



Ballinrobe Community School

Prospectus 2021



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*“ Education is not the answer to the question.
Education is the means to the answer to all questions. ”*

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Message from the Principal

I am pleased to introduce you to the Ballinrobe Community School prospectus. I am very conscious of the profound influence secondary school has on the lives of our young people. This prospectus is intended to assist you in choosing the right school to meet your child's needs. As a parent it is one of the most important decisions you will have to make, and I hope that this prospectus will make that decision easier for you.

Since Ballinrobe Community School opened in 1990 it has had impressive achievements in the academic, sporting and cultural fields. We provide a full range of Academic, Business, Scientific, Artistic and Technological subjects. As a progressive and innovative school we are well aware of the changing needs of our students, and the demands that society makes on them. We encourage their personal and social development through participation in Sport, Debating, Music, Drama, Art, Educational Tours, Projects and Competitions.



The ethos of our school is based on mutual respect between staff and students. We believe that true education embraces the whole person and our objectives are to develop the Academic, Spiritual, Emotional, Social, Cultural, Physical and overall well-being of our students. Our dedicated staff endeavours to equip our students with skills, competencies and self-esteem in a rewarding and learning environment.

We endeavour to make the transition from primary school to secondary school as smooth as possible. We offer a total of 20 subjects in First Year and we make every effort to facilitate the students' choices. Ballinrobe Community School offers a full range of subjects to Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate students. It also offers one of the most progressive Transition Year options, as well as the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme.

The prospectus highlights some of our excellent facilities, in particular our computer facilities, science laboratories/practical rooms, spacious well equipped general classrooms and our state of the art Senior Technical Graphics room. In addition we have a fully equipped canteen offering a range of hot and cold food and snacks. We have newly developed playing pitches, running and walking track and changing facilities adjacent to the school and a fully equipped Sports Hall and Gymnasium.

A special feature of Ballinrobe Community School is the extensive programme of extra curricular activities including a wide range of sporting activities, music, drama and debating. Our annual school musical is now recognised as one of the most successful in the region.

I wish you well as you consider the selection of a secondary school for your child. As the school Principal I want to assure you that if you choose Ballinrobe Community School you are choosing a school committed to the highest standards of education, with a very comprehensive range of subjects on offer and a highly skilled and talented staff focused on delivering the best education in a caring, friendly and student centred environment.

William Culkeen
Principal.



School Details



Big Brother Big Sister



History Trip

Mission Statement

Ballinrobe Community School is a focal point in the community for the learning and teaching of young people irrespective of abilities, background or gender.

Through its policies and activities, it aims at providing a tolerant and caring environment in which young people and adults can enjoy, exercise and fully develop their knowledge, talents and interests in the context of their responsibilities to themselves, to others, to the school and to society. The conduct of its affairs shall demonstrate its concern for the quality of the service it provides.

The school continually re-examines its goals and objectives and responds in a creative way to the demands of a changing age.

Board of Management

The Trustees and members of the Board of Management for the period 2020-2022 are:

Trustees:

- Sr. Mary Forde
- Mr. Sean Purcell
- Father John O' Boyle

Board Members

- Mr. Pat Mc Hugh Religious Representative (Chairperson)
- Sister Mary Forde Religious Representative Secretary
- Mr. William Culkeen Parent Representative
- Mrs. Susan Varley Parent Representative
- Mr. Richard Crumlish Teacher Representative
- Mr. John O' Rourke Teacher Representative
- Ms. Elizabeth Kelleher VEC Representative
- Mr. Richard Finn VEC Representative
- Mr. Tom Connolly VEC Representative
- Mr. Malachy Molloy VEC Representative
- Father Michael Gormally Bishop's Nominee

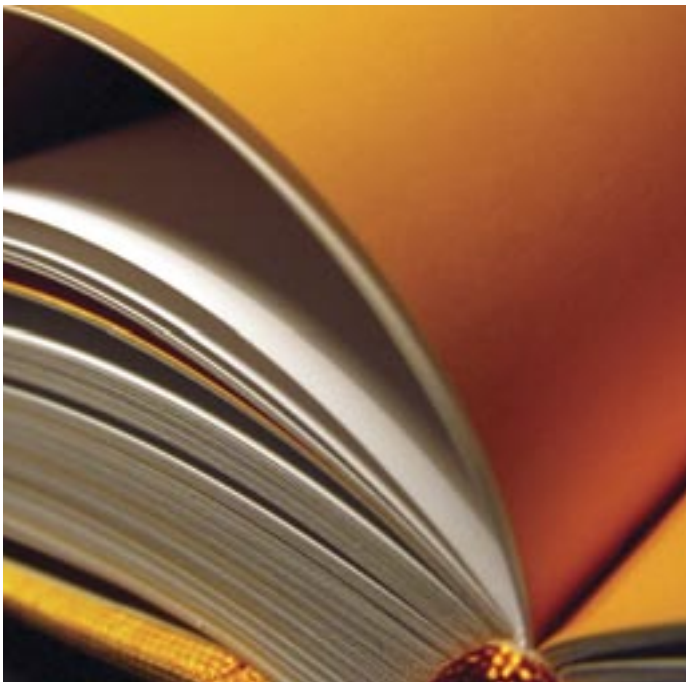
Parent Council

Members of the Parents Council:

- Ms. Lilian Costello
- Ms. Irene Geraghty
- Mr. Denis Gubic
- Ms. Sue Kelly
- Ms. Ruth Philbin

“ A mind once stretched by a new idea never regains its original dimensions ”





School Information

Teaching Staff

Principal:

Mr. William Culkeen

Deputy Principal:

Ms. Kathleen Devaney

Ansbro, Mike
 Bewley, Alison
 Biggins, Lisa
 Burke, Anna
 Burke, Esther
 Browne, Anne
 Coen, Michael
 Conlon, Shane
 Costello, Sharon
 Costello, Ute
 Courtney, Ann
 Dooley, Fionnuala
 Dwyer, Deirdre
 Dwyer, Laura
 Egan, Damien
 Egan, Siobhan
 Farragher, Bernadette
 Feeney, Rita
 Flannery, Laura
 Flynn, Imelda
 Gallagher, Niall
 Gavin, Martin
 Healy, Dolores

Heneghan, Ann
 Henry, Grainne
 Hession, Anne
 Hopkins, Theresa
 Judge, Niamh
 Kane, Martina
 Keane, Ursula
 Kelleher, Elizabeth
 Kerrigan, Lorraine
 King, Anne
 Lally, Aoife
 Langan, Sadhbh
 Mc Donagh, Kieran
 Mc Donagh, Rachelle
 Mc Grath, Emer
 Mc Loughlin, Treasa
 Mc Manamon, Stephanie
 Morrin, Emer
 Mortimer, Sean
 Mullin, Edel
 Murphy, Aisling
 Murphy, Eoin
 Nestor, Eibhlin

Nestor, Laura
 O'Meara, Culan
 O'Rourke, John
 Quinn, Karena
 Reddin, Michelle

Rourke, Barry
 Seoighe, Niamh
 Staunton, Lisa
 Walsh, Michelle

Chaplain:

Ms. Lorraine Kerrigan

Administrative Staff:

Ms. Maria Moran
 Ms. Deirdre Burke
 Ms. Aisling Mc Loughlin

Caretakers:

Mr. Andy Walsh
 Mr. Fintan McGreal

Special Needs Assistants:

Ms. Mary Walsh
 Ms. Breda O' Malley

Cleaning/Catering Staff:

Ms. Patricia Fitzpatrick
 Ms. Bernie Grimes
 Ms. Annette Hession
 Ms. Mary Holleran
 Ms. Bogumila Kruszakin
 Ms. Ewelina Rajchelt
 Ms. Catherine McDonald



Mayo Enterprise Awards



Boys GAA

School Details

SCHOOL DAY:

Monday – Thursday: 9.10am – 4.00pm
Friday: 9.10am – 1.25pm

SCHOOL BUILDING OPENING HOURS:

Monday – Friday: 8.00am – 5.00pm

SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS:

Monday – Thursday: 9.00am – 5.00 pm
Friday: 9.00am – 4.00pm

SCHOOL TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

094 9541777/9541778/9541779

SCHOOL FAX NUMBER:

094 9541780

SCHOOL E-MAIL ADDRESS:

info@ballinrobebs.ie

SCHOOL WEBSITE:

www.ballinrobecomunityschool.ie

SCHOOL CALENDAR:

Calendar details for academic year are forwarded to all families in August. It is important to note that this calendar may be subject to change as the school year progresses.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Junior Cycle:	Maroon and grey v-neck jumper with crest Grey skirt/pants Grey shirt Black shoes Black school jacket
Senior Cycle:	Black and grey v-neck jumper with crest Grey skirt/pants Grey shirt Black shoes Black school jacket

SCHOOL UNIFORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

- Ken Murphy's, Main Street, Ballinrobe.
- Deirdre Biggins, Church Lane, Ballinrobe.

“

*What sculpture is to
a block of marble, education is to
the human soul.*

”



Oklahoma



Oklahoma



Oklahoma



Junior Certificate Three Year Course

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE:

Pupils entering First Year start the Junior Certificate Course as laid down by the Department of Education & Skills.

Ballinrobe Community School offers a wide range of Academic/Scientific/Business/Artistic and Practical subjects at Junior Cycle. Core subjects Irish, English and Maths are taken at Higher or Ordinary Level.

First Year students have a broad range of subjects to choose from for their Junior Certificate Course.

Students will study the following core subjects:

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE)

In addition each student will study a combination of subjects from the list below

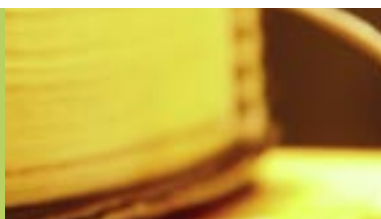
- Home Economics
- Technical Graphics
- Metalwork
- French
- German
- Art
- Music
- Materials Technology Wood
- Geography
- Business Studies

First Year Students will also study the following non-examination subjects:

- Religion
- Physical Education
- Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)
- Computers

Prospective First Year students who intend enrolling for the new school year will have an opportunity to sample the optional subjects over a period of two days prior to choosing their subjects

A system of "setting" operates from the end of Second Year onwards. This setting provides for each student being placed in a class suited to his/her ability in most curriculum subjects. Through this provision, students, who have great ability in one subject, may be placed in a higher group in that particular subject. In other subject areas, they have the opportunity to join a different group working at a pace appropriate to their ability. In this way, the individual needs of students are met more successfully than in a system such as "mixed ability" classes or "streaming".



Senior Cycle Options

On completion of the Junior Certificate Cycle students have a number of options:

- A** Transition Year (TY)
- B** Leaving Certificate/Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

TRANSITION YEAR:

This programme is optional for students in Ballinrobe Community School but is **very highly recommended**. Students taking this programme have four very distinct advantages:

- 1) Leaving Cert subjects do not have to be chosen before the Junior Cert results are issued.
- 2) Leaving Cert subjects can be sampled in Transition Year and students can assess their aptitudes for Leaving Cert subjects before deciding, thus allowing them to make more informed choices.
- 3) Personal skills, not usually facilitated in the curriculum, can be developed e.g. public speaking, debating, drama, music, computer skills etc..
- 4) Students are more mature when facing into Leaving Certificate. Department of Education statistics confirm that students who do Transition year do considerably better in Leaving Certificate improving their results by up to 30 points. In addition students are more mature and capable when entering Third Level.

This programme aims to develop skills which we believe will benefit the students in Leaving Certificate, Third Level Studies, and in working life. We attempt to develop self-confidence, study skills, information seeking skills, ability to work in groups, entrepreneurial and leisure skills, to name but a few. Emphasis is also placed on self-regulated learning where students take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making.



Debating team.

The key aims are:

- 1) Education for maturity with emphasis on personal development including social awareness and competence.
- 2) The acquiring of general, technical and academic skills including communication and enterprise skills.
- 3) Education through experience of adult and working life.

The main features of Transition Year are:

- Leaving Certificate Main Subject Areas: This gives students the opportunity to experience many different subject areas which, in conjunction with our Career Guidance Programme, is of great benefit when choosing their Leaving Certificate subjects.
- European Studies
- Work Experience and Community Service
- Mini Companies
Developing entrepreneurial and business skills.
- Public Speaking and Debating
- School Musical
- European Tour
- Outdoor Pursuits





Leaving Certificate

“ Change does not necessarily assure progress, but progress implacably requires change. Education is essential to change, for education creates both new wants and the ability to satisfy them. ”

LEAVING CERTIFICATE:

Ballinrobe Community School offers the most comprehensive choice of subjects available in Leaving Certificate. Students are required to take seven examination subjects for the Leaving Certificate and may also opt for LCVP. All subjects are offered at Higher and Ordinary Level. Irish and Mathematics are also offered at Foundation Level.

CORE SUBJECTS:

Irish, English, Mathematics

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS ON OFFER:

Accounting, Agricultural Science, Art, Biology, Business, Chemistry, Construction Studies, Design & Communication Graphics, Economics, Engineering, French, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, Music, Physics, Applied Maths.

NON EXAM SUBJECTS TAKEN BY ALL LEAVING CERT STUDENTS:

Religion, Computer Studies, Physical & Health Education and Career Guidance.

The range and choice of subjects enables pupils to take a broad Leaving Certificate, or to specialise in a Science, Business, Humanities or Technological Leaving Certificate which will allow our students access to any course or faculty in any of the Universities, Training Colleges, Institutes of Technology or other Third Level Institutes. All subjects are open to male and female students.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP):

In addition to taking seven examination subjects, students will have an opportunity to study an additional subject called Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP). The programme is designed to foster in young people a spirit of enterprise, adaptability and initiative, developing the communicative, interpersonal and technological skills which are so necessary in today's world.

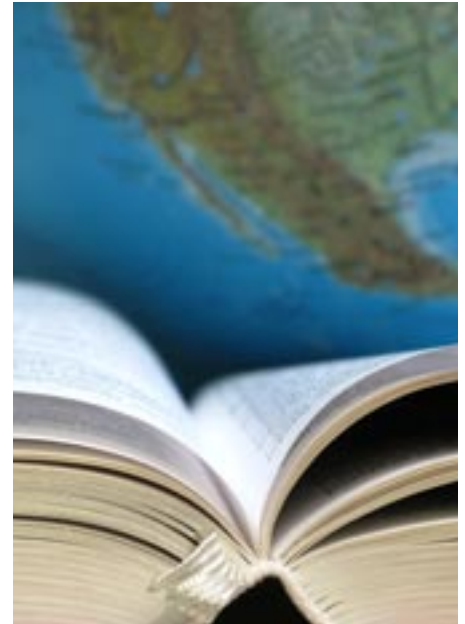
Typical Activities in LCVP:

- Research and investigate local employment opportunities
- Develop job seeking skills
- Gain practical work experience
- Visit local business and community enterprises
- Visits in from local entrepreneurs
- Plan activities to help develop teamwork, communication and computer skills
- Investigate and plan Career Options.

Some Benefits to LCVP

- Develop computer skills
- Report writing skills
- Career investigation
- Job seeking skills
- Work placement/shadow
- Enterprise
- Portfolio Assessment
- Points (can be used as a 6th subject)

“ Education is the power to think clearly, the power to act well in the world's work, and the power to achieve life ”



The Green School

The Green School Committee comprising students and teachers are actively working in promoting the ideals of sustainability. We have been awarded the Green Flag; have won the Adopt a Mile competition and are still actively involved. Recently the school was awarded the Energy Flag.



Geography Trip



Music Room



Zen Garden



Woodwork Room



Art room



ICT – Information Communication Technology

ICT

Ballinrobe Community School has the most modern ICT facilities available. It has a fully equipped state of the art Technical Graphics room. High Speed Broadband is available throughout the entire school and mobile surface pro available to all classes.

First year Coding/Computers and all students and staff use the Microsoft Office 365 Programme. Computer studies is taken by all students and forms an integral part of the student experience.

The school has an A.U.P. (Acceptable User Policy) with which both Parents/Guardians and students should familiarise themselves. By enrolling in Ballinrobe Community School you are signifying acceptance of its policies. If you wish to raise any specific issues relating to these procedures please do so in writing to the Principal prior to your child enrolling in the school.

Ballinrobe Community School takes pride in the fact that it cherishes equally all its students of all abilities.



Mc Hales visit

Learning Support and Special Educational Needs Teaching

The school has two designated specially trained Special Education Needs Co-ordinators. The school makes every effort to respond to the special educational needs of individual students subject to the availability and suitability of accommodation and staff which is subject to the sanction of the Department of Education & Skills. In the case of a student identified as having special needs presenting for enrolment, the Board will request a copy of a student's medical and /or psychological report, or, where such a report is not available, will request the student to be assessed immediately. The purpose of the assessment and other reports is to assist the school in establishing the educational and other related needs of the student relevant to his/her ability or special needs and to identify the support services required.

Following the receipt of the report, the Board will assess how the school can meet the needs specified in the report. When the Board deems that further resources are required, it will, prior to enrolment, request that the Department of Education & Skills provide the resources to meet the needs of the students as outlined in the psychological and /or medical report. The school Principal or a representative will meet with the parents of the student to discuss the student's needs and the school's suitability or capability in meeting those needs.

All students with special educational needs are enrolled in accordance with the provisions of the recent legislation dealing with "Education of persons with special education needs."

In catering for students with special educational needs the Board of Management must have due regard for the needs of the student.

Induction/Assessment

Students transferring from primary schools will be required, as far as possible, to attend sampling/assessment days which are usually held early in the Spring term.

Those Induction days will be used to familiarise the students with the school and its facilities, and students will be mentored throughout those two days.

First year students follow a specifically designed two day induction programme when they start in our school. This programme helps the students make the transition from Primary to Post Primary School. Students build a rapport with their tutor and familiarise themselves with the school structures. At the start of first year all students complete the CAT 4 test. These tests are used in the school for educational purposes.

There are no Tuition or Entrance Fees for any Junior or Senior Cycle Students



Assessments and School Reports

Topics studied in class are tested by continuous assessment. House Exams are held prior to the Summer Holidays. Students are required to sit all House Exams. Detailed school reports are made available online to Parents/Guardians at the end of the 1st and 3rd terms. Additional exams are held in March for all 2nd and 5th year students.

These reports consist of:

- An **Academic Report** giving the results of the Examinations
- A **Behavioural/Disciplinary Report** which gives a record of Penalty and Bonus Points that have accrued during the term.
- An **Attendance Report** which lists the dates that your son/daughter has been recorded as absent for the term.

The reports are designed to give a very comprehensive account of a student's progress in school. In addition the school operates a daily Text Alert service whereby a student's absence is notified to a parent/guardian by text. Parents can use our school APP to notify the school of their child's absence.



Mc Hales Visit



Home Economics Room



Extra Curricular Activities

Students benefit personally, socially and educationally from their participation in extra curricular activities.

The Arts

Ballinrobe Community School prides itself on its long established involvement with the Arts. For very many years the school has produced school musicals of outstanding quality. The involvement of so many dedicated staff interacting, coaching and encouraging the students has given the school its outstanding reputation in this field of activity. Music as a subject is made available to all students as is Art.

There has been a significant increase in Arts related activities in recent years:

- Music greatly enhances the life of our school. Music as a subject is made available as an optional subject to all students.
- The annual school musical is an integral part of the school year and is one of its most significant extra curricular activities.
- Our school choir performs at official school functions and at community events.

Ballinrobe Community School is one of only 3 locations in Mayo for **Music Generation** - a National Music education programme funded by U2 and the Ireland Fund. This scheme provides tuition in several musical instruments including voice, to young people in the area. Our students can access this service subject to availability.

Ballinrobe Community School is a Health promoting school and was recently awarded the **Active School Flag**. This is in recognition of our success in striving to achieve a physically active and physically educated school community.



Drama and Literature

- Drama is a core module in the Transition Year Programme with an end of year performance.
- Students have an opportunity during the academic year to attend workshops and stage productions.
- In school Literacy competitions are organised. Entries are externally adjudicated and prize winners are acknowledged at the Achievements Awards Ceremonies.

Students participate in a wide variety of other educational activities e.g. public speaking and debating, quiz competitions, table quizzes, essay competitions etc...

Physical and Health Education/Sports and Games

Ballinrobe Community School has always taken pride in the emphasis it places on the physical, social, mental and emotional well being of its students through our PE Programme and Sport. This is pursued through developing the students' self image and personal and social skills in practical activities. Our programme takes into consideration the age of the student.

- Students are offered a varied P.E. programme and have the opportunity to experience swimming classes, gymnastics, net and invasion games, athletics and self defence classes.

Games/Sports on offer include: Athletics, basketball, badminton, gaelic football, soccer, golf, swimming, volleyball and equestrian.

Many students compete in various competitions.

Ballinrobe Community School has a large fully equipped Sports Hall, a fully equipped Gymnasium, Football Pitches, Running/Walking Track and Changing Facilities.

Student Facilities at Ballinrobe Community School

Facilities

- **Supervised Evening Study:**
Supervised Evening Study takes place in the school each evening from 4.15 – 7.00pm
Monday – Thursday 2.00 – 4.45pm on a Friday
A fee applies to this facility.
- **Canteen:**
A fully equipped canteen caters to the culinary needs of the students. A varied competitively priced lunch menu (hot and cold lunches) is available.
- **Internet**
Research facilities are available to all students
- **Library:**
Facilities catering for research and leisure reading are available. A New Library with research and lending facility is now open in the school.
- **Sports Hall:**
Large fully equipped Sports Hall.
- **Gymnasium:**
Fully equipped with Treadmill, Exercise Bikes, Weights etc..
- **School text books and class materials:**
School text books are provided to all students on a rental scheme. All class materials in practical and technical subjects are provided free of charge. Costs arising from renting physical education and swimming facilities and other student-related activities are met from school funds. As much as possible we are always conscious of the heavy financial burden facing parents who have children attending post-primary schools and we endeavour not to place unnecessary expenses on the parents of our students.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Mentor Group

- The members of the Student Mentor Team are assigned in small groups to each First Year class at the beginning of the academic year.
- In the early weeks of the first term they spend time getting to know the First Year students by meeting them regularly and organising activities for them.
- The role of the Student Mentor Team is to care for the incoming First Year students.
- Relevant training is organised for the Student Mentor Team.
- A member of the teaching staff acts as co-ordinator of the Student Mentor Team. Regular meetings with the Student mentor Team are convened by the co-ordinator and such meetings address concerns which may arise for the Student Mentors.
- 1st and 5th Year students take part in the Big Brother Big Sister Programme each year.

Student Council

The Student Council gives the students an opportunity to take an active part in the life of their own school. The establishment of Student Councils in second level schools is recognised by the Education Act 1998. Students involved in the Council improve their communications skills and foster a great sense of responsibility for their immediate environment.

The student council promotes the interests of the school and the involvement of students in the affairs of the school, in partnership with the Staff, Students, Board of Management and Parents/Guardians. Each year group elects their own representatives to the Council. They hold regular meetings and also make representations to Senior Management.

Teams

Club Gaelach.

Tá Club Gaelach gníomhach sa scoil a bhunaigh an idirbhliain agus a chasann ar a chéile uair sa tseachtain. Tugann an club deis do dhaltaí úsáid a bhaint as a gcuid Gaeilge agus cabhraíonn sé go mór le scrúdú béil a bhíonn le déanamh.



TY Fundraising



Mindspace



Pastoral Care Organisation

Ballinrobe Community School provides a Pastoral Care System which meets the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well being of the students. It does this by:

- Directing the students in matters relating to social behaviour such as self-discipline, respect and sensitivity to others.
- Helping the students in problem solving and decision making.
- Nurturing of self-esteem.
- Maintaining a caring environment.
- Counselling students in matters relating to their lives.

Each group is assigned a Year Head who takes a direct interest in the welfare of each student in that year.

The role of the Year Head is:

- Meeting parents/students by appointment.
- Taking responsibility for promoting the positive aspects of good discipline and behaviour.
- Co-ordinating general files for students and keeping student records.
- Consulting with the Principal and Deputy Principal about any serious problems when they arise.

The Team of Year Heads, the Chaplain and Counsellor have a scheduled weekly meeting with the Principal and Deputy Principal where disciplinary and other issues are discussed. Matters of immediate concern to Year Heads can be brought to the attention of the Principal or Deputy Principal on a daily basis.

Pastoral Care/Discipline

The Care Team

The Care Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Chaplain, Guidance Counsellor and Year Heads. The Care Team is there to provide sustained assistance to students who may be experiencing difficulties of a personal/emotional nature. The Team have a scheduled weekly meeting where students concerns/issues are discussed.

Discipline

Our Code of Behaviour is a very structured, integrated system and is firmly rooted in mutual respect, justice, the common good and concern for health and safety. It is reviewed regularly by the Board of Management. At its core is the acceptance that students have the right to an education free from disturbance, intimidation or coercion, and that staff have the right to impart this education free from intimidation or disturbance. Acceptance of this approach to discipline by students, parents and teachers creates an ideal environment for the imparting of knowledge, a growth in self-confidence and respect for one another.

A detailed account of the Disciplinary System is provided to all students at the start of the school year and to parents of prospective students at enrolment nights.



*“ Education is not
preparation for
life; education is
life itself. ”*

*“ Wisdom comes not from age,
but from education and learning ”*

Ballinrobe Community School

*“ Education should consist of a series of enchantments,
each raising the individual to a higher level of awareness,
understanding, and kinship with
all living things. ”*