

## St. Munchin's College School Profile



**School Address: Corbally, Limerick**  
**Roll number: 64240G**  
**School Patron: Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick**

### 1. Introduction

St. Munchin's College is a Diocesan Voluntary Catholic Secondary School for boys only with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Limerick.

**Principal: David Quilter**  
**Enrolment: 680**

**Deputy Principal: Lorraine Shiels**  
**Staff: 54 Teachers, 3 SNAs, 1 Chaplain**

St. Munchin's attracts students from a wide catchment area that is both city and rural. The school is set on an extensive 20 acre site on the banks of the Shannon river in Corbally, 2.5 km from the city centre and is adjacent to a large co-ed primary school Scoil Ide.

### 2. Characteristic Spirit, Mission Statement and Key Pillars of the school

St. Munchin's College is a Diocesan Voluntary Catholic Secondary School for boys only with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Limerick.

"Catholic Ethos" in the context of a Catholic voluntary secondary school means the ethos and characteristic spirit of the Roman Catholic Church which aims to promote:

- (a) the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects; and
- (b) a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- (c) a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and
- (d) the formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith

and which school provides religious education in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, and/or such ethos and/or characteristic spirit as may be determined or interpreted from time to time by the Irish Episcopal Conference.

In accordance with S.15 (2) (b) of the Education Act, 1998, the Board of Management of St. Munchin's College shall uphold, and be accountable to the patron for so upholding, the characteristic spirit of the school as determined by the cultural, educational, moral, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values and traditions which inform and are characteristic of the objectives and conduct of the school.

Catholic education is therefore a lifelong process of human growth and development which has been at the heart of the Church's mission since Jesus Christ urged his disciples to 'go teach all nations'. The person of Christ is the core of Catholic education.

Our school's mission statement is very important to us and underpins all that we do. The College motto—'*Veritas in Caritate*'—is taken from the Letter of St. Paul to the Ephesians:

**'If we live by the truth and in love, we shall grow in all ways'**

St. Munchin's College is a caring community, sharing the Christian ideal, endeavouring to create and sustain an environment through which each of our students can grow in all ways—aesthetically, emotionally, intellectually, morally, physically, socially and spiritually.

Staff, students and parents, in partnership, actively promotes an atmosphere that protects and respects the dignity and self-esteem of each individual.

By creating an environment which is favourable to learning, respects the dignity of each individual and actively promotes his self-esteem, an environment which is committed to a just and equitable treatment for all, the College tries to ensure that its students are given an education and a value system which will enable them to become responsible members of a rapidly changing society.

St. Munchin's College aims to be true to its tradition and open to new expressions of that tradition. The founding intention in 1796 centred around preparing students to study as seminaries for the Diocese. This tradition has evolved so that the College is now mindful of its role in forming leadership for the local church and wider community. St. Munchin's College intends to enable young people to be leaders – lay and ordained - in the community of faith in the Diocese of Limerick and beyond. The College wishes to pass on to its students a solid foundation and experience of faith and an understanding of the Diocese and Church in Limerick.

All activities that occur at St. Munchin's College are centred on student learning and development. This work is organised around **7 key pillars**:

**1. College Ethos and Sharing the Christian Ideal-** St. Munchin's College is a Catholic Voluntary Secondary School under the Patronage of the Roman Catholic Bishop of Limerick. It supports the religious and educational philosophy of the Catholic Church and actively promotes an atmosphere that protects and respects the dignity and self-esteem of each individual and also promotes the Christian values of respect, justice and integrity.

**2. Learning, Teaching and Academic Attainment-** St. Munchin's prides itself on excellence in learning and teaching. Across a broad range of subjects student achievement is consistently ahead of national norms. As members of a learning community teachers strive to develop an appreciation and love of learning amongst students.

**3. Sport, Fitness and Student Well-Being-** St. Munchin's offers a broad range of sporting activities such as rugby, hurling, football and basketball. It also offers a vibrant and active Physical Education programme. The School has both a full-time Guidance Counsellor and Chaplain.

**4. Art, Culture and Heritage Promotion-** St. Munchin's promotes student involvement in various activities in the arts and culture. Students are involved in drama, music and literary activities.

**5. Community, Civic, Diocesan and Parental Links-** St. Munchin's is part of a vibrant community from which it can draw and also contribute. Parents are welcomed to the school and programmes are run to support members of the local community.

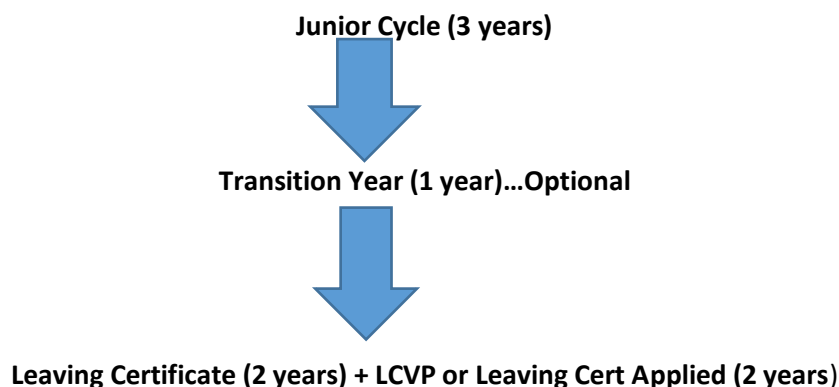
**6. Student Achievement, Expectations and College Tradition-** St. Munchin's is proud of its students, their achievements and successes. Past pupils excel in the areas of business, sport, politics and arts.

**7. Student Leadership, Creativity, Innovation and Critical Thinking-** St. Munchin's in line with its educational philosophy aims to develop leadership amongst its students. Students graduate from the school with core skills and moral foundations that enable them to contribute to the lives of others and to be leaders.

### 3. School Curriculum:

St. Munchin's College follows the curricular programmes set down by the Department of Education and Skills, which may be amended from time to time in accordance with the Education Act 1998 (Sections 9 and 30).

The Principal allocates students to classes. Subject to sufficient demand and resources, the Board of Management reserves the right to determine on an annual basis the range and level of subjects, including the minimum number of students to justify the offering of a particular subject class.



#### Junior Cycle

In Junior Cycle the students experience a wide range of subjects. Subjects available at all levels as appropriate to the individual student.

Subjects offered to Junior Certificate students			
Art	Geography	Computer Studies	Technology
Business Studies	History	Physical Education	Wellbeing
CSPE	Technical Graphics	Religious Education	Digital Media
English	Irish	Science	Coding
French	Mathematics	SPHE	German

#### Senior Cycle

##### ➤ Transition Year (Admissions Criteria See Appendix)

The Transition Year is a one-year optional programme which comes immediately after completion of the Junior Cycle. One group of students (the number of places available on the Transition Year Programme shall be determined by the Board of Management on an annual basis, and this will be notified at the TY information evening) is selected for the Transition Year programme. The places are allocated on the basis of application and review (please see Appendix A).

The Board of Management may, at its discretion, reserve a number of places on the Transition Year Programme for students who are applying to join the school.

Applications will be considered by the Principal, Deputy Principal, Third and Transition Year Coordinators.

The aim of the programme is:-

- To provide a good academic basis for beginning the senior-cycle course.
- To develop aspects of the curriculum which tend not to be catered for elsewhere in the school curriculum
- To develop teamwork through task oriented-projects.
- To develop links between the school and the wider community.
- To encourage students to become self-motivated learners.
- To provide an opportunity for students to develop an understanding of how learning occurs generally, and with particular reference to their own learning styles.
- To introduce students to a wide range of cultural activities and sporting activities.
- To prepare students to become responsible members of society.

<b>Subjects offered to Transition Year students</b>			
Mathematics	English	Irish	Technology
Technical Graphics	History	Physical Education	Geography
German	French	Home Economics	Digital Media
Accounting	Business Studies	Economics	Computer Studies
Biology	Chemistry	Physics	Applied Maths

<b>Activities offered to Transition Year students</b>			
Musical	Mini-Company	Young Social Innovators	Work Experience
Debating	M.O.G.	Activity Weekend	Retreat
Toastmasters	Schools Quiz	School Bank	Charity Collections
“The Torch”	An Gaisce	Active School Flag	Young Economist
Stocks & Shares	Life Skills	Driver Theory Test	Green Schools

*Note:* Provision of these subjects and activities is subject to resources and annual review.

*Note:* The Board reserves the right to alter the numbers entering the Transition Year programme on an annual basis.

*Note:* A fee of €350 is requested for each student to facilitate the wide range of activities in which students are involved during this year. (This fee is subject to change on an annual basis)

### ➤ **Leaving Certificate Applied**

The fundamental goal of the programme is to prepare students for the transition from school to Post Leaving Certificate Courses, Higher Education Links Schemes and working life. The programme excels in that it puts an emphasis on forms of achievement and excellence, through work and learning of real life skills, which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past.

In line with the nature and requirements of the LCA programme class size in both 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Year is limited to 14 students. School management in conjunction with the relevant year heads will identify those students who they feel would be most suitable for this programme (please see Appendix B). This restriction will help to foster positive classroom relationships, good teaching practice and assist school discipline.

<b>CURRICULUM</b>	
<b>Vocational Preparation</b>	<b>Vocational Preparation &amp; Guidance</b> <b>English &amp; Communications</b>
<b>Vocational Education</b>	<b>Mathematical Applications</b> <b>Vocational Specialisms- Agriculture/Horticulture and Graphics &amp; Construction</b> <b>Introduction to Information Technology</b>
<b>General Education</b>	<b>Arts Education- Drama/Dance/Music/Art itself</b> <b>Social Education- Focused on community involvement</b> <b>Languages- Irish and French/German</b> <b>Leisure &amp; Recreation- Has a much more practical and scientific focus. It is training for fitness and health</b> <b>Technology</b> <b>Science</b>

➤ **Leaving Certificate**

In Senior Cycle students are offered a wide range of subjects which prepare them for the Leaving Certificate examination. Subjects available, at all levels as appropriate to the individual student, are listed below. St Munchin’s College also provides the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. This programme includes enterprise education and work experience.

<b>Subjects offered to Leaving Certificate students</b>		
Accounting	English	LCVP
Art, Craft and Design	French	Mathematics
Biology	Geography	German
Business	History	Physical Education
Chemistry	DCG	Physics
Economics	Irish	Religious Education/ R.S.E.
Chemistry	Applied Maths	Technology
Computer Science		

#### 4. General Information

##### **Co- Curricular & Extra-Curricular Activities:**

St. Munchin's College provides a wide range of artistic, cultural, social and sporting activities to develop the talents of all students and to provide them with the confidence to be involved in various activities in later life.

The school also places great emphasis on the development of team spirit for all its students.

The following activities are currently catered for:-

- ◆ Rugby
- ◆ Hurling & Gaelic Football
- ◆ Basketball
- ◆ Athletics
- ◆ Golf
- ◆ Quizzes
- ◆ Tours
- ◆ Charitable Works
- ◆ Drama / Musical etc.
- ◆ Talent Competition
- ◆ Limerick Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage
- ◆ Public Speaking & Debating
- ◆ Leadership Opportunities

In addition to the above, students participate in a wide variety of initiatives which are designed to motivate positive student behaviour, foster a sense of belonging, enhance self-esteem, and instil and reward a positive work ethic. These initiatives include:

- ◆ Retreats
- ◆ Annual Pilgrimage to Croagh Patrick
- ◆ Mental Health Awareness Week
- ◆ Anti-Bullying Week
- ◆ Drama Club
- ◆ Healthy Eating Talks
- ◆ Media Studies
- ◆ Community Projects
- ◆ Pay it Forward
- ◆ Sound Effects
- ◆ School Magazine "The Torch"
- ◆ Green Schools Programme
- ◆ Interview Skills
- ◆ Study Skills
- ◆ After School Study.

*Note: Provision of these activities is subject to resources and annual review.*

### **Homework and Study:**

The school provides facilities for afternoon study each day (3 hours after school finishes. These periods are supervised and there is a fee per term.

The school believes that study is an exercise in self-discipline, which must be developed. It involves both written and oral work. It is essential that the students develop the habit of study. The actual time to be spent on homework and study should be about an hour and half for first-year students, and increasing for each year up to three hours or more for senior students.

The recommended time per day for Homework and Study is:

		<u>At Least</u>
First Years	-	One and a half hours
Second Years	-	Two hours
Third Years	-	Three hours
Fifth Years	-	Three-Four hours
Sixth Years	-	Four hours

There is now an alarming growth in students having part-time jobs. The school wishes to advise parents/guardians that this militates against participation in the overall function of the school, and reduces the effectiveness of the student's classroom involvement. We seek the parent's/guardian's co-operation in trying to solve this serious problem as we feel that, in the long run, it is detrimental to the student's progress.

### **School Management and Representative Associations**

St. Munchin's College is managed by a Board of Management including four Trustee nominees, two parent nominees and two teacher nominees. The school's management structure consists of Principal, Deputy Principal, Assistant Principals 1 and Assistant Principals 2 Teachers.

Teaching Resources:-

- Subject Teachers
- Chaplain
- Career Guidance and Counselling
- Learning Support Teachers
- Special Needs Assistants

### **School Functions and Meetings:**

Parent-Teacher meetings are held during school time once a year for each year group. These meetings are brought to the attention of the parents/guardians by letter. Parents/guardians are strongly urged to attend.

There are various functions and meetings during the year, and parents/guardians will be notified in advance of such meetings. These meetings are usually held in the evening. The following is a sample of what can take place during the year:

- ◆ Graduation Night (6<sup>th</sup> Years).
- ◆ Open Night for 6<sup>th</sup> Class Primary School Students & Parents.
- ◆ Career Talks.
- ◆ Study Skills Talks
- ◆ 5<sup>th</sup> Year Subject Choices Talk.
- ◆ Transition Year Information Night.
- ◆ LCA Information Night

- ◆ Meeting for parents of incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Years.
- ◆ Various talks on Alcohol and Drug awareness, Bullying etc.
- ◆ Parent Information Nights
- ◆ Coffee Mornings
- ◆ Remembrance & Advent Mass

## 5. Student Support Teams:

### ***Wellbeing (Pastoral Care) Team***

A Wellbeing Team is established in the school. Five members of staff who are teaching SPHE / CSPE/ PE, Guidance Counsellor, SSE, extra-curricular staff and the Principal / Deputy Principal are involved. All members of this team have an interest in promoting Wellbeing in the school community. All staff within the school are involved in the promotion of Wellbeing activities throughout the year, especially during Wellbeing Week.

### ***SEN Team***

This team works closely with students and their parents/guardians and aims to remove barriers for students with additional/learning needs to ensure a positive school experience, and achievement of potential.

### ***ASD Team***

This team works closely with students and their parents/guardians and aims to remove barriers for students on the Autism Spectrum with additional/learning needs to ensure a positive school experience, and achievement of potential. The establishment of a ASD Special Class (TORCH) and a neighbouring Sensory Room have greatly enhanced the experience and wellbeing of students on the Autism Spectrum in this supported and caring environment.

### ***Anti-Bullying Team***

The 'Anti-Bullying Team,' made up of staff members, exists to cultivate an environment free from bullying and to deal with bullying incidents, should they occur. The immediate priority, should a bullying incident occur, is ending the bullying and protecting the person(s) being targeted while avoiding any consequent negative repercussions.

### ***Year Head Team***

The role of the Year Head is essential in the school community. This was identified in the whole school needs analysis and the Post of Responsibility review. Year Heads work with others e.g. SEN, Guidance Counsellor, Chaplain, Pastoral Care Team, ASD Team, etc., to focus on the task of overseeing the welfare of the various year groups so that all students are supported at every level.

- Monitoring of academic progress.
- Implementation of Code of Behaviour which helps provide a safe space for all students in which to develop linking directly to our ethos.
- Liaise with class tutors about the progress of the students individually and class groups collectively.
- Develop relationships with students, teachers and parents.
- Work within student support structures.
- Advocating on behalf of students/parents/management/colleagues.
- Support a positive work ethic in the year.
- Acknowledgment of achievement through positive feedback.
- Hold assemblies thus providing a forum for students to voice their issues/opinions.



### ***Class Tutors***

Members of teaching staff act as Class Tutors. The Tutor is a consistent point of contact for the student. One of their main roles is a pastoral role in supporting individual students. This is done in collaboration with the Year Head.

### ***Student Voice- Student Council***

Student involvement and leadership is an essential part of wellbeing in our school community. Student involvement is encouraged in many areas e.g. Student Council and Prefects. The Student Council meets on a regular basis and considers issues that affect the student population. It provides students with a voice to bring any issues they may have to the wider school community.

Prefects work with first years. They are involved in helping students who may have any difficulties, but they are also involved in many fun activities and represent the College on various occasions as they present themselves throughout the year.

### ***Partnership with parents/ guardian, community & wider supports***

The parents / guardians of the students of St. Munchin's College, are a highly respected and valued stakeholder. Parents/Guardians are the primary educators of their children. The most important gift that any parent can give their child is the opportunity to fulfil their potential. It is paramount to us to ensure that parents feel welcome, respected, and listened to as partners in the education of their children.

- Our **Parents Council**, who meet monthly, discuss whole school matters, fundraises, organises events, assists policy development in order to sustain and enhance wellbeing in the school community.
- Regular reporting home: parent information meetings, parent/teacher meetings, term reports, the sharing of formative assessment reports, use of our school app, vsware and social media ensure open and ongoing communications between the school and home.
- Other Ways in which the school provides support to parents in relation to student wellbeing:
  - Frequent parent information evenings
  - Parent teacher meetings - AEN department members are available at these meetings.
  - One-one meetings and/or phone calls arranged with any staff member, Tutor, class teacher, Year Head or Principal as requested.
  - the facilitation of family meetings with outside agencies if required.

### ***Guidance Related Learning Team***

Guidance in schools refers to a range of learning experiences that help students to develop self-management skills leading to effective choices and decisions in their lives. It is made up of three areas personal and social development, educational guidance and career guidance. At St. Munchin's College the guidance Department has adopted a whole school guidance approach. Guidance is a whole school activity, and our approach is collaboratively developed.

For further information please visit our school website (<http://www.stmunchinscollege.com>)