



ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

prospectus

KILTIMAGH, CO. MAYO





MISSION STATEMENT

*The ethos of St Louis Community School
is rooted in the local Christian cultural
traditions under the Deed of Trust.*

The school is co-educational and is open to students of Post Primary age.

Our aims are:

- to provide students with an education that has a sound academic and practical content
- to foster human and spiritual values which will equip students for a full and mature life
- to develop opportunities for students to realize their individual potential and to develop their sense of personal worth
- to develop the physical, intellectual, moral and emotional well-being of our students
- to develop teaching and learning aimed at good academic achievement
- to make reasonable provision for students with special needs
- to foster a sense of community within the school
- to have an open policy of education for the community and to provide in as far as possible for this
- to provide reasonable opportunities for the personal and professional development of our staff

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Phone : (094) 9381228 Fax : (094) 9381661 E-Mail : admin@stlouiscs.com Web : www.stlouiscs.com



Dear Incoming Student

You are very welcome to St Louis Community School, a school where all of our students are cherished equally and assisted in their efforts to achieve their academic and personal goals.

The school staff are very experienced in dealing with students' questions and possible worries when moving into a large school and help to make the transition from primary school as easy as possible.

As well as our high academic achievements, St. Louis Community School is noted for the care of all of our students. We have a comprehensive Special Educational Needs programme that ensures that all our students are given the opportunity to develop their skills and become active participants in the life of our school.

The school's modern sports facilities cater for gaelic football, soccer, basketball, volleyball, indoor football, athletics, the performing arts and much more.

The School cafeteria offers wholesome hot/cold food and drinks at very reasonable prices.

The school provides study time of two hours each evening from 4 - 6pm, Monday to Friday. There is a room available in the morning for students who arrive early to school. Our philosophy is to help students maximise their study time during school hours so that more time is available at home for further study.

In St. Louis you will therefore experience everything that is good in school life, ranging from academic subjects, practical subjects, sport, the arts, music and all this in an environment that places great value on pastoral care. You will be part of an innovative, forward thinking school which will help you reach your potential.

Finally, you are likely to be one of the school's many students who go on to be successful in third level colleges in a few short years.

We hope you will make the best of your time here.

On behalf of all of us in St. Louis, we extend our best wishes to you as you begin life in secondary school.

Mr Cahil Doherty
(Principal)



Ms Finola Lyons
(Deputy Principal)

JUNIOR CURRICULUM

CORE EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

Religion, Irish, English, Mathematics, History, Geography, CSPE.

CORE NON EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

Physical Education, Sport, Career Guidance, Computing, SPHE, Choir, Orchestral Performance.

OPTIONAL

French, German, Spanish, Science, Business Studies, Music.

Home Economics, Wood Technology, Metal Technology, Technology, Technical Graphics, Art.



ART ROOM



SCIENCE LAB



HOME ECONOMICS ROOM

ACADEMIC SUBJECTS

A European Language is essential for Arts Degrees in many universities. If your child is reasonably good at Mathematics, interested in nature, in discovering the way things work and in the materials that go to make them, Science may be a good choice. Business Studies may be chosen if your child is organized, accurate with figures and you feel there is a possibility that he or she will study Accountancy, Business or Finance.

PRACTICAL SUBJECTS

St Louis Community School offers a wide range of practical subjects. These include:

Junior Certificate

- Art • Home Economics • Materials Technology Metal
- Materials Technology Wood • Technology
- Technical Graphics

Leaving Certificate/Leaving Certificate Applied

- Art • Engineering • Home Economics • Construction Studies
- Design and Communication Graphics

All of the above subjects are offered to both male and female students and each department promotes and encourages a gender balance within their subject areas. The school has state of the art resources and equipment in all subject departments. Students develop many skills, such as creativity, visualisation, experimentation, group work, team building, design and make etc., related to each subject area which are essential to everyday situations. As part of each curriculum students must complete practical based projects which have many learning outcomes such as research and development, realisation and self achievement. To coincide with the practical

elements there are also theoretical elements that reinforce the learning outcomes. It is important that students apply themselves to both theory and practical in order to achieve their maximum potential. At the end of each course both elements are examined by the State Examinations Commission.

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER WHEN CHOOSING OPTIONAL SUBJECTS.

- Does my child like writing?
- Does my child like reading?
- Does my child enjoy answering questions on a text?
- Is my child interested in the mechanics of how things work?
- Does my child like problem solving?
- Does my child like working with their hands?
- Does my child explain using diagrams rather than text?

Having considered these questions, you may be in a better position to advise your child on subject choice.

CAREER GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Careers Guidance and Counselling are available to all students in the school. The aim is to support all students in the challenging decisions which face them regarding subject choices, relationships with teachers & peers, career paths, study skills and general personal development. The Guidance Counsellor has special training which enables her to support students in the personal, social, educational and career development of students. The Guidance Counsellor is trained in the use of psychometric and personality testing. Class activities focus on personal development, self awareness and subject choice at Junior Level, while the senior Cycle focus on subject choice, career planning and personal development.

CHOOSING SUBJECTS

The Subjects chosen in the first year will influence the areas of study that the student will follow in the future. Give some time to considering with your child his or her subject choices. Ask the advice of your child's primary teacher. Their primary teacher can speak from experience and is also in a good position to know your child's strengths and preferences. Students study seven core subjects and four optional subjects for Junior Certificate. All universities now accept students into Science and Engineering Degrees without a language. The following table shows how Junior Certificate optional subjects lead to Leaving Certificate Studies and beyond.

Junior Certificate Subjects	Leaving Certificate Subjects	THIRD LEVEL DIRECTION
Modern European Languages , E.G. French, German and Spanish. (Subject to student numbers)	Modern European Languages, French, German and Spanish. (Subject to student numbers)	Arts Degree subjects. A third language is essential for entry to most courses in the National University Colleges, NUI, UCD, UCC and Maynooth. A third language is no longer required for entry into Science and Engineering Degrees in NUI Colleges.
Science	Biology Physics Chemistry Agricultural Science	Science Degrees, Engineering, Medicine, Veterinary, Pharmacology, Dentistry, Agricultural Degrees, Nursing, Radiography, Physiotherapy.
Business Studies and Computers	Business Organisation Accounting	Commerce and Finance Degrees, Business Studies, Office Information, Banking, Accountancy.
Technology		I.T. courses, apprenticeships related to the Leaving Certificate choice.
Home Economics	Home Economics	Teacher of Home Economics, Catering and Tourism Courses, Social Studies Course, Food Technology, Nursing.
Wood Technology	Construction Studies	I.T. courses, and other third level courses related to Construction and Wood Apprenticeships.
Metal Technology	Engineering Studies	I.T. and University Engineering courses and apprenticeships related to electronics, metal fabrication, plastics etc.
Art	Art	Courses in Art, Design, Advertising, Textiles, Architecture and Video, Film and T.V. Production.
Music	Music	Teacher of Music, Music Performance, the Music Industry.
Design and Communication Graphics	Design and Communication Graphics	Graphics, Engineering, Architecture.

SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

There is a policy of integration and inclusion of all. The school provides a comprehensive special needs programme with a number of special needs assistants being employed. The special needs department liaises with the DES, the psychological services and all relevant outside agencies in order to maximise the potential of all students.

THE SCIENCE SUBJECTS



There are three fully equipped Science Laboratories in St. Louis Community School along with a Demonstration/Lecture Room.

Each of the Science Laboratories is specially equipped for the teaching of the four areas of Science: Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Agricultural Science. These modern laboratories are fully stocked with all the necessary science equipment to encourage students to develop an interest in the various science subjects.

Student participation in practical activities helps foster observation, evaluation skills, interpretation and understanding of data. This helps students acquire scientific knowledge and appreciation of the everyday application of science.

Students who study Science participate in Science Quizzes and Competitions during the school year.

Science education is enhanced by the use of Computers, Data-logging Equipment, Internet, CD's, Video and many other resource materials.

The Science Subjects are an optional choice at both the Junior and Senior levels. Senior students are able to study all four areas of Science to Leaving Certificate Level.

Students also study environmental issues through outdoor practical activities. Working together in organised groups raises health and safety issues and encourages a responsible approach among students to the activities being carried out. There is a maximum number of twenty four students per practical class for safety reasons.

TEACHING OF SCIENCE

Both higher and ordinary levels are taught in the same class with the additional subject matter for higher-level students outlined to them.

Each laboratory is used to its optimum potential for the teaching of Science. Some theory classes may take place in the Demonstration Room or in general classrooms.

A common syllabus is taught in years one and two of Junior Cycle Science. In year three classes are divided into higher and ordinary levels. Students who wish to continue studying a Science subject at Senior Cycle are permitted and encouraged to study Physics, Chemistry, Biology or Agricultural Science for their final examinations.

Junior Certificate Science

Each year group studies four classes of Science per week. (One double class, and two single class periods). This is a three year programme.

Leaving Certificate Sciences:

Each year group studies five classes of Biology/Chemistry/Physics/Agricultural Science per week. (One double class, and three single class periods). These are all two year programmes.

THE JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME JCSP

The Junior Certificate School Programme is a literacy and numeracy strategy using specially developed materials to raise literacy and numeracy levels. The school has a development plan which encompasses short term interventions and fosters a reading culture throughout the school. The strategy strives to be sensitive to the social and cultural context of the students, parents and teachers in the school. The JCSP has been devised by the Curriculum Development Unit and is Department of Education and Science accredited. It ensures that no child leaves St Louis Community School without National Certification.



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

St. Louis Community School has the most modern IT facilities in the country ensuring that every student will have the opportunity to achieve computer and internet literacy and be equipped for full participation in the information society before they leave our school. All rooms in the school are now networked with broadband access and equipped with data projectors and interactive whiteboards. We have three fully equipped Computer Laboratories, a fully equipped CAD room and a Multimedia/ language Suite. ECDL is available at ordinary and advanced levels and students also have the opportunity to sit Microsoft Office Specialist exams at core and expert levels. We also have a wide range of software to assist our students with special needs. Technology in the classroom has transformed the way we teach and the way our students learn.

SENIOR CYCLE

There are four programmes in the Senior Cycle. Students may take a **Transition Year** or they may go directly into Leaving Certificate programmes where there are two distinct two year Leaving Certificate options - **Traditional Leaving Certificate** and **Leaving Certificate Applied**. Within the traditional Leaving Certificate is a special programme called the **Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme**.

Option 1 TRANSITION YEAR

This is the year after Junior Certificate, during which a student can take the opportunity to develop personally, develop skills and take a year out from the pressures of examinations and consider what path they wish to follow for the rest of their lives.

Advantages : Students' development is encouraged through sport, the arts, social action, critical thinking, various skills and teamwork. Core subjects are still essential elements of the Transition Year. Research has shown that those students who participate fully in Transition Year generally perform better in the Leaving Certificate and have less difficulty with the independent learning style required in third level institutions.

Option 2 TRADITIONAL LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Core examination subjects : Irish, English and Mathematics

Optional examination subjects:

ACADEMIC: History, Geography, French, German, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science, Business Organisation, Accounting, Music.

PRACTICAL: Home Economics, Construction Studies, Engineering, Design and Communication Graphics, Art and Technology.

Core non exam: Religion, Physical Education, Career Guidance, Computing and Sport.

EACH LEAVING CERTIFICATE STUDENT NORMALLY TAKES THREE CORE SUBJECTS PLUS FOUR OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Option 3 LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) is an intervention designed to enhance the vocational dimension of the Leaving Certificate.

Programme Requirements

- LCVP students must take a minimum of five Leaving Certificate subjects at Higher, Ordinary or Foundation Level including Irish.
- Their subjects must be selected from the list of the designated Vocational Subject Groupings.
- They must study the two link modules, namely **Preparation for the World of Work** and **Enterprise Education**.
- Students are required to follow a recognised course in a Modern European Language (other than Irish or English).

Students will benefit by:

Taking responsibility for their own learning; working as a member of a team or group; gaining knowledge of the world or work; learning about setting up and running enterprise activities and gaining skills such as analysis, research and IT skills that will benefit them at third level.

Option 4 LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED PROGRAMME (LCA)

Leaving Certificate Applied is an alternative to the traditional Leaving Certificate. It is a two year programme designed to suit students who do not like academic work or who find it difficult. Students who wish to pursue courses in IT Colleges can do so by taking a further year in a Post-Leaving Certificate course. The Course does not suit students who wish to go directly to University.

Features of Leaving Certificate Applied:

- each course is designed to last a half year
- a course is examined at the end of that half year and results are carried forward
- courses are built around projects, tasks and activities
- preparation for work and work experience
- the greater part of the marks are given for work done over the period in school

PE & SPORTS



JUNIOR BOYS GAELIC - CONNAGHT WINNERS



U-16 GIRLS BASKETBALL - ALL IRELAND WINNERS



U-16 BOYS BASKETBALL - ALL IRELAND WINNERS



SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL TEAM

St Louis Community School strongly promotes a healthy and active lifestyle for our students. Our modern sports campus (multi-purpose sports hall, astroturf, soccer and gaelic pitches and new fully equipped gym) facilitates a broad, inclusive PE programme.

All students are encouraged to take part in our excellent extra-curricular sports programme, with teams and individuals, under the guidance of our staff, excelling across a range of activities:

- ✓ Volleyball
- ✓ Basketball
- ✓ Gaelic Football
- ✓ Soccer
- ✓ Athletics
- ✓ Equestrian
- ✓ Table Tennis
- ✓ Futsal

There is something for everyone, so take the opportunity to try something new or strive to improve at your chosen sport. Boys and girls of all ages compete and enjoy regular success, with many of our students going on to compete at inter-county, inter-provincial and international level.

Transition Year and LCA students put their own coaching and leadership skills into practice, frequently organising tournaments for 1st and 2nd Years, varying from soccer and dodgeball, to bike obstacle course and iron-man competitions.



ASTRO TURF PITCH





ATHLETICS



WORKING OUT IN THE GYM



BICYCLE OBSTACLE COURSE IN GYM

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We encourage our students to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

OUR STUDENTS HAVE BEEN PARTICIPANTS IN:

- Mental Health Public Speaking Competition
- Concern Debating Competition
- Winners of "Engaging in Europe" Competition
- T G 4 Comórtas Fiseán
- Fibín Irish Drama Production
- Various Science one-day outings
- Irish Science Writers Competition-RDS
- Green Flag Project
- Bank of Ireland Student Achievement Awards
- Graduate online Civic Awareness competition

- CHESS** : Connaught Novice Champions.
Participants in Irish Schools Competition
- QUIZZES** : The school participates in all types of Quizzes
This year St Louis CS achieved 5th place in Trinity College Dublin in the National Senior Science Quiz.
The Annual Bayer Science Quiz – Senior Cycle Students
ISTA Science Quiz – Junior Cycle Students
Engineering/Science Quiz for Senior students
- MINI COMPANYY:** The school enters competitions in this area most notably the school enterprise development day
- ART:** : Local and National Competitions. Dress Design
- MUSIC** : Musicals, Choirs, Concerts, Ensemble, Performances, Violin, Guitar and other Musical Instrument lessons are all part of the school programme.
The school has produced a very successful CD of Christmas Carols called "Christmas in St Louis"
- DRAMA** : Students are encouraged to develop their skills through drama workshops /production/ theatre attendance.
- EQUESTRIAN** : In 2009 the school participated in the Hoofprints Interschool's Showjumping League
- FUNDRAISING** : Students are encouraged to think of the needs of the Third World and there is a long tradition of fund raising for Third World Projects e.g. Bothar, Concern etc as well as fund raising for local charities.



ENTERPRISE GROUP



ENTERPRISE WINNERS

PARENT-SCHOOL CONTACT AND PASTORAL CARE

Parents/Guardians play a very important role in the life of the school. Parent - teacher meetings take place once a year for each year group. These are vital contacts between the home and school and between parents and teachers. Parents should make attendance at these meetings a priority.

Other meetings are organised at various times for particular groups.

Full school reports are posted to parents/guardians twice a year. If parents/guardians are concerned at any time about their child's progress, they may contact the Principal who will discuss the matter with them and get a special report from the student's teachers.

If a parent/guardian wishes to meet a child's subject teacher(s) the parent/guardian should make an appointment through the Principal.

Parents/Guardians who are experiencing difficulty paying for books, examinations or other school related costs may contact the Principal to discuss the matter.

Letters are a very important means of communication between the school and home. We send letters via students regularly and ask for a completed reply slip. If we do not receive the reply slip we have no guarantee that parents/guardians have received the letter. The school also has a text messaging service and in this regard it is essential that the school has an up to date contact number and notified of any changes thereafter.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS GUIDELINES

Senior students may leave school during lunch break provided they have the written consent of their parents/guardians. Otherwise no student may leave the school grounds at any time during the school day.

Regular attendance is essential. Students should not miss school except in the case of illness. In rare instances where parents/guardians require children to be absent from school for a part of a day, for example, a medical or dental appointment the parents/guardians should contact the school beforehand and sign the student out. If a student returns to school, the parent/guardian must accompany the student to the office and sign him/her in. Students who are late for class 1 or class 7 must sign the Late Book in the office and present their stamped journal to the subject teacher. A student who arrives late for school must have a note explaining the lateness. A student who is absent from school for any reason must have a note explaining the absence. The note must be signed by a parent/guardian. The note is handed to the teacher who takes registration the day the student returns.

PASTORAL CARE

Each class has a Class Tutor who takes a general interest in the welfare of the students in the class. Each year group has a Year Head who also takes a general interest in the welfare of the students in the year group. The Year Head attends to the general discipline of the students and to their attendance.

The Guidance Counsellor is available to discuss any problem that a student might have. In addition to giving advice the Guidance Counsellor advises on subject choice and career matters. The Guidance Counsellor is also available to meet parents/guardians by appointment.

The Chaplain is always available to students or parents/guardians to discuss any issues they may wish to discuss.

The Principal or Deputy-Principal are always available to students and parents/guardians.

It is important to make an appointment when a parent/guardian wishes to meet with a member of staff. If an appointment is not made, one should understand that there may be a long wait or that the person that they wish to see is not available at all on the day.

Students are not allowed to receive phone calls or to make phone calls except for calls home by express permission of the Year Head, Deputy Principal or Principal. Except in cases of emergency, telephone messages cannot be transmitted to students.

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

There is a full-time chaplain in the school who works with other staff members in implementing the Pastoral Care policy of the school. The chaplain meets as many students as possible in the course of a school year and is always available to students and parents/guardians to discuss any issues of concern to them. The chaplain will also give substantial personal attention to students or families in times of difficulty.

SCHOOL BOOKS

The school operates a book rental scheme for junior students. Books may be rented on payment of €25 deposit + €75 rental p.a. The deposit of €75 is refunded on return of the books in a satisfactory condition after Junior Cert. Work-books and tables must always be purchased by the student. School books must be cared for and all books must be covered at the beginning of the school year. Rented books must be covered immediately on receiving them. Rented books that are not covered may be withdrawn. Books that are damaged must be paid for. There is no rental scheme at senior level. The Principal should be contacted if a family has difficulty with this fee.



PROPERTY

Any student who damages or destroys school property is responsible for the cost of repair or replacement.

Each student is responsible for his/her own property, books, clothes, etc. Large sums of money or personal items of value should not normally be taken into school. If students have valuables we ask them to take the following simple safeguards:

- All valuables must be handed to the teacher for safe keeping at the start of every PE lesson.
- No money or valuables should be left in an unattended school bag or in a coat pocket when the garment is not being worn.
- Should there be a special reason for bringing large sums of money to school, these must be handed into the school office first thing in the morning and collected at the end of the day or when required.

All personal effects must be clearly and permanently marked.



STUDENT COUNCIL



SCHOOL PREFECTS



2011 COUNTY ENTERPRISE WINNERS



2010 COUNTY ENTERPRISE AWARD WINNERS



JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

UNIFORM

PRESCRIBED UNIFORM

All items of uniform prescribed below are available from Bea Wear, Kiltimagh.

In-coming First , Second and Third Year Boys September 2010

Dark Grey Shirt with collar turned down.

Wine Round Neck Jumper with school crest.

Dark Grey Uniform trousers.

Plain flat black shoes - Runners are not permitted.

Optional Item: Wine Uniform Fleece with school crest.

Incoming First, Second and Third Year Girls September 2010:

Navy v-neck uniform jumper with school crest.

Cream uniform cotton blouse worn with collar turned down.

Uniform **KNEE LENGTH**, check, pleated skirt or uniform navy trousers.

Navy tights or navy knee socks.

Plain flat black shoes (not ballet type). Runners, high heels, high platform shoes and wedge style shoes are not permitted.

Optional Item: Navy Uniform Fleece with school crest.

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Year Boys:

Blue Uniform Shirt worn with collar turned down.

Dark Grey Uniform Trousers.

Navy Uniform Jumper with school crest.

Plain flat black shoes – Runners are not permitted.

Optional Item: Navy Uniform Fleece with school crest.

Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Year Girls:

Bottle Green Uniform v-neck jumper with school crest.

Cream Uniform cotton blouse worn with collar turned down.

Uniform **KNEE LENGTH**, check, pleated skirt or uniform navy trousers.

Navy tights or navy knee socks.

Plain flat black shoes (not ballet type). Runners, high heels, high platform shoes and wedge style shoes are not permitted.

Optional Item: Green Uniform Fleece with school crest.

CLARIFICATIONS

1. A high standard of personal hygiene, cleanliness and neatness is expected
2. The wearing of jewellery, except a watch, is not permitted.
3. Make-up is not permitted.
4. No excuses other than a medical certificate will be accepted for non-uniform footwear.
5. Slitting of trouser side seams or wearing of frayed trouser-edges is not permitted.
6. T-shirts worn under shirts or blouses must not be visible.
7. Sweatshirts, polo-neck or hooded garments are not permitted.
8. Only the prescribed uniform fleeces may be worn in class.

The wearing of a school uniform has the support of the parents, teachers and the majority of the students in this school. It is therefore the intention of the school authorities that the school uniform policy will be strictly observed.

HOMework

Homework is an essential part of learning and an important aspect of a student's programme.

Homework helps students to develop study skills and self-discipline.

Homework, each evening, consists of the following:

- Revision of work done in class earlier in the day.
- Completion of work started in class and of exercises prescribed.
- Research into topics that are being studied.
It will rarely be valid for a student to say "I have no homework tonight."

Students must record their set homework in the Journals. Parents/Guardians must check their children's Journal. The Journal is frequently used by a teacher to notify parents/guardians about the quality of students' work and any issues that may arise in class.

SCHOOL STUDY ARRANGEMENTS

The school provides study time of two hours each evening from 4 - 6pm, Monday to Friday. There is a room available in the morning for students who arrive early to school. Our philosophy is to help students maximise their study time during school hours so that more time is available at home for further study.

SCHOOL CAFETERIA



STUDENTS' SCHOLARSHIPS

Students receiving Scholarships from
NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, GALWAY
and **UNIVERSITY OF LIMERICK (2009)**

A very high proportion of St. Louis students
proceed to Third Level Education.
Past pupils have received scholarships to
Trinity College, UCD, NUIG and UL.

Many students have benefitted from the school's links
to the Access Programme to Third Level Institutions.

Many of our students studying practical subjects
have been recognized in National Competitions.



LEARNING FOR LIFE IN ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL OF FURTHER EDUCATION

St. Louis Community School also provides a wide range of
POST LEAVING CERTIFICATE COURSES
Full course listings are available on line or through our offices.

ST. LOUIS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

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