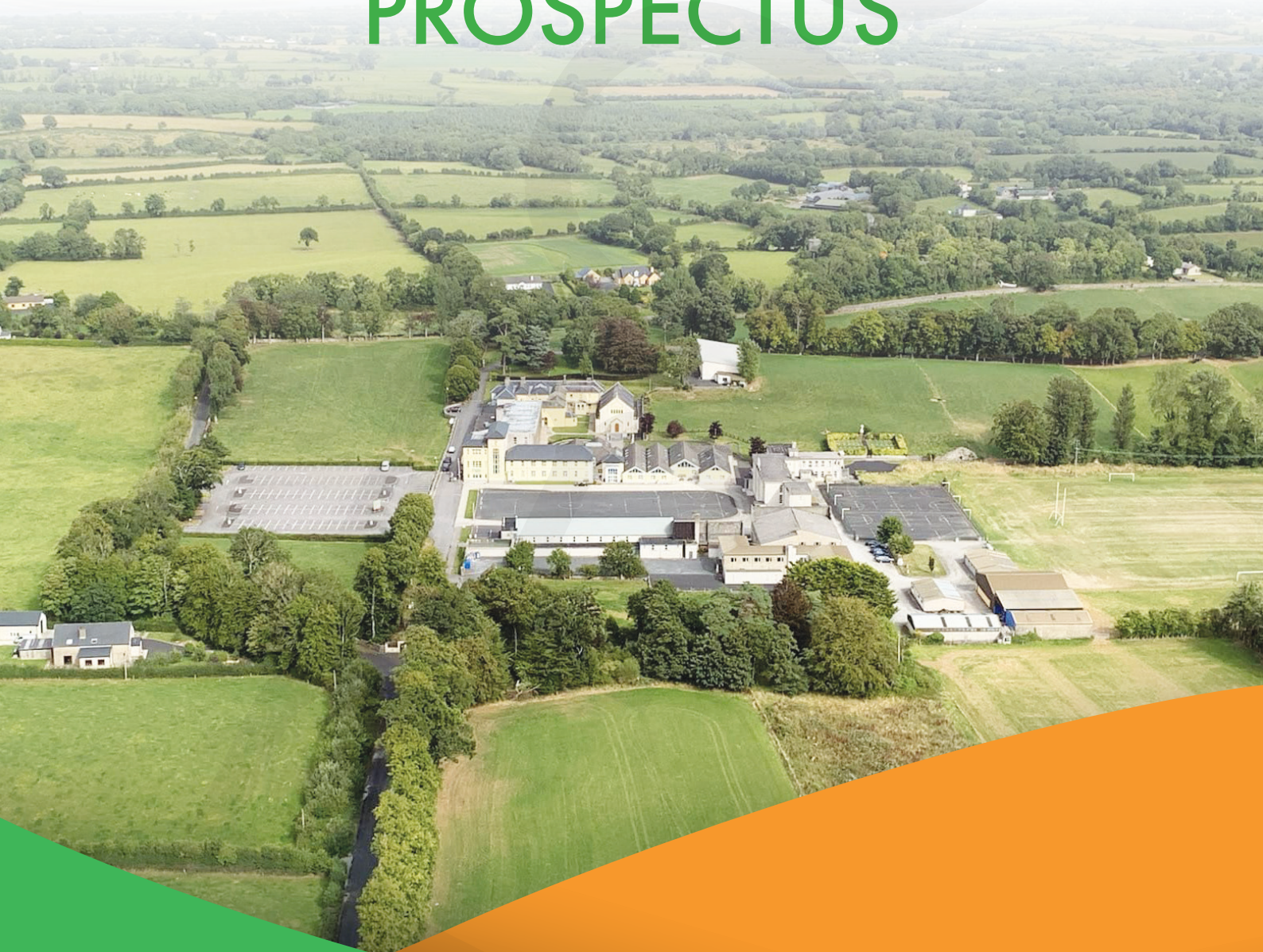




SALESIAN SECONDARY COLLEGE PROSPECTUS





Copeswood, Pallaskenry, Ireland
7th May, 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome to Salesian Secondary College, a co-educational, Catholic secondary school for 12 to 19 year old learners, set on nearly 500 acres of magnificent farmland. Our school is located mere moments from the N69, in the beautiful, rolling countryside of Pallaskenry, Co. Limerick. Only 15 minutes from the Dock Road roundabout in Limerick City, we attract students from the city, the immediate locality of Pallaskenry, Clarina and Kildimo, and from Shanagolden, Askeaton, Foynes, Ballysteen, Adare, Patrickswell, Kilcornan, Mungret, Dooradoyle, Crecora and Raheen. We are a proud Limerick school! Students of all abilities and faiths choose our school because of our reputation for providing an ambitious and successful teaching and learning environment in a caring, secure, supportive ethos.

Our Salesian heritage is the cornerstone of our work with your sons and daughters. The founder of the Salesian Order, St. John Bosco, was a young man when he arrived in Turin in the early 1800s and found young people, struggling to be heard and to find direction. His enduring message to us, as teachers, is to create a school of reason, religion and loving kindness and to place young people at the heart of all we do. He asked us to create a safe community, that reflects four distinct places of belonging for the young: the family, the church, the school and the playground. He tells us that your sons and daughters are to be celebrated and encouraged, so that they can reach their emotional, spiritual, learning and physical potential, experience joy and become good Christians and honest citizens.

We have a committed, creative and expert teaching and support staff, who strive to make the learning process enjoyable and appropriately challenging for all students. We offer a diverse curriculum of academic, practical and pastoral subjects. We are continually developing as a school and constantly learning from each other and from our young people. In this way, we stay current and innovative in our efforts to provide the best education possible for your child.

We want your child, and your whole family, to feel part of the Salesian story and we invite you to feel part of the Salesian story and, together with Deputy Principals Mr. Mike Lavan and Mr. David Ryan, I invite you to explore our school through this prospectus or by logging on to our school website and social media pages, to keep up to date with all that happens in our busy school. You are all welcome to share in the Salesian journey with us in Pallaskenry.

Keith O'Rahilly
Principal

Modern, Progressive, Innovative

Our school was founded by the Salesian Order of Don Bosco in 1919. We have been on this Copsewood campus for over 100 years.

We have a record of excellence based on the following:

- A safe, welcoming environment with open space, landscaped gardens, pitches, lawns, central quadrangle, protected structures and an historic Community house, located in an idyllic rural surround
- Close proximity to the western suburbs of Limerick City and a comprehensive school transport system from around the county and city
- A strong Catholic / Christian ethos, which promotes the values of respect for self and others, which is student-centered and based on the preventive model espoused by Don Bosco, our founder
- A reputation for being leaders among schools in the midwest region in the development of innovative teaching and learning initiatives
- A tradition of excellence in academic achievement, persistently achieving above national averages in Leaving Certificate results
- A reputation for providing outstanding supports for the exceptionally able student, as well as for the , vulnerable learner
- An enthusiastic, dedicated and expert teaching and support staff, who buy in to our Salesian ethos and are committed to continual, personal and professional development over the course of their career
- A comprehensive curriculum across 5 or 6 years, with 20 option subjects available for Leaving Certificate
- A suite of specialist classrooms in the following areas: Art, Home Economics, Materials Technology (Wood), Graphics, Music, Religion, Science Laboratories, Information Technology, Media and Broadcasting, Digital Media and Manufacturing and Career Guidance
- Designated outdoor teaching and performance space in our "Cruinniú"
- Approval for an additional state of the art new building of specialist and general classroom space, currently in planning
- A technologically advanced school – fully networked throughout, with ready access to online learning for all learners, where appropriate
- An extraordinary extra-curricular programme, encompassing a diversity of cultural and sporting activities, with something for everyone to enjoy
- A uniquely warm atmosphere, where teachers establish a rapport and provide personal care and attention to each student, so that each is known as an individual with talents and strengths
- A designated Career Guidance service, preparing students for lifelong learning and identifying clear pathways to further education and career development
- A dedicated Pastoral Care Team, providing a listening ear and guidance to students throughout their school life
- An excellent relationship with all our partners in education: students, parents / guardians, Board of Management, Trustees and the wider community
- A carefully planned programme of 1st Year induction, enabling a managed transition from primary school to secondary school
- Regular, appropriate communication with parents / guardians through social media and our school app
- Carefully considered school policy, drafted collaboratively, which places young people "at the heart of everything we do"
- Supervised after-school study
- An online attendance and payments facility for parents / guardians

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"Salesian education means a lot to me. But mainly it's the fact that I look forward to going to school every day so I can have a laugh and bond with my friends through every aspect of the Salesian life including in class, sport, trips abroad, lunchtime and much more!"

Ethan, 3rd Year

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CURRICULUM

Our school offers a six-year post primary education – three years junior cycle and three years senior cycle. Transition year within the senior cycle is optional. We offer a comprehensive range of subjects to our students in both cycles, subject to minimum numbers in option subjects.

Junior Cycle

The Junior Cycle framework concentrates on the building of key life skills in young adolescents, to prepare them for their lives as young and growing adults in the senior cycle and after Leaving Certificate. These skills are developed in each learner across a wide range of subjects. Students are formally assessed throughout 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year through CBAs and ATs (Classroom Based Assessments and Assessment Tasks) and they take final, formal written examinations at the end of 3rd Year. The Junior Certificate Profile of Achievement brings together these elements of assessment and reports on Other Areas of Learning. The Certificate is rewarded by the State Examinations Commission. Our Junior Certificate students study a combination of core subjects, short courses, optional subjects and non-exam subjects, keeping them busy and providing a focus during the often challenging years of early adolescence.

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“I like the way the school is on a farm and we get to see the animals and machinery. The teachers are young, nice, and funny and they understand the students. The teachers take the time to get to know each and every student for who they are and what they like to do.” - Tim, SSC 1st Year -

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Transition Year

Transition Year is an optional programme possible for post-Junior Certificate students, following interview. The focus of the year is on providing students with a wide educational experience and a balance between academic and practical studies. It provides an extra year of growing up and encourages personal and social development. The programme provides opportunities for the development of our students' confidence, independence, communication, leadership, maturity and team skills. The programme challenges students to step out of their comfort zones into new areas of experience, learning and friendship.

The Salesian Secondary College TY Programme offers guidance and taster courses in all our Leaving Certificate subjects, enabling students to make informed choices for their senior years. The programme is modified annually, according to student and staff interests. In recent years, we have offered courses in Film, Philosophy, Craft, Electronics, Dance, Games, Sport Leadership, Young Scientist, Gaisce, Debating, Life Skills, Safe Food, Nutrition, Hair and Beauty, Design, fully utilising the talents, interests, training and expertise of our wonderful teaching staff.

TY offers the perfect opportunity for our most ambitious and our most vulnerable students to get extra support, as they prepare for the challenge of Leaving Certificate and life after school.

"There is such a sense of community in our school and that is what makes it so different from other schools. Everyone is so positive, helpful and caring towards one another."

Erin, 6th Year

"I think something that sets our school aside is, while our teachers care about our education and push us to always do the best we can, the most important thing is our wellbeing. I feel like I am cared about as much as my results by the teachers and staff in school."

Saidhbh, Transition Year

Senior Cycle

Our Leaving Certificate results beat national averages year on year. Thanks to expert teaching and our teachers' unfailing belief in our students, our ambitious LC candidates are enabled to access highly demanded 3rd level courses of Medicine, Actuarial Science, Biomedical Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, Physiotherapy and Dentistry.

We also offer LCVP and LCA programmes in our school, there is potential for every student to achieve and we are proud of all our young graduates, as they move on to 3rd Level, apprenticeships and the workplace.



JUNIOR CYCLE

All students take:

- Irish (unless Dept. of Ed. exempt)
- English
- Mathematics
- Geography
- History
- Science

And these Short Courses:

- Civic, Social & Political Education
- Social, Personal and Health Education
- Physical Education

And these Non- Exam Subjects:

- Religious Education
- Computers

And choose 3 from:

- Business Studies
- Digital Media and Manufacturing
- French
- German
- Graphics
- Home Economics
- Materials Technology (Wood)
- Music
- Spanish
- Visual Art

SENIOR CYCLE

All students take:

- Irish (unless Dept. of Ed. exempt)
- English
- Mathematics

And these Non- Exam Subjects:

- Religious Education
- Social, Personal and Health Education
- Guidance
- Physical Education

And choose 4 from:

- Accounting
- Agricultural Science
- Applied Mathematics
- Art, Craft & Design
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Construction Studies
- Design & Communications Graphics
- French
- Geography
- German
- History
- Home Economics
- Music
- Physics
- Politics and Society
- Spanish
- World of Work (LCVP Module)

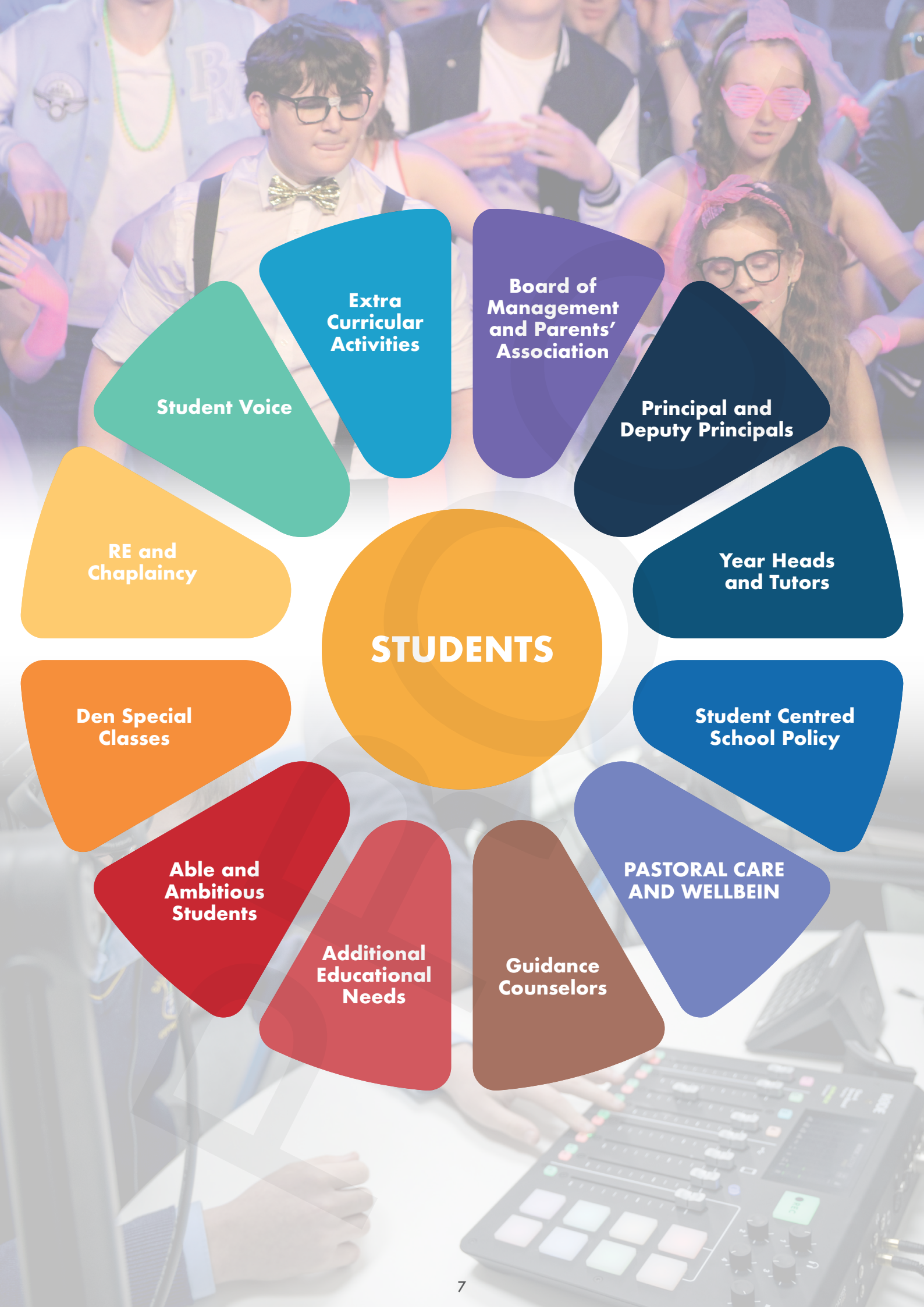
Classes are BANDED or of MIXED ABILITY; we never stream students in Salesian Secondary College. Irish, English and Maths may be arranged into Higher and Ordinary level classes after 1st Year, depending on student need.

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“Don Bosco gave a voice to those who felt they had none. It has been my experience in the fourteen years that I have been in Copsewood that some of the most challenging students are often the kindest. They generally feel deeply frustrated and misunderstood so they especially deserve our compassion, kindness and forgiveness. All students deserve this”.

SSC Teacher

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STUDENTS

**Extra
Curricular
Activities**

**Board of
Management
and Parents'
Association**

**Principal and
Deputy Principals**

**Year Heads
and Tutors**

**Student Centred
School Policy**

**PASTORAL CARE
AND WELLBEIN**

**Guidance
Counselors**

**Additional
Educational
Needs**

**Able and
Ambitious
Students**

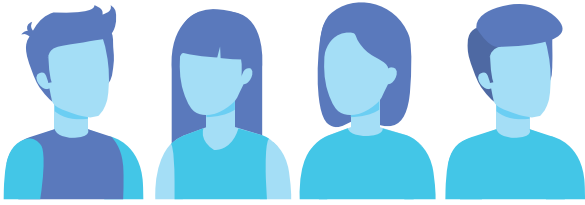
**Den Special
Classes**

**RE and
Chaplaincy**

Student Voice

SCHOOL ORGANISATION

Salesian Secondary College is a Catholic school, which aspires to bring about the full development of all its members in the Salesian tradition. Don Bosco's preventive system of education places the young person at the heart of all that we do. We encourage all our students to develop the necessary skills and talents that will enable them to reach their emotional, learning and spiritual potential, to live life to the full in pursuit of their dreams.



Management of Behaviour

Our Code of Behaviour exists to outline positive behaviour which is encouraged and negative behaviour which is discouraged. The Code is based on fairness and due process, giving all students a chance to come out of difficult situations with dignity. Positive behaviour is encouraged and rewarded through the Don Bosco Merit System. The Code is available on our website.



Anti-Bullying School

In line with Bí Cineálta, our school has a ratified Anti-Bullying Policy, supported by a Student Anti-Bullying Charter. We actively promote positive relationships by encouraging all students to treat one another with respect and kindness. Our Acceptable Usage Policy further emphasises the responsibility of every member of the school community to live out Bí Cineálta by behaving with kindness and care, both in person and online.



Care of your Child

Overall care of each year group is coordinated by a Year Head. Within the year group, each class has a specific teacher assigned to it as a Class Tutor. Our Pastoral Care Team's listening service is available to all students. In addition, students are invited to speak with our Guidance Counsellors', Chaplains, Adult Mentors, Student "Ceangail" Leaders or any trusted teacher, if they have struggles. Our SNA team, Additional Needs team, Den staff and Able Students' Committee are also available and there to help. We strive to ensure that no student is anonymous and that every child feels a sense of belonging to our school.



Parents as Partners

Regular contact with parents / guardians is maintained. Parents and guardians are encouraged to become involved in our Parents' Association and the many events organised by that group. Please keep your contact details up to date in the office.

Communication is via:

- Our school App: for alerts, reminders, news items and payments
- Our VSWare database: for assessment reports, timetable and attendance
- Email: every student has a Salesian College email address
- Google Classroom
- Our social media platforms: Facebook, Twitter, school Instagram pages
- Phone calls and in-person meetings, as necessary
- Text messages
- Parent Teacher meetings
- Parent Information evenings
- Customised student journal

Additional Educational Needs

Students learn in different ways. The care of students with additional educational needs rests with the class teacher primarily. The work of the classroom teacher is supported by SNAs and Resource Teachers. Team teaching, resource teaching, small class sizes, learning support, assistive technology and differentiation are provided for students where need is identified and resources allow. Students are assessed early in 1st Year and vulnerable learners are identified and supported appropriately.



Homework Assessment and Work Ethic

Students are assessed fairly and on a continuous basis (at the end of a period of learning). Formal examination takes place periodically. Full reports on academic progress in each subject are made available through VSWare. Supervised study is run each evening after school for a nominal charge. Study is supervised by our own teachers and an atmosphere conducive to study in the school is maintained.

Sport

Staff members volunteer to mentor and train students in a variety of sports and games. Our excellent facilities include:

- Changing rooms
- Exercise hall
- Two all-weather hardcore playing areas
- Four tennis courts
- Two astroturfed handball / hurling alleys
- Six basketball courts
- Four football and hurling pitches



The school has representative teams in the following National, Munster and County Competitions:

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|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| • Gaelic Football | • Athletics | • Basketball |
| • Hurling | • Horse Riding | • Orienteering |
| • Camogie | • Athletics | • Sailing |
| • Soccer | • Rugby | • Rowing |



The Den

The Den is a highly specialised unit within our mainstream school, which is open (numbers permitting) to students who have a recommendation for an ASD Special Class Place. The Den's aim is to offer appropriate learning experiences for students with ASD in a differentiated setting, according to priority of need. Our 3 class unit caters for a maximum of 18 students, ranging from 1st to 6th Year. A team of teachers, and up to 9 SNAs, provide a tailor made programme for learners. Admission to the Den is only possible if numbers allow and if the admissions criteria, outlined in our Admissions and Enrolment Policies, are met. Please see all relevant documentation on our website and consult your Primary School's SENO for advice.



Food Service

Students have access to a modern canteen service which provides hot and cold meal options at discounted prices during Breaktime and Lunchtime.

Other Extra-Curricular Activities

As well as our extensive sports programme, staff offer many other activities which help in the development of skills and talents of our students. Some of these activities include:

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Choir | • Debating and public speaking |
| • Musical ensembles | • Robotics Club |
| • Traditional Music | • St. Vincent de Paul |
| • Crafts | • Gaisce |
| • Youth Leadership | • Student Council |
| • Student Mentoring | • Young Scientist |
| • Student Council | • Foreign trips and exchanges |
| • Junk Kouture | |
| • Games Room | |

Voices of the Community

"Salesian Secondary College sets itself apart from other schools by providing an atmosphere that personally accounts for every student. No one is left in the dark and it is an outstanding facilitative environment that all schools should adopt."
Bayan, 6th Year

"I think that as we are part of the Salesian community the morale is normally a good one. There is always a good vibe around the school."
Josh, 2nd Year

"Salesian Secondary College is different because of the sense of belonging when you walk in the front door of the school."
Billy, 2nd Year

"What does a Salesian education mean to me? Having a good education and good grades so I can be someone good in the future. Doing well in school so when I am older, I can say I went to Salesian Secondary College."
Amy, 2nd Year

"A Salesian education means that I get to learn in an environment where I am surrounded by my friends. All my teachers will help me achieve the most that I can and encourage me to work to the best of my ability."
Amy, Transition Year

"Salesian College education gives me a great opportunity of going forward in life whatever it may be that I want to achieve in life."
Tyrique, 1st Year

"There is one clear thing I have seen that makes Salesian Secondary College different from other schools and that is the relationship between staff and students. Many schools have strict rules for small things but in our school, teachers understand and listen to students and see us as people rather than numbers on the roll."
Adam, 6th Year

See further testimonials here.





“For me the four elements of Don Bosco’s aspiration are equally important. The ‘Family’ represents the sense of belonging of all the students and staff. The ‘School’ represents teaching and learning for life. The ‘Church’ incorporates spirituality and morality. The ‘Playground’ brings in the elements of fun and happiness.”

SSC Special Needs Assistant and Parent.

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