Mercy College Sligo

A Place to Belong



Mercy College Sligo

A Place to Belong

PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

It is with great pleasure that I extend a warm welcome to all of you as we embark on another exciting year at Mercy College, a school that stands as a beacon of education and personal growth for young people in Sligo.



Principal
Anne Gorby



Deputy Principal
Lorraine Sherlock

Mercy College, under the trusteeship of Creist, is a holistic centre of development and learning, a place where each person is special and treasured as such. Our journey in education is marked not only by academic excellence but also by the nurturing of the individual, fostering a sense of self-worth and cultivating values that will guide our students throughout their lives.

At Mercy College we believe in the power of unity and togetherness. We recognise that our school is not just a physical place of learning, but a vibrant community where staff and students work hand in hand to realise their full potential. Our commitment is to provide a healthy, safe, stimulating and friendly environment where your child can thrive, explore and flourish.

Our school's ethos is grounded in mutual respect, the cornerstone upon which we build our relationships and interactions. In this nurturing atmosphere of cooperation and support, we encourage our students to embrace the spirit of challenge, knowing that it is through challenges that we grow, learn and become stronger.

At Mercy College, our dedicated team of teachers and SNAs is the heart and soul of our institution. Each member of our staff is not only a passionate and caring mentor but also a seasoned professional with a wealth of experience in guiding students toward academic success. They are more than teachers; they are mentors, motivators, and role models who bring out the best in our students. We celebrate not just the milestones and achievements but also the small victories and every step taken towards personal and academic growth.

As Principal, I am proud of the wonderful community that is Mercy College. We are committed to your child's success, and we look forward to partnering with you in their education. Together, we can help them reach new heights and embrace the future with confidence.

I invite you to explore our prospectus to learn more about the many opportunities and programmes we offer. I am confident that you will find Mercy College to be the perfect place for your child to thrive and flourish. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have any questions or need further information.

Thank you for considering Mercy College as your educational partner. We look forward to the journey ahead, and we are excited to see your child's growth and development in the years to come.

Anne Gorby

ACADEMIC SUCCESS

Mercy College has always been associated with academic excellence with our students exceeding far above the national average in state examinations attainment year upon year. Our school attaches great importance to its reputation for having high academic standards and in encouraging each student to obtain their fullest potential in their studies.

Our students have received entrance scholarships to universities based on their outstanding Leaving Certificate results including Harvard, TCD, UCD, UL, NUI Galway and Maynooth University.

We firmly believe that extracurricular activities offer a multifaceted pathway to academic success by fostering skills, values and experiences that complement traditional classroom education and contribute to students' overall development.

Outstanding achievements in all aspects of school life are recognised at the Mercy College annual Student Awards Ceremony in October of each academic year.











Mercy College Sligo

A Place to Belong








CURRICULUM

Our curriculum constantly adapts to meet the changing needs of students and offers a diverse range of subjects at all levels in both Junior and Senior Cycle.

Junior Cycle Curriculum

First year students will study all of the core subjects and two optional subjects of their choice. On completion of a taster of all three MFLs, students will make a choice between French, German and Spanish.

Core Subjects

Irish	MFL French/German/Spanish
English	Religion
Mathematics	PE
History	SPHE
Geography	CSPE
Science	Wellbeing

Elective Subjects

Business Studies
Home Economics
Applied Technology
Music
Visual Art





The eight key of Junior Cycle are embedded into all aspects of Junior Cycle curriculum.





Senior Cycle

Compulsory Subjects

English
Irish
Maths
Physical Education
Career Guidance
SPHE/RSE
Religion
Link Modules

Optional Subjects

MFL: French/German/Spanish
Science: Biology/Chemistry/Physics
Home Economics
History
Geography
Business/Accounting
Art, Craft and Design
Music
PE (2024)
Technology
Drama, Film & Theatre Studies

Senior Cycle students follow a two-year programme leading to the Leaving Certificate Examination. Subjects are offered at all levels. We take a student centred approach to subject options where students are surveyed well in advance of entering Senior Cycle and every opportunity is taken to ensure that student preference is met.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

LCVP is a two-year senior cycle programme designed to give a strong vocational dimension to the established Leaving Certificate. Students complete two Link Modules: Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education. The first module includes work experience, career investigations and the development of key skills like communication, teamwork and interview skills. In Enterprise Education students complete projects related to the business world.

LCVP is designed to help students make informed decisions about their future careers and to transition into the workforce or further education more smoothly. The Link Modules are assessed through a portfolio of coursework and a written examination. Students' performance in these modules is awarded points that contribute to their overall LC points. In 2023, 97% of our students received a Distinction in Link Modules. This programme is being delivered by highly experienced examiners.

Leaving Certificate Applied

The LCA is a distinct, self-contained, two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. It emphasises forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past and offers specific opportunities to students to prepare for and progress on to further education and training.

In Mercy College our LCA students are prepared for the demanding transition to working life. We recognise the talents of all our learners and the LCA programme allows us to respond to our student's abilities, needs and interests through its flexibility. Students are provided with opportunities to develop in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge while working on their communication and decision-making skills. The LCA programme helps our students to achieve a more independent and enterprising approach to learning and life. Similar to LCVP many of the teachers are experienced examiners and transfer these skills to their classroom teaching.

Mercy College Sligo

A Place to Belong

TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year provides a bridge to help students make the transition from the highly structured and dependent environment of the Junior Cycle to one where they will take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making at Senior Cycle. Students will participate in learning strategies which are active and experimental, allowing them to develop a range of transferable critical thinking and creative problem-solving skills.

Students are actively encouraged to participate in Gaisce and the John Paul II awards and to avail of the RCSI Mini-Med and the Bar of Ireland "Look into Law" TY programme.



TY Programme aims:

- To promote maturity and personal development
- To build on subject knowledge acquired during Junior Cycle in preparation for the Leaving Certificate
- To help our young people prepare for adult life and the working world through two experience placements in October and February
- To be a good citizen
- To embark on new projects and interests both inside and outside school
- To encourage students to become independent and self-directed thinkers
- To assist students to meet and accept new challenges









Core Subjects

English
Irish
Maths
MFL
Physical Education
Religion

Subject Sampling Layer

Art / Music
Business Studies
Geography
History
Home Economics
Science
Technology

TY Specific Layer

Anthropology
Careers
Drama
Film Studies
Global Classroom
Horticulture
Leadership-GAA Future Leaders/ LIFT
Linguistics
Junk Kouture
Mini-Company
Microsoft Office Specialist
Public Speaking



Mercy College Sligo

A Place to Belong

AONAD LOCH GILE

(i gcomhair Buachaillí agus Cailíní / Boys and Girls)

Stiúrthóir an Aonaid: Ms. Deborah Ní Cheallaigh

Aonad Loch Gile is a mixed Aonad catering for both boys and girls. 13 students enrolled in Aonad Loch Gile during its first historic school year 2017-8. Presently in 2023, over 100 students are studying in Aonad Loch Gile, among them both full-time and part-time students.

Déanann daltaí Aonad Loch Gile staidéar ar **ceithre/cúig ábhar don tSraith Shóisearach** faoi láthair trí mheán na Gaeilge. Athraíonn liosta na n-ábhar ó bhliain go bliain ag brath ar éileamh na ndaltaí agus féidearthachtaí an amchláir don scoilbhliain sin.

*Students in Aonad Loch Gile study **four/five subjects** at Junior Cycle through the medium of Irish at present. Subjects are interchangeable depending on the demand from students and the possibilities in timetabling for that academic year. Subjects currently on offer may include:*

- Gaeilge/Irish (T1)
- Matamaitic/Mathematics
- Folláine/Well-being
- Oideachas Sóisialta Pearsanta agus Sláinte(OSPS) / Social Personal Health Education(SPHE)
- Tíreolaíocht/Geography
- Eacnamaíocht Bhaile/Home Economics
- Staidéar Gnó/Business
- Stair/History



Tá deis ag daltaí Aonad Loch Gile staidéar a dhéanamh ar ceithre/cúig ábhar trí Ghaeilge mar dhalta lán-aim-seartha an Aonaid nó roinnt ábhair a dhéanamh mar dhalta páirt-aimseartha Choláiste na Trócaire. Tá Mata ar fáil suas go dtí leibhéal na hArdteistiméireachta ag braith ar uimhreacha.

Students have the unique opportunity to undertake all four/five subjects on offer in Aonad Loch Gile as a 'full-time student' or to undertake a number of subjects through the medium of Irish as a 'part-time student' of Mercy College. Mathematics is available as a Leaving Cert subject depending on the uptake.



There are currently two Irish syllabuses at Junior Cycle. In Irish-medium schools, Irish is the working language of the school and Irish T1 (Teanga 1) is taught as a subject. In English-medium schools, English is the working language of the school and Irish T2 (Teanga 2) is taught as a subject. As Aonad Loch Gile is an Irish-medium unit, students undertake T1 Gaeilge. We advise students undertaking Gaeilge in the Aonad to study at least one other subject through the medium of Irish to enhance both their oral and written fluency as Gaeilge.



DIGITAL SCHOOL

IT Facilities Supporting Teaching and Learning

Mercy College supports many IT initiatives within its environment. We use two cloud-based administration platforms called VSWare and Unique Schools. These allow parents to access attendance, assessment results and the school calendar online from home and on their mobiles.

Upon entry to Mercy College each student is given their own email address. Through their email account each student has access to Microsoft Office 365 for their time at Mercy College. Microsoft Teams fosters collaboration and communication in the classroom, enabling seamless interactions among students and teachers for enhanced learning experiences.

Each classroom has access to a high-quality projector and sound system. This allows for a range of different medias to enhance lessons, whether with relevant video footage, music, presentations or useful resources students can access via the internet.

Curriculum areas are enhanced in class with the use of visualisers, iPads and other mobile devices. These tools can facilitate the showing of student's work and support students in their CBAs.

Mercy College embraces AI in the modern classroom, delivering personalised learning experiences and streamlining administrative tasks thereby enhancing education for our students.

STEM

Our school recognises the need for Ireland to continue to meet its aspirations to be a world leading centre for the industries of tomorrow in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths.

Mercy College actively promotes STEM subjects and encourages students towards a career path in STEM related industries. We have a proud tradition of STEM subjects at both Junior and Senior cycle, with many students opting to do two or more science subjects at Leaving Certificate level. Students avail of state-of-the-art facilities in our newly refurbished science labs and our fully equipped Technology workspace with cutting edge machinery for use in Applied Technology.

Students from Mercy College participate in the ATU Sci Fest and the BT Young Scientist competitions. Senior science teachers have established links with ATU and facilitate revision sessions for Leaving Certificate students in Sligo.

Mercy College Sligo

A Place to Belong







A PLACE TO BELONG

Supporting Our Students

Guidance Counselling

In Mercy College counselling is a key part of the Whole School Guidance Programme offered on an individual or group basis as part of a developmental learning process and at times of personal crisis. Counselling may include Personal Counselling, Educational Counselling, Career Counselling or a combination of these. All students will have access to counselling as the need arises. Referrals may be made to the HSE, NEPS and other agencies when necessary.

All students will receive educational guidance appropriate to their level regarding subject choices, programme choices, motivation and learning, study skills and examination techniques.

All students will have access to information to assist them when making choices regarding career development programmes, employment opportunity awareness, vocational education and training, higher and technical education and job search, preparation and retention skills.



Wellbeing

The wellbeing of our students is paramount as wellbeing is central for students to achieve their full potential. We recognise that incoming first years might find the transition from primary to post primary difficult and have a week-long Belonging Plus programme in place to ease this transition.

Every morning begins with wellbeing with the class tutor which helps the students to realise their potential and be resilient with the normal stresses of life. There are themed days and weeks in Mercy College that create a positive atmosphere and underline the importance of looking after our mental and physical health. There is something for everyone and the whole school community is invited to take part in all these occasions. Maths Week, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Science Week and Drop Everything and Read Week are just some of the school events enjoyed by all. Students are encouraged to embrace diversity, celebrate cultural differences and build a stronger sense of belonging within our school community.

Additional Education Needs

At Mercy College, Sligo, we have a dedicated team of Special Education Teachers and Special Needs Assistants who aim to support the inclusion of all students and facilitate pupils to participate in and benefit from the full curriculum. The team work collaboratively with students, parents and subject teachers to ensure that each pupil is enabled to reach their full potential. The Additional Education Needs Team aim to adopt scaffolded supports and provide a nurturing learning environment which is student centred and based on the principles of The Continuum of Support.



Mercy College Sligo

A Place to Belong

CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

Music

Participating in music programmes in Mercy College is an enriching experience that offers numerous benefits to our students. Joining choir, traditional Irish music club and school musicals not only nurtures musical talents but also contributes to personal development and academic success. Students involved in these activities learn valuable skills like teamwork, discipline and time management, while also building self-confidence through public performances.

Our bi-annual musical in conjunction with Summerhill College allows TY and 5th year students to audition for a role of their choice and become part of a talented and hard-working cast. Some of the shows we have produced include All Shook Up, Musical Madness and Grease.

Our school choir and trad group perform on many occasions throughout the school year including school masses, the annual carol service, Open Night and graduations. They provide a platform for students to harmonise their voices and instruments, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie and encouraging a passion for music.

Our annual talent show "Mercy Got Talent" is a vibrant, fun-filled event that lets our students shine, laugh and enjoy the spotlight as they share their incredible talents with peers and teachers.



Art

You can find inspiration in our Art room here in Mercy College where students experiment in and explore a variety of different crafts such as print, poster, sculpture and calligraphy among others. Art encourages our students to think outside the box, problem-solve and communicateideas visually. Moreover, it can boost self-esteem and provide an outlet for emotional expression, contributing to a holistic and enriching educational experience. Our school community benefits greatly from the students' work which is proudly exhibited throughout the building.







Mercy College Sligo

A Place to Belong

SPORT IN MERCY COLLEGE

At Mercy College we understand the myriad advantages that sports offer teenagers. Engaging in activities like Gaelic football, hockey, basketball, soccer, rugby and athletics is more than just a means of achieving physical fitness. These sports help cultivate essential life skills, such as teamwork, leadership and discipline, all while boosting self-confidence and resilience.

Participating in our diverse sports programme fosters a sense of camaraderie among our students, creating lasting friendships and a supportive network. It also instils a strong work ethic, teaching the value of dedication and perseverance, qualities that are valuable both in their academic pursuits and personal lives.

Furthermore, by actively participating in sports, our students learn to manage stress and time effectively, enhancing their overall well-being and academic performance. These experiences encourage a well-rounded and active lifestyle that will benefit them not only during their time at school but throughout their lives, promoting physical and mental health and nurturing their personal growth and development.

The Girls Active programme for our second-year students empowers them to take charge of their physical well-being by providing a supportive environment where they can explore a wide range of sports and activities. Through this initiative, we aim to instil a lifelong love for fitness, boost confidence and promote positive body image, fostering healthier and more self-assured young women.

Our school also facilitates our students in golf, swimming, sailing, kayaking, tag rugby, rowing, yoga, badminton and equestrian competitions. All students are encouraged to participate in sporting activities and it is a great opportunity to make new friends in first year.












Mercy College Sligo

A Place to Belong

THE GREEN SCHOOL AT MERCY COLLEGE:

Cultivating Environmental Stewardship

At Mercy College we are proud to be a Green School, dedicated to fostering environmental awareness and sustainability. Our holistic approach includes eco-friendly infrastructure, recycling initiatives and outdoor learning experiences that empower our students to become responsible stewards of the environment.

Our polytunnel and horticulture course in Transition Year provides hands-on opportunities for students to explore and appreciate the world of plants and sustainability. With an active Green School committee, our students take a leadership role in driving sustainability projects and initiatives, fostering a strong sense of environmental responsibility. We believe in instilling this sense in every student, preparing them to make a positive impact on our planet and embrace a greener, more sustainable future. Choose Mercy College and join us in nurturing a community of eco-conscious leaders.







STUDENT VOICE







Mercy College has a strong tradition in the field of student leadership and promotes active involvement and participation in a wide range of leadership programmes.

Student Mentors

The student mentor programme, run in conjunction with Foroige's "Big Brother, Big Sister" is a peer mentoring programme for first year students in which all first years are paired with a TY student. Their mentor helps them to settle into the school and offers friendly advice and guidance. During the course of the school year a number of social activities are arranged for the students involved in the programme. This initiative provides an essential support for in-coming first years during their transition from primary to secondary school.

The Prefect System

Leadership capacity is developed through the election of representatives of the student body to the prefect system in our school. It comprises of Class Prefects and Deputy Prefects, Senior Prefects, Deputy Head Girl and Head Girl of the school. The prefect role recognises a student's potential for leadership and those elected represent our core values. They are ambassadors for our college and represent the school community at many functions, such as school visits and Open Nights.

The Student Council

Student Voice is valued and encouraged in Mercy College. The student council, comprising of elected representatives from each tutor group, provides a forum to discuss and debate student issues on behalf of the student body. The student council meets regularly and works closely with the school leadership team to ensure that our college is a safe and enjoyable place for all members of our school community. Our student council values the importance of student's opinions and concerns which motivates them to bring about change. Members participate in fundraising projects, cultural initiatives and external leadership competitions.

PARENT VOICE

The Parent's Association of Mercy College plays a vital role in our school community, giving parents an opportunity to voice their opinions and ideas on the education of their children and issues within the community. The Parent's Association meets regularly and are deeply involved in the development of school policies on an ongoing basis. New parents are always welcome to get involved and attend meetings.

Mercy College Sligo

A Place to Belong

BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

At Mercy College, extracurricular activities play a crucial role in the holistic development of our students. They provide opportunities for personal growth, social interaction and skill development that go beyond the classroom. Encouraging students to participate in extracurriculars leads to a more well-rounded and confident individual, better prepared for the challenges and opportunities of life.



Teams, clubs and groups meet at lunchtime and after school. From Debating to Science club, yoga to knitting, all our students are encouraged to participate and get involved in the school community.

Many extracurricular activities involve community service or outreach, instilling a sense of social responsibility and the importance of giving back to the community. Participation in diverse extracurricular activities also exposes students to new experiences, cultures and perspectives. It can help them become more open-minded and culturally aware.

We firmly believe that extracurricular activities provide an opportunity for students to meet peers who share similar interests. This can lead to the development of strong and supportive friendships, fostering a sense of belonging and reducing feelings of isolation as students transition from primary to post-primary.








Mercy College

















Mission Statement

Mercy College is an all girls Voluntary Catholic Secondary school with a co-educational Aonad under the trusteeship of CEIST. Mercy College is dedicated to the provision of quality Catholic education emphasising the academic, spiritual, moral, physical, social, global, aesthetic and vocational areas, which will enable students to achieve their maximum potential in a caring and nurturing environment.

Contact Details
info@mercycollegesligo.ie
www.mercycollegesligo.ie
Eircode: F91 CF80
Phone: 071-9143476
Twitter: @MercySligo
Instagram: @mercycollegesligo

CEIST
Catholic Education
An Irish Schools Trust