



# MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL KILBEGGAN

*Do Chumas a Bhaint Amach*



**SCHOOL PROSPECTUS**

# WELCOME TO OUR SCHOOL

MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL, KILBEGGAN PROSPECTUS



Welcome to Mercy Secondary School, Kilbeggan. We are a co-educational Catholic school operating under the trusteeship of CEIST. Our school strives for each student to be happy and to realise their potential in an environment that is inclusive, caring and co-operative. All students from our multicultural society are embraced at our school and there is great respect and trust between all stakeholders in our school community. I thoroughly enjoy attending school and I look forward to walking through the doors each morning. Here, I have made lifelong memories, formed unbreakable bonds with friends, broadened my knowledge base and have been given the opportunity to grow as a person. In this prospectus we give you an overview of what school life is about here. If you require further information, please visit our school website or make contact with the school directly. I hope that you enjoy your time at Mercy Secondary School, Kilbeggan.

Faith McDermott, Senior Cycle Student



I would like to welcome all prospective incoming First Years and their parents to Mercy Secondary School, Kilbeggan. Our school is unique. It is not only a place for education, but a place for friendships, a place where there is respect for everybody, and a place where there is so much opportunity. Teachers and support staff contribute to this atmosphere and they so generous, approachable and enthusiastic. I have made and continue to make some unforgettable memories here. I successfully completed both the Junior Certificate and Transition Year; I have visited Lake Garda in Italy, I have represented the school within Leinster Golf competitions, and I have won a Leinster title as part of the Senior Boys Hurling Squad. The school has afforded me some amazing opportunities, and as my time here is drawing to a close, I am thankful for the journey. Those aforementioned opportunities and your individualised journey at Mercy Secondary School Kilbeggan awaits you!

Adam Cassidy, Senior Cycle Student

**Students described the school as a family and expressed themselves as feeling safe, cared for and happy in the school**

Whole School Evaluation Report





## **Kate Sinnamon** Ballinagore N.S.

I was excited to start in Mercy Kilbeggan and I enjoy getting the bus to school. Having different teachers for each subject is great and I really like Home Economics and Wood Technology, both of which are new subjects for me. I also made new friends in these subjects as they have similar interests to me. As a treat I order my lunch once a week and I have recently joined the Green Schools committee. I use my locker for all of my belongings and I got used to it and the school quick enough as I was assisted by the Sixth-Year Mentors.



## **Grace Dalton** Castletown Geoghegan N.S.

Primary and secondary school are different from each other but I have really enjoyed the change. Having different teachers in different classrooms for different subjects makes the day seem fast. I made a lot of new friends quickly and I have joined the Athletics club. The taster programme for subject sampling was good and Wood Technology is my favourite. The homework in secondary school is manageable and having a choice of snacks at the school shop is handy.



## **Eanna Cullen** Durrow N.S.

Mercy Kilbeggan has been great so far. There is a wide selection of subjects, activities and sports to choose from for First Year students. I have really enjoyed the taster programme as it has provided me with key subject information. There is something for everybody and there are lots of activity rooms. You are placed in classes with some of your old friends and you can quickly make some more new friends. I am really looking forward to representing the school on the Pitch & Putt Team.



## **Lorna Gaynor** Horseleap N.S.

There is no need to worry about joining Mercy Kilbeggan as you will settle in and get used to it fairly quickly. My class group colour is Green and I have made lots of new friends. It is nice not to be stuck in the same place all day as we move around the school a lot. Home Economics has been very enjoyable so far as have a lot of other subjects.



## **Faye Gorman** Loughnavalley N.S.

Secondary school is very different to primary school. It is much bigger, there is a lot going on and I am really enjoying it. The Sixth-Year mentors really helped me in the early stages, particularly with the lockers. It is nice to have different teachers for different subjects. French and Art have really stood out to me. There are three people from my primary school in my class group but I have found it easy to make new friends as there are a lot of people with the same interests as me. I have joined both choir and camogie.



## **Aoife McDonnell** Streamstown N.S.

Settling in at Mercy Kilbeggan has been easy, and I have made lots of new friends. Starting new subjects has been fun and I have learned a lot, thanks to the assistance of my teachers. Engineering and Music are my favourite subjects and I really enjoy moving between classes. I have joined the choir, orchestra and school soccer teams. I will also be joining the basketball, football and rugby teams. Sometimes I like to order my lunch and having a school shop is great.



## **Sam Lawrence** Additional Avenues

I was the only person from my primary school to come to secondary school in Mercy Kilbeggan. I really enjoy the school and moving from subject to subject. Wood Technology and Business Studies in particular have been great so far. There is lots to do here and I am going to join the basketball team. I have been able to settle in and I could find my way around after a few days.



## **Ally Fogerty** Boher N.S.

There is always something to do at Mercy Kilbeggan and I have really enjoyed my time here so far. The facilities are great and there is everything you could possibly need. I really like my classes and my classmates. My favourite subjects are Science and PE and having specialist teachers for each subject is a change. Joining clubs helps with making new friends and I like having the option of ordering lunch.



## **Bella Fornaciai** Dalystown N.S.

The space and facilities at Mercy Kilbeggan are brilliant. The school is large but once you get used to it, it is easy enough. I have a keen interest in Art, the Student Council and basketball. I love having a big locker as it can hold my Art folder, bag, and all my books. I like that you can mix with other students across all of the different subjects. This can promote friendships and helps you to build confidence. Don't be afraid to put yourself out there. Everyone is in the very same position as you start out.



## **Darren Corcoran** Dysart N.S.

The teachers and facilities in Mercy Kilbeggan are very good. Physical Education is my favourite subject and there is great equipment. I have selected Wood Technology which I also really enjoy. The school is great fun and I get on well with so many people. I would really recommend coming to school here.



## **Emma Donnelly** Kilbeggan N.S.

I love attending Mercy Kilbeggan. The new school is incredible. I have met so many nice people and continue to make new friendships. My favourite subject is Home Economics and this was a new subject for me. The teachers are so nice. They make it fun and they are really enthusiastic within their subject.



## **Mollie Daly** Rahugh N.S.

My favourite subjects are Geography and Art. Secondary school presents a big change, but you receive lots of help in the early stages, which helps you to find your way around. Moving classrooms provides mini-breaks throughout the day and the shop is very handy for snacks and ordering lunch. I like having a locker as you don't have to carry all of your stuff at once. You have to put into your bag what you need at the right times which improves your organisation. I have made tons of new friends from all First-Year class colours. We meet up at break and lunch times, and because I have joined the camogie and ladies' football, we can meet there too.



## **Will Casey** Tyrrellspass N.S.

I am really enjoying my time at Mercy Kilbeggan. I settled in quickly and there are lots of new subjects. I really enjoy Wood Technology and Mathematics. I love sport and I am a member of the school football and hurling teams. We also get the opportunity to play basketball on the indoor court at lunch time. The teachers here are friendly and having different teachers for different subjects is great.



## **Rimgaudas Pukys** Additional Avenues

I was the only student from my primary school to attend Mercy Kilbeggan. There is so much to like and I look forward to arriving each day. In First-Year you partake in a taster programme where you get to sample subjects. I got to choose subjects which I enjoyed and felt that I would be good at. I chose Engineering and Home Economics. It is really interesting moving around the entire school each day. I play First Year boys' soccer and basketball. Twice a week I use the shop to order my lunch and I enjoy getting the bus to school. I only knew 2 people before starting here, but I was able to engage with people early on and make new friends.

# OUR SCHOOL CURRICULUM

MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL, KILBEGGAN PROSPECTUS

## JUNIOR CYCLE

During the first three years, all students are prepared for the JCPA.

### Subjects Offered:

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- History
- Geography
- French
- German
- Science
- Business Studies
- Music
- Visual Art
- Graphics
- Home Economics
- Religion
- Wood Technology
- Engineering
- Wellbeing:
  - Physical Education
  - SPHE
  - CSPE
  - Digital Awareness

## SENIOR CYCLE

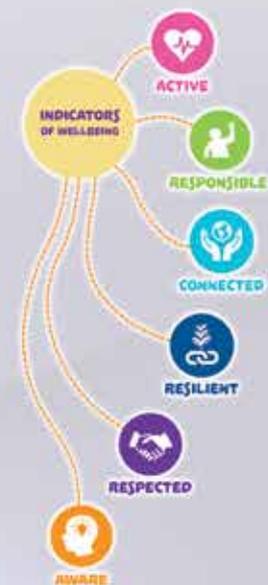
### Subjects Offered:

- Irish
- English
- Mathematics
- Applied Maths
- History
- Geography
- French
- German
- Accounting
- Business
- Music
- Art, Craft, Design
- Religion
- Agricultural Science
- Physics
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Home Economics
- Construction Studies
- Engineering
- Computer Science
- Design & Communication Graphics (DCG)
- Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE)
- Senior Cycle Physical Education (SCPE)
- LCVF

## TRANSITION YEAR

### Modules Offered:

- Irish Language & Culture
- Classical Studies
- Mathematics
- History
- Geography
- Art, Craft & Design
- Life Skills
- French
- German
- Accounting
- Business/Mini Company
- Physical Education
- Gaisce
- Future Leaders
- First Aid
- Foreign Trip
- Science/Young Scientist
- Computer Studies
- World of Science
- Junk Kouture
- Food Science
- Music/Choir
- Speech & Drama
- Technical Graphics
- Work Experience
- Woodwork
- Metalwork
- Home Economics
- Religion
- Road Safety
- Horticulture
- Careers
- Sign Language
- Wellbeing
- Pastoral Care
- Political Education
- Pilates



**The curriculum is both broad and balanced**

Whole School Evaluation Report



Our school believes that extra curricular activities and sports are central to each students personal development. Our selection includes:

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Debating
- Public Speaking
- Choir
- Musical Productions
- Talent/Fashion Shows
- Quiz Teams
- Educational Trips
- Adventure Trips
- Foreign Trips
- Student Council
- Book Club
- Academic Competitions
- Gaisce Awards
- Green Schools
- Board Games



## SPORTS

- Gaelic Football
- Hurling
- Camogie
- Soccer
- Basketball
- Rugby
- Badminton
- Lacrosse
- Hockey
- Pitch & Putt
- Golf
- Equestrian
- Volleyball
- Athletics
- Tennis
- Water Sports
- Gymnastics
- Ultimate Frisbee

**There is a commitment to providing a fully rounded educational experience in a caring and supportive environment**

Whole School Evaluation Report



## LEARNING SUPPORT

Our learning support department is devoted to providing academic assistance to students, when and where necessary, across subject domains. It strives to ensure that each student is provided with the best possible opportunity to achieve at their own respective level. The department has several contributing teachers.

## ASGARD

The aim of Asgard is to provide a holistic learning and caring environment which facilitates autistic students to reach their full educational potential. The teachers, support staff and parents are partners in the student's education. We place emphasis in areas of communication, daily living skills, social skills, literacy, numeracy and other areas like Art, History and Geography, where students can excel. Differentiation is an integral part of the learning environment and all students have an Individual Educational Plan.



**'Friendship is not a big thing...it's a million little things'**

## CAIRDEAS AGUS CINÉALTAS

Friendship and Kindness are two of the fundamental principles that guide the daily workings of our school and indeed the interactions between all those in our wider community. Acknowledging the importance of these ideals, our Transition Year students launched a new mentoring programme wherein they work with younger Asgard students, helping to guide their development while building lasting friendships along the way. The *'Cairdeas agus Cinéaltas'* programme recognises that students learn a great deal simply by observing and interacting with their peers and that the impact of a great mentor can be lifelong. To this end, students and mentors meet across the week throughout the academic year to enjoy mutual hobbies or interests, to help one another in their studies, and to learn many new skills.



## SCHOOL NUMBERS

Total: 693 Students

## BUS ROUTES & TIMES

- Routes, times and tickets organised by Bus Éireann

## EVENING STUDY

- Available to all students
- Monday–Thursday 4.00 to 6.00pm, Friday 1.30 to 3.30pm

## SCHOOL DAY

- 8.15am** School opens
- 8.55am** Students assemble outside classrooms
- 9.00am** Classes start. There are six one-hour classes each day
- 3.55pm** Classes finish. (Early finish **1.15pm** on Friday)

## BOOK RENTAL SCHEME

- Available to all students
- Helps defray the high cost of school books

## LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENT

- There is no permission to leave school for the Junior Cycle cohort. Senior Cycle students and students going to their own home are permitted to leave
- Subsidised healthy lunches available in school, order between 8.15am and 8.55am

## STUDENT COUNCIL

- Made up of representatives from each year group
- Voice opinions on behalf of student body on matters relating to them
- Fundraise for local and national charities

## MENTOR PROGRAMME

- Big Brother / Sister Programme
- 6th Year students assist 1st Year students with transition into Secondary School

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

- Smart leisurewear featuring a crested half zip, a crested polo, navy trousers, black shoes and navy crested jacket

## SCHOOL SHOP

- A tuck shop with an array of snacks and drinks is available in school at break and lunchtimes



# OUR STAFF

MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL, KILBEGGAN PROSPECTUS

## TEACHING STAFF

**Muiread Breathnach**  
Irish, Religion

**Maria Kate Carberry**  
Mathematics, Music

**Richard Carey**  
Mathematics, Physics

**Aida Carroll**  
Music, French

**Emer Clarke**  
History, Religion, LCVP

**Darragh Coffey**  
Wood Technology,  
Construction Studies, Graphics

**Mary Conmy**  
Music, Religion, SPHE

**Sarah Corcoran**  
Irish, German

**Mark Corrigan**  
Engineering, DCG, Graphics

**Craig Cox**  
Construction Studies, Woodwork,  
Technical Graphics

**Caitlin Ní Chuinneagáin**  
Irish, Geography, SPHE

**Niamh Daly**  
Biology, Science, Physical Education,  
LCPE

**Ryan Delaney**  
Physical Education, LCPE, Mathematics

**Patrick Dempsey**  
Biology, Ag Science, Science,  
Asgard Teacher

**Gareth Donnelly**  
History, Asgard Teacher

**Brendan Doyle**  
Geography, Physical Education, LCPE,  
Asgard Teacher

**Daniel Duffy**  
English, Geography,  
Asgard Teacher

**Pádraig Duffy**  
Geography, Asgard Teacher

**Ruth Duignan**  
German, English

**Mark Dunne**  
Geography, History, CSPE,  
Asgard Teacher

**Pauric Earley**  
Biology, Science, Mathematics,  
Computer Studies

**Conor Egan**  
Physical Education, Mathematics

**Maureen Fallon**  
Geography, History

**Garrett Farrell**  
Principal

**Bernadette Gallen**  
Deputy Principal

**Jennifer Grennan**  
German, Geography

**Maria Glynn**  
English, Irish, CSPE

**Gerry Hagan**  
Geography, Asgard Teacher

**David Hawkins**  
English, Visual Art,  
Asgard Teacher

**Jamie Hayes**  
History, Geography,  
Asgard Teacher

**Edward Heery**  
Mathematics, Applied Mathematics,  
Science, Physics

**Shauna Heffernan**  
French, Irish

**Karen Hennessy**  
Irish, Religion

**Ellen Henry**  
Irish, Accounting, Business Studies

**Ciarán Henson**  
Mathematics, Computers,  
Asgard Teacher

**Shaun Horan**  
Construction Studies, Wood Technology,  
Graphics, Asgard Teacher

**Edel Kelly**  
English, Religion, SPHE

**David Lynch**  
Engineering, DCG,  
Graphics, Physical Education

**Neasa Lynch**  
German, Irish

**William Lynn**  
Biology, Science, Mathematics

**Cora Macken**  
Mathematics, Business

**Jennifer McArdle**  
SPHE, Career Guidance

**Ciara McInerney**  
Visual Art, Art, Craft, Design,  
Asgard Teacher

**Ann Marie McKeon**  
English, Irish, Learning Support,  
Asgard Teacher

**Sarah Mulligan**  
Mathematics, Learning Support

**Helena Munnelly**  
English, French, Asgard Teacher

**Angela O'Brien**  
CSPE, Learning Support,  
Asgard Teacher

**Emily O'Brien**  
Irish, German, English

**Darren O'Meara**  
Business Studies, Business,  
Mathematics, Asgard Teacher

**Donnacha Prendergast**  
English, Religion

**Triona O'Rourke**  
Geography, Computer Science,  
Computer Studies

**Anthony Quinn**  
Business Studies, Mathematics, CSPE

**Aisling Raymond**  
Chemistry, Science, Ag Science

**Mairead Relihan**  
Home Economics, Biology, Ag Science,  
Asgard Teacher

**Sinéad Shortall**  
English, Learning Support

**Eleanor Stenson**  
Home Economics, SPHE

**Carmel Ward**  
Science, Mathematics,  
Asgard Teacher

**Aoife Whelehan**  
Religion, SPHE, Asgard Teacher

## ANCILLARY STAFF

**Finola Seery** Secretary

**Donal Fox** Caretaker

**Regina Owens** Day Cleaner

## SNA STAFF

**Maurice Colton**

**Dympna Daly**

**Megan Delaney**

**Fiona Dunne**

**Mary McDonnell**

**Luke McNamee**

**Damien Minnock**

**Denise Murray**

**Mary Nolan**

**Andrew O'Sullivan**

**Martha Scally**

**Aimeé Spollen**



Art Rooms	Fitness Suite	Meditation Room	History Rooms
Computer Rooms	Astro Pitch	Library	Geography Rooms
Multimedia Rooms	Grass Play Area	Science Labs	Business Rooms
DCG Rooms	Outdoor Track	Science Rooms	Mathematics Rooms
Music Room	Outdoor Courts	Woodwork Rooms	Language Rooms
Staff Room	Outdoor Gym	Metalwork Rooms	Learning Support Rooms
Teacher Workroom	Bike Shelter	Preparation Rooms	Meeting Rooms
Dressing Rooms	ASGARD Suite	Home Economics Rooms	First Aid Room
Gymnasium	Dining Hall	Career Guidance Room	



## CAREER GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING

## WELLBEING

### JUNIOR CYCLE

Our programme begins in First Year. It involves not only the Guidance Counsellor but the Pastoral Care Team, Year Heads and Teachers of Religion and SPHE. Guidance is provided in the following areas:

- Transition from Primary School to Secondary School
- Study Skills
- Working and co-operating with others
- Taking responsibility
- Appreciation of school and for code of discipline
- Self-awareness and aptitude

### SENIOR CYCLE

At Senior Cycle our programme is expanded to include:

- Assistance with career/educational planning
- Career options, occupational choice, third level options
- Preparation for and evaluation of work experience in both Transition Year and LCVP
- Personal guidance/counselling

We promote wellbeing at our school through a wide range of activities and approaches that support the academic, physical, mental, emotional and social development of all our students. This holistic development of each student is encompassed by the ethos of our school. Moreover, our Transition Year Wellbeing Committee do tremendous work every year in retaining our Amber Flag, in decorating the walls of our school with beautiful and inspirational art pieces and in running awareness activities.



# SCHOOL LIFE GALLERY

MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOL, KILBEGGAN PROSPECTUS





*Do Chumas a Bhaint Amach*

Tel: 057 9332292 • Fax: 057 9332737

Email: [info@mercykilbeggan.ie](mailto:info@mercykilbeggan.ie)

Website: [www.mercykilbeggan.ie](http://www.mercykilbeggan.ie)

## MISSION STATEMENT

Mercy Secondary School Kilbeggan is a Catholic co-educational school committed to the holistic education of all students, to ensure that individually, they each realise their full potential in a social and physical environment that is caring, supportive and joyful.

We work in partnership with students, staff, parents and the community and welcome all students from our multicultural society.



Mercy Secondary School, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath

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Email: [info@mercykilbeggan.ie](mailto:info@mercykilbeggan.ie)

Website: [www.mercykilbeggan.ie](http://www.mercykilbeggan.ie)

Principal: **Garrett Farrell** • Deputy Principal: **Bernadette Gallen**