

St. Mary's Academy CBS Carlow



STUDENT SUPPORT SUBSCRIPTION FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2026 - 2027



This information leaflet is to assist parents and to give clarity around the Student Support Subscription and making school payments for the next academic year. It is also being issued now to allow you time to ensure that all payments are paid in advance of the commencement of the new school year. ***You will find on page two of this information leaflet a breakdown of the Student Support Subscription by Year Group and what is included.***

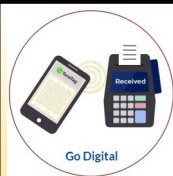
As September is such an expensive time for families we are requesting that Student Support Subscriptions are paid fully ***in advance*** of the beginning of the academic year. **The final date is Friday 21st August 2026.**



We are acutely aware of the difficult economic circumstances some of our school families experience.

We are happy to facilitate staged payments and will agree a payment plan to accommodate personal situations to ensure all payments are paid over the coming months in advance of the Academic Year 2026/2027. Please make direct contact with the Principal who will discreetly arrange to have a payment plan put in place for you.

**All Student Support Subscriptions to be paid in full on or before
Friday 21st August 2026**



CASHLESS / CONTACTLESS PAYMENTS

For your convenience, we have also decided to move to cashless and contactless payments. Payments can be made online via VSware, using the same login details issued to access your sons VSware account. Please see page three for a guide to making payments online via VSware. The VSware system allows payments to be made at a time that suits, either in full or by instalments, to print receipts and to check balances. The convenience of this system has huge benefits for the payer as it eliminates the risk of students bringing cash / cheques with them to school and a receipt is issued immediately.

If you would prefer you may phone the office during the month of June and from Monday 10th August 2026 and our staff will be happy to take your card payment over the phone or by cash/card in person at the school office.

Student Support Subscription by Year Group - What's Included

The Department of Education and Skills does not contribute to any aspect of the non-class activities of the school. Consequently, we have to find financial resources elsewhere. Any event or activity that students may be involved in will attract financial support from the Student Support Subscription, with the following items being typical of how the money is spent:

- Student Personal Insurance - 24/7 for 365 days/year (essential to cover students both on site and when involved in school trips/ extra-curricular activities).
- Athena Academic monitoring and tracking software - We are charged per pupil (New for 2024).
- VsWare enhanced communications package. (New for 2024).
- Lunch club activities.
- Entry fee for extracurricular events/competitions, referees, team kits, first aid supplies etc
- VsWare Student Management Information System (Online access for parents) and Microsoft Teams (Students) - We are charged per pupil.
- Communication Costs - Postage, Texting Service, Newsletters, School App, Email.
- CAT 4 testing (relevant year group) - We are charged per pupil.
- Accelerated Reader Programme.
- REACH + Programme -Senior Cycle. Career and College Preparation Programme (New for 2023) - We are charged per pupil
- Photocopying of class material for students.
- Subsidising of transport for school activities, field trips etc.
- Contribution towards the cost of external expertise e.g visiting speakers on topics of importance to students e.g. health education, substance use, cyber-bullying, wellbeing, careers.
- Awards events.
- School Library.
- Treat Days e.g. Ice Cream Van, Sports Days, Christmas Activities etc

1st Year Subscription €100	1st Year students have already paid the Student Support Subscription as part of the enrolment process. It covers Registration, CAT4 Assessment and all items listed above.
2nd Year Subscription €100	To include all items listed above and students will also have both a Careers Fair and Study Skills Day which is included in the Student Support Subscription.
3rd Year Subscription & Mock Exams €220	To include all items listed above. Also included in the Subscription is the cost of the Mock Examinations which all exam candidates will sit in preparation of State exams in early February. In recognition of the many expenses there are around December / January this Subscription will be collected at the beginning of the year.
TY Subscription €400	To include all items listed above. Also included is a range of extensive opportunities and activities that are available throughout the year. Many of the activities involve the employment of external expertise and relevant accreditation as well as additional materials and resources, transport etc. Cost of Transition Year is €400. <i>TY Subscription €400 must be paid in full by Friday 24th April 2026.</i>
5th Year Subscription €100	To include all items listed above and students will also have both a Careers Fair and Study Skills Day which is included in the Student Support Subscription.
6th Year Subscription & Mock Exams €220	To include all items listed above. Also included in the Subscription is the cost of the Mock Examinations which all exam candidates will sit in preparation of State exams in early February. In recognition of the many expenses there are around December / January this Subscription will be collected at the beginning of the year.

Parent's VSware Guide to Online Payments

Please visit the website: <https://cbscarlow.vsware.ie/Login.jsp>

Login with your username and password as provided by the school. Please note log-in details are case sensitive and may include numbers and keyboard symbols. You will be brought to the main menu view where you will find an overview of student details, access student timetables and term reports and pay fees.

The screenshot shows the VSware Parent Portal interface. On the left is a navigation menu with options: Personal, Term Reports, Attendance, Timetable, and Fee. A yellow arrow points to the 'Fee' option. The main area displays 'Personal Information' for David Barrett, born 08/09/2013. The information is organized into sections: Personal Details (Name, Birth cert. Name, Birth Date, Gender), Medical Card, Traveller Heritage, Language Support Applicant, Boarder Indicator, Date of entry, Irish exemption, Country of Birth, Religion, Class Group, and Date of Exemption, and Nationality.

Personal Information		
Name	David Barrett	Birth cert. Name
Birth Date	08/09/2013	
Gender	Male	
Medical Card	Traveller Heritage	No
Language Support Applicant	No	
Boarder Indicator		
Date of entry	27/08/2012	Irish exemption
Country of Birth	IRELAND	
Religion	Class Group	3.6 (F)
Date of Exemption		
Nationality		

To pay a Fee: Click on Fee in the left hand menu (as indicated in the image above) select the fee(s) you wish to pay for and click Pay. Please tick on the payment method box to choose what method of payment you wish to use. You will be prompted to select a card type and enter payment amount. (as indicated in the image below) You may also print a receipt.

Please click on the following link to view a comprehensive Parent Parent's Guide to VSware: <https://support.vsware.ie/parent-app-overview>

The screenshot shows the 'Fee' payment screen in the VSware Parent Portal. The user is logged in as 'Hi, Bridget Byrne'. The 'Fee list' table shows several fees with their due dates and amounts. An 'Add Payment' modal is open, showing a list of payment methods. A yellow arrow points to the 'Master Card Debit' option in the dropdown menu. The modal also displays a table of fees to be paid, including 'iPad Fee' for 600, and a total transaction amount of 600.75. The modal includes a 'Pay with Card' button and a 'Cancel' button.

Fee name	Due date	Amount	Paid	Owed	
Crumlin FE Reg	30/12/2015	200	0	200	PAY
Colaiste Choirim	22/12/2015	150	0	150	PAY
Rugby Tour 2015	08/12/2015	500	0	500	PAY
				115	PAY
				-20	VIEW RECEIPT
				20	PAY
				-105	VIEW RECEIPT