

COOLA POST PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS 2011-2012





Dear Parents

Now that your child has completed the Primary School Cycle, you are faced with the difficult decision of choosing the Post Primary School that will best suit your and his/her needs over the next five/six years. Many factors will influence your decision: - distance from school, subject choice, school environment, facilities, staff, fees (hidden or otherwise), uniform, cost of books, etc.

In this brochure, I am putting forward Coola Post Primary School for your consideration.

I feel that, in Coola, we offer an educational service that is second to none in Ireland. We have a school that is rural but outward looking, small but not limited, hard working but happy, friendly and safe. We provide an educational environment that is always carefully controlled and monitored but is, at the same time, understanding and caring, devoted to ensuring the personal development and welfare of each individual student.

At Coola, one of the important factors to be considered is our rural location and the fact that children are on campus all day under constant supervision and away from the many dangers/influences that exist around larger town schools. Consider also that a 50% increase in our enrolment over the past five years has enabled the curriculum to develop and expand to one that is equal to many larger schools. Our increased enrolment has made it possible for us to introduce a highly successful Transition Year programme in senior cycle.

The success of our students in State Examinations is exemplary. Results achieved by our students are consistently above the national average with our students obtaining places on courses in Universities and Colleges throughout the country.

If you send your child to us, you will be entrusting him/her to a school with a tradition that is proud of its past and confident for its future, and from which he/she will eventually graduate as a young adult fit to take his/her due place in society.

Sincerely yours,

Damien McGoldrick

PRINCIPAL

In Coola Post Primary School, we encourage our students to achieve their maximum individual potential in an environment of fairness and mutual respect.



JUNIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS

Pupils take a total of eleven subjects for Junior Cert examination from the list below. All students take English, Irish, Maths, Science, French, Geography, History & C.S.P.E.. They choose three subjects from the following:-

Tech. Graphics, Music, Art, Metal Technology, Wood Technology, Business Studies, Home Economics.

Every assistance is given by our teachers to help students match their subject choice with their particular talents. On enrolment dates, pupils will be asked to nominate their subject choices in order of preference. Every effort is made to give pupils their first choices but, in some cases, a child may get a second choice subject. Where more than twenty-four students request a position in a practical class, names will be drawn at random to fill that particular class.

CORE SUBJECTS

Irish
English
Mathematics
Geography
History
C.S.P.E.* (Civic, Social & Political Education)
S.P.H.E.** (Social, Personal & Health Education)
Computers**
Physical Education**

ACADEMIC SUBJECTS

Science
French
Business
Religious Education

TECHNOLOGICALLY BASED SUBJECTS

Wood Technology
Metal Technology
Technical Graphics
Art
Home Economics
Music

**With the exception of this subject which has just a common level, all other subjects are offered at Higher Level, Ordinary Level or Foundation Level where applicable.*

***Non-Exam*



SENIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS

A choice of two Leaving Certificates at senior cycle is offered.

THE TRADITIONAL LEAVING CERT.

Students take seven examination subjects from the following programme: -

Mandatory Examination Subjects:

Irish (unless exempt), English and Mathematics.

Mandatory non-Examination Subjects:

Information Technology (Computers), Career Guidance and Religious Education.

Options: (Four to be selected)

French, Biology, Physics, Engineering, Construction Studies, Design & Communications Graphics (Technical Drawing), Home Economics, Art, Business, Accounting, History, Geography, Music, Chemistry and Agricultural Science.

THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME (LCVP)

This programme is offered to all students and involves the previously outlined Leaving Cert programme plus three link modules.

1. Enterprise Education
2. Preparation for work
3. Work Experience

The latter modules are designed to equip students with a body of practical and personal skills not normally acquired in the traditional Leaving Certificate. The link modules are assessed, graded and points are subsequently awarded which may be used for admission purposes to third level Colleges. Work experience at the end of the 4th year is an integral part of the course. Students must study a European language along with Irish and English, usually French or German.



THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

The Leaving Cert Applied is a distinct self-contained Leaving Cert programme. It is designed for those who do not wish to proceed directly to third level education or for those whose needs, aspirations and aptitudes are not adequately catered for by the other Leaving Cert programmes. It is a course of study with emphasis on training for the work place. Regular work experience is an integral part of the course.

The Leaving Cert Applied is structured around three main elements:

1. Vocational Preparation
2. Vocational Education
3. General Education

Continuous assessment over the two years on specific student tasks, along with terminal exams, form the final examination results.



THE TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME



Due to the huge success of our Transition Year, it is our intention to continue to run this programme again as an option for 4th year students. The overall aims of the programme are:

1. Education for maturity with the emphasis on personal development including social awareness and increased social competence.
2. The promotion of general, technical and academic skills with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning.
3. Education through experience of adult working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

Our school has a current enrolment of 402 pupils. The numbers are expanding each year with approximately equal numbers of boys and girls. Our facilities rival those of many larger and newer schools. New modern classrooms are comfortable and conducive to study and learning. Our new extension comprising of six modern classrooms will be ready by Easter 2012.

Other facilities include: -

- Two ultra modern fully equipped Science laboratories.
- A fully equipped Woodwork and Construction Studies room.
- A new Engineering room with state of the art equipment.
- A newly refurbished Home Economics' room.
- Three state of the art Computer rooms.
- Fully equipped Art room.
- Library with computer, multimedia and Internet access.
- A modern Design & Communications Graphics room with state of the art computer aided drawing facilities.
- Career Guidance room.
- Fully equipped Geography room.
- State of the art, fully equipped Music room.
- Indoor Sports Complex.
- Soccer and basketball courts.
- New football pitch.
- New Canteen.
- Individual student lockers.
- Supervised evening study.
- Book Scheme.
- New interactive whiteboards.



ANCILLARY SERVICES

THE BOOK LOAN SCHEME

Although the Department of Education & Science have reduced the grant aid to provide students with books on loan, we will continue to offer a Book Loan Scheme that will be considerably cheaper for parents than if books had to be purchased otherwise. Joining this scheme will be optional.

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY

Supervised after school study is currently provided four evenings per week.

FORMAL AND INFORMAL MEETINGS WITH PARENTS

STUDENT COUNCIL

A new Student Council is elected each year and they play an integral and important role in the school community.



PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE COVER FOR EACH STUDENT AVAILABLE THROUGH THE SCHOOL

LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICE

We have a number of fully qualified learning support teachers. We place enormous emphasis on the way that we cater for special needs children and we offer an after school teaching service for some of these students.



CAREER GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING

There is a full-time Career Guidance Counsellor in the school available to all students. Up to date information on career options and entry qualifications to third level colleges is available. Students are monitored, interviewed and advised as to the direction their career choices should take. Furthermore, senior students undertake visits to many third level institutions to see for themselves the facilities/courses on offer.

We pay particular attention to helping students complete application forms for their preferred college courses or career paths.

ADULT EDUCATION

The school has a full-time Adult Education Officer who oversees the implementation of various night classes in the school.



THE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT

DAILY TIMETABLE

Mon/Tues	8.50am – 3.45 pm
Wed/Thurs/Fri	9.00am – 3.35 pm

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Girls: Navy jumper incorporating school crest, white shirt, navy tie with green and gold stripe, navy trousers and black shoes.

Boys: Navy jumper incorporating school crest, blue shirt, navy tie with green and gold stripe, navy trousers, black shoes, and a crested school jacket for all students.

Ours is a truly rural school, catering for all students. Except for those who live beside the school, all students spend their entire school day within the school boundaries. There are no outside distractions.

Being relatively small in size, it is possible for our students to build personal relationships with one another and with their teachers. We see this as extremely important. In conjunction with extra-curricular activities, it helps in the formation of a rounded, well-balanced personality that we believe is a hallmark of all our pupils.

MENTOR SYSTEM

Our mentoring programme allows our older students to provide valuable peer support to younger students and increases first year students' feelings of belonging and commitment to the school. As mentors, the older students are trained and supervised to offer support to individual first year students.



PASTORAL CARE

We place a strong emphasis on pastoral care in Coola. Our pastoral care programme is managed by a committee and the service is delivered by class tutors, with a teacher taking responsibility for each class group. Tutors take their class groups once a fortnight and this, together with a meeting at assembly two mornings a week, gives students a forum to discuss issues which are important to them, in a friendly and supportive environment. The pastoral care committee ensures that topics such as abuse of alcohol, cigarettes, drugs, in addition to study skills and bullying, are all discussed during the tutorial classes, promoting healthy attitudes towards them, with the ultimate aim of enhancing students' self-esteem and educational progress.

GREEN SCHOOL

Our students pride themselves in keeping Coola tidy and are actively involved in the Green Schools' Programme, having received a Green Flag in 2004 and 2009. A thematic approach has already been successful in reducing litter and waste in the school. In co-operation with the Local Authorities, students have moved on to reducing the school's energy and water consumption. We look forward to a successful project that will bring Coola towards being a more sustainable, environmentally friendly and greener school.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL JOURNAL

Every student in the school must be in possession of a school journal. The journal is designed to:

- Help organise homework on a daily basis.
- Ensure constant communication between school and home.

Failure of students to comply with the study/homework demands of relevant teachers will be noted in the journal. It is important that parents/guardians examine the journal on a nightly basis to ensure that homework is being completed.

The journal also contains the school's code of discipline in the form of student rules and classroom rules. A copy of the school rules must be signed by parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

Coola Post Primary has a very active Parents' Association which assists school management with the smooth running of the school.

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

There is also a Board of Management, which includes two parents of children attending the school, two full-time teachers and three members of the V.E.C. The Principal acts as Secretary of the Board.

EXAMINATION RESULTS

Examination results obtained by students in Coola are consistently higher than the national average of results published by the Department of Education & Science. Many

past students of Coola are at present attending degree courses in Colleges and Universities all over Ireland such as NUI Galway, NUI Maynooth, University of Limerick, St. Patrick's Primary Teacher Training College, Sligo IT, Waterford IT, Dublin City University, U.C.D., Queen's University of Belfast and St. Angela's College, Sligo.

Those of our past students who decide not to go to College are much sought after by employers as apprentices or by multinational companies such as MBNA due to the reputation established by Coola students down the years.



PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Our school recognises the important role played by parents in their children's education. Parent/teacher meetings are generally held from 4pm to 6.45pm to facilitate parents who have daily work commitments. Parents are encouraged to develop close links with the school. They are welcome to arrange visits to discuss their son's/daughter's progress or any matter relating to their welfare, should the need arise. Progress reports other than Christmas and Summer (also Easter for State Exam students) are available on request.



We encourage our students to use their free time positively through participation in extra curricular activities. These activities make an important contribution to the overall learning and maturation process in any school.



All Ireland Public Speaking Finalists 2010.

In Coola our pupils play basketball, volleyball, football, rugby and soccer, and they participate in inter-schools competitions at County, Connaught and All-Ireland level. They also participate in inter-schools athletics competitions. Our students can also avail of sailing and canoeing courses at a subsidised rate during the summer holidays.



Senior Girls' Gaelic Football Team, Connaught Champions 2005



Senior Boys' Gaelic Football Team, Connaught Champions 2011



Senior Girls' Gaelic Football Team, All Ireland Champions 2004



Cadette Girls' Basketball Team, Regional Champions, 2011

SCHOOL TOURS



Connaught Under 15 Golf Champions 2010

Successes in sport are too numerous to mention, but in recent years the school has produced Connaught and All-Ireland Champions in Gaelic Football, Basketball and Track and Field Athletics. A totally committed group of teachers coach school teams during lunchtimes and after school.



Involvement in drama, quizzes, music and public speaking is encouraged also. We have featured prominently in the Mental Health Assoc. Public Speaking Competitions, reaching regional finals on several occasions. Our senior girls have participated in the Business and Professional Women's Association public speaking competition with great success over the past few years, reaching the All Ireland Finals twice.



Awards Ceremony



Donal Harte, highest national Leaving Cert grade in Construction & Graphics 2010



Eimear McDermot, with proud parents, who obtained seven A grades in the 2011 Leaving Cert.

Educational tours form an important part of our school programme. Factory and workplace visits are an essential part of Business and LCVP courses. First years visit places of historical and archaeological interest in Ireland. Our 4th and 5th year music students went on an educational tour to Vienna in 2008 and this trip included visits to the Hofburg Palace, the Mozart Haus and St Stephen's Cathedral. Fourth years attend residential outdoor pursuits' courses. In February of 2009 and 2010, our Transition Year students went on an unforgettable ski tour to Andalo, Italy. Students had the opportunity to ski, experience Italian food and culture, and practice their language skills which had been acquired during the year. These educational tours facilitate education, fun and adventure.



YOUTH SPORT WEST



A group of primary school children enjoying the Summer Camp

Coola is committed to providing quality sporting opportunities for Primary school children in its catchment area. These activities are co-ordinated by Mr. Eamonn Bruen, a teacher in Coola, and our school Sports Complex and facilities are made available when required. A very successful and entertaining summer camp for Primary school children is also organised by the school. Demand for this camp is very high and interested children must apply immediately once application forms have been circulated to all of the Primary schools in early April. Youth Sport Coola has also initiated a successful cross border initiative with primary and secondary schools in Northern Ireland.

PAST STUDENTS



SHAUNA KELLY, Riverstown
 St Patrick's College, Drumcondra studying Primary Teaching
"I was always encouraged to fulfill my personal ambitions in Coola. I really enjoyed my time in the school where I made lifelong friends. Gan dabht, is fíor a rá, níl aon scoil mar mo scoil féin."



NOEL KELLY, Riverstown
 UCD studying Electrical/Electronic Engineering, B.E.(Hons)
"My education in Coola has given me an excellent foundation for my degree course in UCD. I got seven honours in my Leaving Cert and, thanks to the teachers in Coola, I got my first choice of course on the CAO form."



SEAN O'ROURKE, Geevagh
 NUI Galway studying Arts (BA)
"I really enjoyed my five years in Coola from both an academic and sporting perspective. The teachers were very helpful and co-operative and I was sorry to be leaving Coola."



ALAN WYNNE, Dromahair
 University of Limerick, studying Aeronautical/Avionics Eng. B.E. (Hons)
"The subjects I studied for my Leaving Cert have been an enormous help with my college course. The fact that we had small class groups meant that teachers could give us more individual attention which reflected very positively in our Leaving Cert results."



COLIN HAMILTON, Killennumery
 NUI Galway studying Science (BSc)
"My time in Coola was a thoroughly enjoyable experience. I gained huge amounts of help from all the staff and I feel that my time there has prepared me well for the years ahead."



TOMÁS O'REILLY, Geevagh
 St Patrick's College, Drumcondra studying Primary Teaching
"My experience in Coola was one which prepared me adequately for life after secondary school. I was fortunate to be a part of many successful football teams and was delighted to achieve over 500 points in my Leaving Cert."



LOUISE HARAN, Ballygawley
 Bachelor of Education (Home Economics & Biology) in St. Angela's College, Sligo.
"I came to the school in 4th year and immediately felt welcome and really enjoyed my time in Coola. Thanks to the helpful teachers, I was able to achieve sufficient points for my course in College. I made friendships that will definitely last a lifetime."



MICHAEL BYRNE, Geevagh
 University of Limerick, studying Material & Engineering Technology. (BTechEd)
"I really enjoyed my time in Coola. The teachers were extremely generous with their free time and I made really good friends there."





COOLA POST PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Visit www.coola.ie for more information