junior Cycle

At Borrisokane Community College we allow each student an opportunity to get a taste of our full range of subjects during his/her first year. At the end of the first year the students decide on the subjects they wish to take at Certificate examination level. The class teachers, and Careers Guidance Counsellor advise students on making the best choice. Parents are also consulted at this stage through an evening meeting.



Junior Cycle Subjects

- Δ Irish
- Δ English
- Δ Maths
- Δ Science
- Δ History
- Δ Geography
- Δ Art
- Δ French
- Δ German
- Δ Business Studies
- Δ Home Economics
- Δ Graphics
- Δ Wood Technology
- Δ Engineering
- Δ Music
- Δ Religious Education
- Δ Physical Education
- Δ Social Personal and Health Education
- Δ Digital Skills
- Δ Civic, Social and Political Education
- Δ Coding





Transition Year

The Transition Year is an opportunity to take stock, to explore new and different ways of learning, to expand the learning environment beyond the college into the wider community and the world of work and to lay a secure foundation for more mature decision-making with regard to Leaving Certificate and all that is to follow in the future. In Borrisokane Community College Transition Year is optional.



CURRICULUM FOR TRANSITION YEAR

Core Subjects

- Maths
- French
- History
- Career Guidance
- English
- German
- Physical Education
- SPHE
- Irish
- Geography
- Drama

Modules

- Biology
- Physics
- Art
- Business
- Home Economics
- Accounting
- Chemistry
- Construction Studies
- Digital Skills
- Music
- Design and Communication Graphics
- Agricultural Science
- Engineering
- Enterprise Education

Additional Courses

Poetry Workshop: Students creative writing skills are developed.

Drama: Students perform acts as part of the Christmas Concert.

Coaching Course: Soccer and GAA coaching courses are delivered with certificates on completion.

Tractor Driving Skills: The Farm Relief Service delivers a Safe Tractor Driving Skills for Teenagers Programme to students interested in this area.

First Aid: As part of our Heart Safe School Initiative all students are trained in the life saving skills of CPR and use of the AED.

S.P.H.E.: Topics covered include Mental Health Awareness, Gender Issues, Relationships and Sexuality Education.

Debating and Public Speaking in both English and Irish.

Community Education: Students interact with the older people of the area in their own homes, in the community centre and the nursing home. They also visit the primary school.

G.A.A. Future Leaders Programme: This programme offers students the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised Leadership Award.

Work Experience: Two periods of work experience is provided each year. A variety of work situations is available to the college. Students are closely monitored by the college while on work experience.

Education Trips: A wide variety of Educational Trips are organised during the year including:

- Outdoor Education Centre trip for three days during September.
- Trips to the Theatre.
- Media Training Day in Kairos Studios, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
- Optional Trip to Paris.
- Interactive Law Education Day.
- Exchange with German Partner School.

Assessment: Continuous Assessment takes place throughout the year with projects and portfolios in many subjects. Students are interviewed at the end of the year. School Reports are issued to parents during the year when credits are awarded to students in all subjects. Certificates are presented to students at the end of the year.





All Leaving Certificate Subjects are offered at Higher and Ordinary Levels. The following is our list of Leaving Certificate Examination Subjects.

- Irish
- Biology
- Home Economics
- Art
- German
- Agricultural Science
- English
- Physics
- Engineering
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Mathematics
- Chemistry
- Construction Studies
- French
- Business
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Physical Education
- Accounting

The following non-examination subjects are also offered:: • Religion • Career Guidance • SPHE

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

Students taking part in the traditional Leaving Certificate will also be offered two link modules to give a more vocationally oriented curriculum. The two link modules are:

- Preparation for the World of Work
- Enterprise Education

Work Experience will also be completed as part of the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. Students will be awarded points on the successful completion of the link modules which can be used to increase their Leaving Certificate points for entry to colleges.

Subjects covered:

- Preparation for Work
- Art
- Irish
- Agriculture/Horticulture
- Craft and Design
- Construction & Manufacturing
- Work Experience
- Enterprise
- Social Education
- Maths
- Engineering
- Hotel, Catering & Tourism
- Communications
- French/German
- Information Technology
- Science

On completion of the Leaving Certificate Applied, our students have progressed to work and further education in the Post Leaving Certificate area.

Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

The Leaving Certificate Applied Programme is a distinct self-contained two year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life.

Two year programme consists of four half year blocks called sessions and achievements are credited in each of these sessions.



Awards Ceremony: The end of the year Awards Ceremony is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of students in sporting, cultural and academic areas.

ETB Awards: Tipperary ETB invites its colleges to nominate students of excellence in various categories. Each year these students are honoured at a presentation ceremony.

Language Scholarships: A number of scholarships to the Gaeltacht are awarded annually to students from the college. This is an excellent opportunity for the students who receive the scholarships to improve their standard of Irish, as well as having a very educational and enjoyable holiday.

Scholarships are also awarded to students in the French and German areas each year. The students attend residential summer courses in colleges in Ireland. These courses give students the opportunity of actually living a foreign language for three weeks in their own country without having to contend with the extra expenses, worry and anxiety involved in going abroad.

Gaisce Awards: Gaisce is the National Challenge Award from the President of Ireland to the young people of Ireland between 15 and 25 years of age. There are three awards reflecting different levels of time commitment: Bronze (9 months), Silver (15 months), Gold (2 years).

Green Schools: This group endeavours to increase the awareness of recycling and waste management within the college community. The first Green Flag was achieved in 2015.

Christmas Concert: The annual Christmas Concert is held in December and is a very important part of the college year. A large number of students participate in the concert showing their abilities in Music, Song, Dance and Drama. Transition Year students perform a musical as part of the Concert.



Supervised Study: Supervised study is available to students from 4.15 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. Monday to Thursday. It is very popular and has aided students in their high achievement in examinations. The Parents Association subsidise the cost of study.

Third Level Scholarships: Third Level Universities offer scholarships to students based on the points achieved in the Leaving Certificate results. Each year a number of our students receive these prestigious scholarships which give financial support towards their studies.

Homework Club: Staff volunteer their time to support students in completing their homework. Students are very positive towards this support finding huge benefit from their involvement in the programme.

Heritage Project: Borrisokane Community College is situated on the site of Borrisokane Workhouse. Students study the history of the school site and complete projects to highlight our heritage.

Club na nÓg: To promote Gaeilge students take part in activities after school where the medium of communication is through Gaeilge. Activities include: Cluichí, Cocáireacht, Yoga, Ceol, etc.

Friendship Café: The Friendship Café was opened as part of our new school. It is a meeting area for some students at lunchtime where they sit have a chat over a cup of tea and play cards and board games such as chess, draughts, jinga etc.

Wellread School: This award celebrates schools who foster and nurture a reading culture in their school and bring about an overall improvement in students' literacy skills in a fun and engaging way. Students, staff and parents collaborate with the wider School Community on a range of literacy activities and promote reading for pleasure.

Health Promoting School: Health Promotion is a key goal of Borrisokane Community College. The school was the first Post Primary School in North Tipperary to be recognised as a Health Promoting School. Each year we have Health Promotion events for students and staff during Positive Mental Health Week and Active Schools Week.



Library: The school since 2017 has top class library facilities which is housed in one of the Workhouse Buildings. The library is available to students before school and at lunchtime. This provides an area for students to have a quiet read or complete some research and project assignments.

Erasmus: This project, which is European Funded, provides opportunities for Transition Year Students to be involved in a project with students from other countries. Student exchanges take place to each of the countries involved. Over the past two years we linked with schools in Norway, Poland, Germany, Spain and Lithuania.

Musical Activities: Students are offered many opportunities to take part in Musical Activities including the school choir which performs at school functions. The Strings Orchestra and Traditional Music Group have practice sessions at lunchtime and perform as part of the Concert in December.

Maths Clinic: In order to support students in developing their Mathematical skills a clinic operates one day per week at lunchtime. Students find this a great support where they get assistance from the Maths Department on problem solving.

Development Education: A group of students and teachers work together on projects to develop Global Citizenship. Development Education (DE), also known as Global Citizenship Education, is an educational process aimed at increasing awareness and understanding of the rapidly changing, interdependent and unequal world in which we live. By challenging stereotypes and encouraging independent thinking, DE helps students critically explore the root causes of global justice issues and how they interlink with our everyday lives.

Science Activities: The Science Department are very active in organising activities for students including a Science Club which takes place at lunchtime. First year students get involved in the Sci Fest competition which progress from school to county level. This competition sows the seed for projects to be entered in the Young Scientist Exhibition.



Themed Weeks: Over the course of the year students and teachers get involved in themed weeks where different aspects of education are promoted including: Literacy, Maths, Geography, Wellbeing, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Active School, Friendship, Anti Bullying, Science, Foreign Languages, Enterprise, Positive Mental Health.

Fundraising: Each year students and staff get involved in supporting various charities including: North Tipperary Hospice, Irish Cancer Society, St Vincent de Paul, Shoebox Appeal, Pieta House, Trocaire, Cycle Against Suicide, etc. Students travel to Lourdes each year as assistants to support the elderly and those with Special Needs on the Pilgrimage.

Educational Trips: A wide range of trips take place at various stages throughout a student's education at Borrisokane Community College to support the classroom educational experience. In 3rd year an educational and cultural trip takes place to Holland & Germany. Subject trips in various subjects including Science, History, Geography, CSPE, Enterprise are organised to support the curriculum. The Career Guidance teachers organise visits to colleges and invite speakers to the school to support student's decision making. During Transition Year a wide variety of Educational Trips take place including a three-day trip to an Outdoor Education Centre, Trip to Paris, German Exchange, Erasmus Trips.





Extra Curricular Activities

A wide range of extra curricular activities is offered to boys and girls in the sporting and non sporting areas.

- Camogie
- Rugby
- Debating
- Aerobics
- Quizes
- Football
- Basketball
- Public Speaking
- Badminton
- Soccer
- Athletics
- Concerts
- Music
- Hurling
- Drama
- Dance
- Creative Writing
- Ladies Football
- Gym



Facilities

Following an investment of ten million euro in recent years the College now has state of the art facilities for all subjects.

The new school buildings include the following:

- Home Economics Kitchen
- Dress Design Room
- 3 Science Laboratories
- Demonstration Room
- Art & Craft Room
- Music & Drama Room
- Engineering Room
- 2 Construction Studies Rooms
- Design & Communication Graphics Room
- Multimedia Learning Laboratory
- Information Technology Room
- 2 Lecture Rooms
- Library
- Mathematics Room
- Guidance Suite
- Adult Education Room
- Learning Support Suites
- 2 Social Studies Rooms
- 7 General Classrooms
- Reception & Administration Suite of Offices
- 6 Pastoral Offices
- Meeting Room
- 5 toilet blocks
- Sports Hall, Dressing Rooms
- First Aid Room
- Staffroom
- Fitness Suite
- Dining Hall
- Lift access for students or staff with disabilities
- 4 Outdoor Basketball Courts
- GAA and Soccer Playing Fields
- Games Room
- Ball Wall and Dressing Rooms

The college has in place a policy for assisting students with Special Educational Needs (available on request).

- Consultation takes place with parents and primary schools to establish if students have special needs.
- Psychological Assessments and Student Support Files obtained where available.
- Early in first year all students are assessed using the CAT4, Reading and Maths Skills tests.

- Students supported in line with NEPS continuum of support.
- Student support plans are put in place for students where necessary
- The college has at present on staff six Resource/ Learning Support Teachers and five Special Needs Assistants
- Parents should inform the college if students have an exemption from Irish and supply supporting documentation on enrolling.

Student Leadership

• Students' Council

Two representatives from each year group form the students' council. They meet on a regular basis with their staff liaison person where they discuss issues of concern to students. The students' council has been involved in fundraising activities to improve life for the whole college community. Each year the Students' Council report to the Board of Management on their activities.

• Prefects

The prefects are a group of Senior students who take on responsibilities in the college by supervising students in the dining hall.

• Cairde

This is a group of students who volunteer to work with our new First Years each year. This group of about twenty students assist with First Year Induction Day and act as mentors and friends to First Years as they settle into the routine of Borrisokane Community College. They also organise and participate in activities for First Year students.



• Student Leaders

Two students from each class are selected as Student Leaders.

Their role is to:

- support teachers at assembly.
- work with staff, giving practical help with the running of the school.
- liaise with the Student Council
- represent the school at public events.





Autism Centre

As part of the provision of new school buildings an Autism Centre to cater for twelve students was provided.

The aim of the centre is to provide an integrated education for students diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in their own locality, removing the necessity for them to travel long distances for education, as was historically the case.

The Autism Centre includes the following:

- 2 Classrooms
- Multi Sensory Room
- Daily Living Skills Room
- Practical Activities Room
- Meeting Room
- Storage
- Outdoor Play area
- Sensory Garden



Career Guidance

The career guidance suite has a comprehensive library of careers information. It has computer facilities and a range of Vocational Interest and Aptitude Tests enabling us to offer a comprehensive Careers and Counselling service. The Career Guidance teachers meet students on an individual basis to assist them in making decisions on courses and careers. Provision is also available for parents to meet the Career Guidance Teacher. Information Nights are organised for parents in relation to choosing subjects and the C.A.O. System. A very successful Careers Exhibition takes place in September each year. Parents and students engage with colleges and providers of other career opportunities.

Student Support and Wellbeing

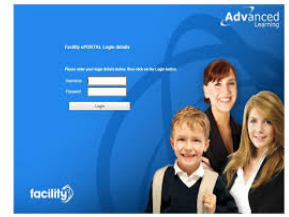


- Core of our Mission Statement
- Class mentors who have responsibility for care of each class member
- Year Head who monitors progress of students and manages discipline issues
- Guidance Counsellor who provides personal counselling and career guidance
- Availability of a Counsellor in the college on a regular basis to assist students and their families
- As part of our discipline policy the Pastoral Care of students is to the forefront at all times
- Successful Bullying Policy.
- College Chaplain
- Working Things Out
- Alert
- Student Support Team who meet weekly
- Invited speakers on various topics to support wellbeing.
- Mentoring Programme: All students are linked to a mentor teacher.

Continuous Assessment



Students are encouraged to set targets for examinations and class teachers carry out monthly assessments in each subject. Assessments focus on homework, projects and class tests. These ensure that students and their parents are aware of progress of learning throughout the year. Results of assessments are continuously available to parents on the school EPortal system. As part of reporting to parents and students, feedback is given on assignments and points for improvement.



Information & Communications Technology

All classrooms are equipped with the latest technology for teaching with computers and interactive projectors in all classrooms. First year students will need an iPad to support their learning. Digital Skills and Coding are Short Courses available to Junior Cycle Students. Students and teachers use OneNote to share course material. All students are set up on a school email system which allows communication with teachers as part of the learning process.



Student Uniform

All students are expected to wear the college uniform at all times in college and when representing the college.

Blackwatch tartan skirt or navy uniform trousers.
Bottle green v-neck jumper with college crest.
White shirt (2).
Black or brown shoes or boots.
Navy School Jacket with Crest

Students are also expected to have gear suitable for games, togs, jerseys, boots, etc.

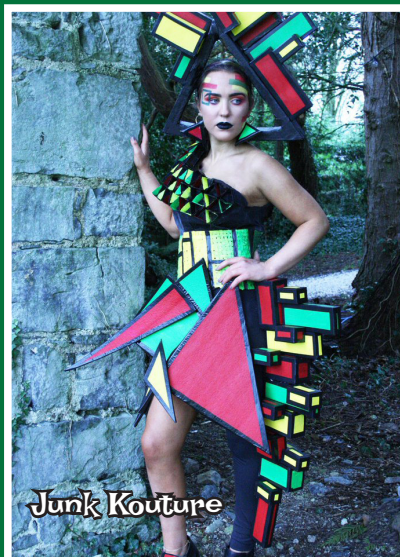
Uniform available from Slattery's, Pearse Street, Nenagh.

College Policies

The college community (parents, teachers, students, board of management) has developed policy in a number of areas. These policy documents are available on the college website and copies of policies which apply to students and/or parents/guardians are circulated to them.

Policy has been developed in the following areas:

- Charters for Students, Staff and Parents.
- Code of Behaviour
- Admissions
- Anti Bullying
- Social Personal and Health Education
- Child Protection
- Complaints Procedures
- Meetings with Teachers
- Substance Use
- House Exams/State Exams
- Smoke Free
- Special Educational Needs
- ICT Acceptable Use
- Healthy Living and Healthy Eating
- School Attendance Strategy
- Crisis Response
- Pastoral Care
- Homework
- Assessment
- iPad Acceptable Use
- Social Media
- School Tours
- Wellbeing



Parents' Association



The College has a very active Parents' Association with representatives from all parts of the catchment area. Various events are organised throughout the year and the Parents Association has been involved in many projects updating facilities at the college.

The aims of the Parents' Association are:

- to represent the views of parents.
- to inform parents of developments in education and in the college.
- to foster co-operation between parents, teachers and college management.
- help with the provision of extra equipment and facilities through fundraising

Parents are always welcome to call to the college to view our facilities or discuss the progress of their children. In addition each year, we have Parent/Teacher/Student meetings when parents and students are invited to the college to meet all teachers.

Meetings for parents of first years are organised during the first term to give them an idea of what new subjects involve and ideas on how parents can help with their child's education.

Meetings also take place when students are making important decisions such as choosing subjects for the Junior and Leaving Certificate. An Induction Meeting for parents takes place in early September. At this meeting parents are given information about all aspects of school life.



WHAT OUR 1ST YEARS THINK

*Reasons I have settled into
Borrisokane Community College*

I joined the camogie team, the Cairde were helpful and we went to the Friendship Café

Sarah Cleary
Ardcroney N.S.

I have gotten used to having a schedule. I have made new friends and I do all my homework

Georgia Darcy
Kyle Park N.S.

Everyone is very kind and friendly, I have made loads of new friends and I have gotten used to the new uniform

Niamh Patterson
Redwood N.S.

New friends, new subjects, my brother helped me, I joined the hurling team, my teachers and parents

Kevin Lawless
Carrig N.S. (Ballycommon)

I love Borrisokane Community College because of the subjects and the great teachers

John Hannon
St. Michael's N.S.
Cloughjordan

I have made new friends, I know all my teachers and I know my way around the school

Donal Hickey
Silvermines N.S.

The fact that you're in a friendly environment helps a lot. The teachers are all sound and joining teams helped to get to know more people

Nórah Larkin
Moneygall N.S.

I like it because it's relaxing, calming, enjoyable and fun

Martin Killackey
Kilruane N.S.

I got to know my classes and teachers. I also know what books I need for every class

Nicola Kelly
Rathcabbin N.S.

Everyone is very friendly, the cairde and teachers are very nice

Ethan Kennedy
Gaelscoil Aonach Urmhumhan

I have nice friends, the teachers are kind and I have an older sister in 6th year.

Emma Torpey
Agligh N.S.

I have settled in because all the teachers are really nice, they ask you if you need help and if you're ok

Hanna Woznica
Kilbarron N.S.

I have settled in and I have made some of the best friends that I will have for life!

Kayleigh Moyles
Borrisokane N.S.

I have made lots of friends, the teachers are really nice, welcoming and helpful

Louise McGrath
Ballinree N.S.

I knew a few people coming in and the teachers helped by doing games to help us to get to know each other.

Lauren Hahessy
St. Mary's Convent N.S.

I think the students and staff have helped me settle in because they are very supportive

James Morkan
Shinrone N.S.

I've made new friends and I am enjoying my new subjects

Joseph Kearney
Boher N.S.

Everyone has been very nice and helpful. All the teachers are nice and give you lots of support if you need it

Brian King
Carrig N.S. (Birr)

I have some of my primary school friends with me and we are not in the same classroom or have the same teachers

Darra Ó Slatarra
Kildangan N.S.

I have really good cairde and the futsal helped but mostly the teachers and my new friends and you can sit in the canteen with a rasher roll!

Diego Galera Kleboe
Cloughjordan No. 1 N.S.