KENNEDY COLLEGE

School Prospectus



wwetb
Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Phort Láirge agus Loch Garman
Waterford and Wexford
Education and Training Board



Principal's Foreword

It is my privilege to welcome you to Kennedy College. This prospectus offers a window into our dynamic learning community, where students are supported to achieve their full potential academically, socially, and personally.

At Kennedy College, we believe education is not only about knowledge but also about nurturing curiosity, resilience, and character. Our dedicated staff provide a supportive environment where students are challenged to excel, inspired to explore their passions, and guided to become confident, responsible citizens.

As a proud school under the patronage of the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB), our ethos is firmly rooted in its **core values:**

- **Excellence in Education** – striving for the highest standards in teaching and learning.
- **Care** – ensuring the wellbeing of every student in a safe and supportive environment.
- **Equality** – providing equal opportunities for all, regardless of background or belief.
- **Community** – fostering a strong sense of belonging and collaboration.
- **Respect** – valuing diversity and treating every member of our school with dignity.

These values are lived daily in our classrooms, corridors, and wider community. They are beautifully captured in our school motto: "Together we learn for life." This guiding principle reflects our belief that education is a lifelong journey, enriched by collaboration, respect, and shared purpose.
Choosing a school is one of the most important decisions a family makes. I hope this prospectus conveys the spirit of Kennedy College and the values that underpin our work. I warmly invite you to visit us, meet our staff and students, and experience firsthand the energy and enthusiasm that define our community.

Together, we look forward to shaping futures, nurturing talents, and building a legacy of excellence.

Sarah Roche
Principal, Kennedy College

History of the School

Kennedy College has a long and distinguished tradition of providing high-quality education at both Post Primary and Post Leaving Certificate to the people of New Ross and the surrounding areas since opening our doors in 1983.

Known then as New Ross Vocational School/College, the school began to excel in all academic and practical areas, with students receiving national awards, recognising exceptional results in various subjects. Our most recent acknowledgement in this regard was in 2019 when a student was awarded the highest Metalwork mark in Ireland in the Junior Certificate in 2018.

A little known fact about Kennedy College is that our school was a flagship in the area of Information Technology. IT has been an integral part of the curriculum in Kennedy College for many years. Today students avail of two fully equipped computer rooms and portable laptop units. The current building has been home to many students and staff over the years. Kennedy College changed its name from New Ross Vocational School in November 2015 to further embed the strong link with the Kennedy name which is synonymous with the town of New Ross.



"Together we learn for life"

Ethos and Values

Mission Statement

Kennedy College seeks to offer an inclusive, holistic education, where respect and responsibility are fostered. We encourage all students to develop a sense of worth, so they can reach their full potential in order to meet the diverse needs of society.

Our Mission Statement is based on the following Core Values:

- Education is a partnership between school, parents, and students with the support of the local community.
- Our central purpose is to motivate and prepare students to achieve their full potential.
- The importance and value of all members of the school community is central to all decisions and actions. Courtesy and respect should be shown to all people at all times.
- Our College strives to provide a welcoming, secure learning environment, which is respectful, caring and stimulating for all members of the school community.

Based on our Mission Statement, our General aims are:

- To provide a caring, secure and disciplined environment for students to learn and for teachers to teach.
- To provide a broad-based curriculum which seeks to meet the varying needs and abilities of individual pupils.
- To foster the development of each student's skills, knowledge and self-esteem as well as his/her enthusiasm for learning.
- To help students to develop skills for future life and for responsible citizenship.
- To promote moral values, self-discipline, and respect for themselves and others

Vision Statement

"Together we learn for life"

Support statement

Everybody here will do our best for ourselves and for others. We work together, and we respect each other.

Ethos

Kennedy College is a multi-denominational, co-educational, publicly funded second-level school managed by a board of management under the patronage of Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB).

ETB schools are state, co-educational, multidenominational schools underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence in Education;
- Care;
- Equality;
- Community
- Respect



As the state provider of education, the ETB sector defines a 'multidenominational' school in the following way:

In ETB schools, all students are given equal opportunities for enrolment in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018. Once enrolled, our schools strive to provide all students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life. In all aspects of school life, all members of our school communities are treated equitably regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socioeconomic status.

Our schools provide a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. They strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. Our schools promote a fully inclusive education that recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents and staff. We prepare open-minded, culturally sensitive and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values.

In ETB schools, students of all religions and beliefs are treated equally. The school environment and activities do not privilege any particular group over another whilst at the same time acknowledging and facilitating students of all religions and beliefs.

Curriculum and Programmes

Kennedy College offers the following:

- Junior Cycle Programme
- Junior Certificate Schools Programme
- Transition Year Programme
- Leaving Cert Programme
- Leaving Cert Applied Programme
- Leaving Cert Vocational Programme

Junior Cycle Programme

First-year students in Kennedy College have an opportunity to try all subjects during a subject taster rotation in the first 6 weeks of first year.

Following the completion of the subject taster rotation, the Guidance Counsellor will work with students and parents/carers in assisting them in choosing which option subjects to study along with their core subjects for the Junior Cycle. Students continue to study the same subjects in 2nd and 3rd year.

Junior Cycle Subjects:

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- Science
- History
- Geography
- French
- Engineering
- Digital Literacy
- Business Studies
- Home Economics
- Wood Technology
- Graphics
- SPHE
- CSPE
- PE
- Visual Art
- Wellbeing
- German



Junior Certificate Schools Programme

In Kennedy College, we like to say that the Junior Certificate School Programme is the Junior Cycle with a little extra.

The JCSP aims to provide a structure that assists schools and teachers in making the Junior Cycle accessible to all learners. It attempts to help young people experience success and develop a positive self-image by providing a curriculum and assessment framework suitable for various needs.

On completion of the programme, students receive a profile which is an official record of their achievements from the Department of Education and Skills.

Throughout the three years of Junior Cycle, students are encouraged to take ownership of their learning and establish themselves as responsible and resilient learners. The skills and aptitudes acquired through the JCSP act to support and assist students as they successfully navigate the Junior Cycle, Senior Cycle, further education and the world of work.



Transition Year Programme

Kennedy College Transition Year Programme is an integral part of our secondary school. Transition Year is compulsory for all students. The Transition Year Programme is an opportunity for students to build on the academic achievements and character development attained during the Junior Cycle. Transition Year also enables students to prepare for their chosen Leaving Certificate course and for their future role in Further Education, the working world and society.

The Transition Year Programme is delivered as a result of a partnership between parents, teachers and students. From the outset, Kennedy College embraced the Transition Year concept in the belief that it was a powerful means to promote the personal development of students as envisaged in our mission statement. Kennedy College's Mission Statement "Together We Learn for Life"- is reflected in Transition Year through a dedicated teaching staff encouraging and enabling students to aim high, set goals, take ownership of their learning and reach their potential.

TY students have one day a week, Wednesdays, on which to complete their work experience.





"Together we learn for life"

Leaving Certificate

The traditional Leaving Certificate is a comprehensive two-year course of study where students have an opportunity to study subject areas that are suited to their strengths and interests in great detail.

At Kennedy College, students benefit from smaller class groups and increased student-teacher time. This has shown to have a positive impact on educational experience and outcomes. The environment created by teaching and learning in this way allows each student and staff member in our school to live out our visionary statement, 'Together We Learn For Life'.

Core Subjects

Irish
English
Maths

Option Subjects

Biology
Business
Construction Studies
Geography
Home Economics
Design and Communication Graphics (DCG)
Engineering
French
History
LCVP
Art
Agricultural Science
Wellbeing

Additional Subjects

Career Guidance
ICT
SPHE
Physical Education (PE)



Leaving Certificate Applied

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a two-year Leaving Certificate, available to students who wish to follow a practical or vocationally orientated programme. The Leaving Certificate Applied is made up of a range of courses that are structured round three elements: Vocational Preparation, Vocational Education and General Education. Students study the following over two years:

 English and Communications
 Mathematical Applications
 ICT
 French
 Leisure and Recreation
 Vocational Preparation and Guidance
 Irish
 Religion
 Social Education
 Engineering
 Graphics and Construction Studies
 Visual Arts

LCA students have one day a week, Fridays, on which to complete their work experience.

Additional Education Supports

Kennedy College student support team offer a wide variety of student support interventions available to students throughout the academic year. Students can access student support interventions for a variety of reasons. Student support interventions include:

- Getting It Together
- Check and Connect
- Working Things Out Programme
- TTRS for assistive technology users
- Behaviour For Learning programmes

Extra Curricular and sporting

- Coding Club
- Chess Club
- Board Games Club
- Hurling
- Gaelic Football
- Darts
- Basketball
- Tag Rugby
- Soccer
- Athletics
- Rounders
- Choir
- Green Schools
- Amber Flag
- School Of Sanctuary
- Ethos Committee
- Creative Schools
- Gaisce
- .....Plus Many More








KENNEDY
COLLEGE





Student Leadership

- Student Council
- Meitheal Leaders
- Ethos Ambassadors
- Digital Ambassadors



Admission Process

1. Complete the application form, available on kennedycollege.ie.
2. Timelines for the application process are on our website in our Admissions Notice.
3. Parent/Carers will be informed usually November regarding an offer a place in 1st Year.
4. Acceptance of place forms are to be completed to formally accept a placement in 1st Year.
5. Entrance exams are held in February prior to your child starting in late August.
6. Parents/Carers Information sessions are held in May.

Facilities

- Classrooms and learning spaces equipped with technology.
- Library with an extensive collection of books.
- Well-equipped science laboratory.
- Computer labs with high-speed internet access and the latest software.
- Sports Hall
- Art Room
- DCG Room
- Engineering Room
- Construction Studies Room
- Home Economics Room
- Sports field, outdoor soccer and basketball pitches
- Canteen with healthy food options.
- Sensory Space





School Uniform



The school uniform consists of:

- Crested school jumper
- Grey polo
- Grey trousers / skirt
- Black shoes / runners

The PE uniform consists of:

- Blue polo
- Navy tracksuit
- Black runners

The School Day

Class period in our school is 40 minutes in duration.

Monday and Tuesday 9am – 3.55pm
Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 9am – 3.15pm

Break 11.00am – 11.15am
Lunch 1.15pm – 1.55pm



Further Information

Should you require further information in relation to our school please do not hesitate to contact us to arrange an appointment to visit the school and see at first-hand what we have to offer your child.

Principal Mrs Sarah Roche

Deputy Principal Mrs Mary Whelan

Telephone 051-421278

Email kennedycollege@wwetb.ie

Website www.kennedycollege.ie

Facebook @kennedycollegenewross

Twitter @kennedycollege_

Instagram @kennedy_college

What our parents say

"As a parent of two children at Kennedy College, I really value that the school is inclusive and welcoming to all families. The focus on learning, respect and wellbeing makes it a place where my children feel comfortable and supported."

"The availability of study is brilliant. My son is happy going to school and gets opportunities and encouragement"

"My daughter is really thriving in the friendly and encouraging environment"

What our students say

It is a smaller school so teachers have the time to pay more attention to every student.

The school has a wide range of practical subjects so everyone has an opportunity to excel in their education especially if they struggle academically.

TY students have many opportunities from having the chance to go on work experience, partake in workshops and other activities outside of school which makes it enjoyable.

We get free hot lunches daily.

All the teachers are very friendly and caring, they always support us to do our best.

The school has a polytunnel and chickens that no other school in the area has.

Teachers listen to student voice, take suggestions and try to make positive changes.

Students are always supported especially those with additional needs.

A real sense of community as all students know each other and the teachers are very friendly.

Theres a lot of extra curricular activities on in the school each day which is great fun for students.

Notes


KENNEDY
COLLEGE



Kennedy College

T: 051-421278 **E:** kennedycollege@wwetb.ie **W:** kennedycollege.ie