

2026



St. Leo's College Carlow

Prospectus 2026

Welcome

I am proud to introduce our school to you and invite you to read our prospectus where you will learn about the special qualities of our school and the outstanding all-round education we offer.

At St. Leo's College we are proud of the very broad curriculum available, our excellent academic results, our first-class facilities and our exceptional array of extra-curricular activities. Our commitment to the individual makes this a happy place to learn. Our students thrive knowing that they are supported in every aspect of their life by dedicated staff who encourage them to fulfil their potential.

As Principal, I am proud to lead this school community especially when I witness young students enter and leave as happy, confident, enquiring young women, determined to reach their potential, to excel in whatever they do and destined to make a positive contribution to the world. Our success is firmly rooted in the excellent relationship which exists between students and teachers, and we are especially proud of the atmosphere of trust, support and mutual respect which is evident.

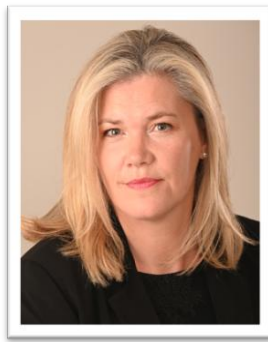
We believe that our students are successful because they are part of a school where every individual is valued and supported and is offered every opportunity to advance. Our Deputy Principals and Year Heads move up through the school with students, supporting them on their learning journey and ensuring that parents/guardians also feel very much part of the learning partnership. We have successfully implemented our Academic Monitoring programme, a system which ensures that each student's academic progress and performance are closely monitored.

Deputy Principals Ian Curran and Emma Dwyer work closely with me in the Senior Leadership & Management Team and are available to assist students and parents/guardians in any way possible.

Niamh Broderick
Principal



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Principal

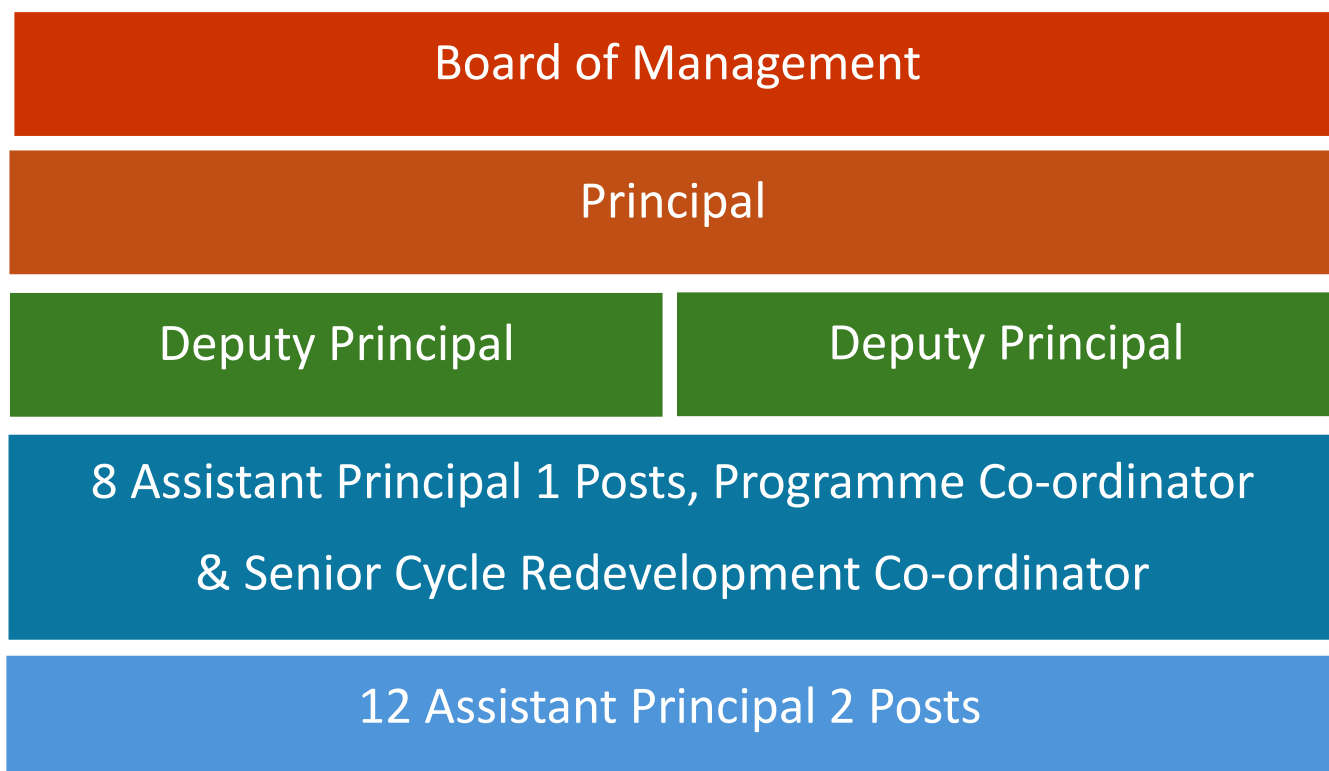


Emma Dwyer
Deputy Principal



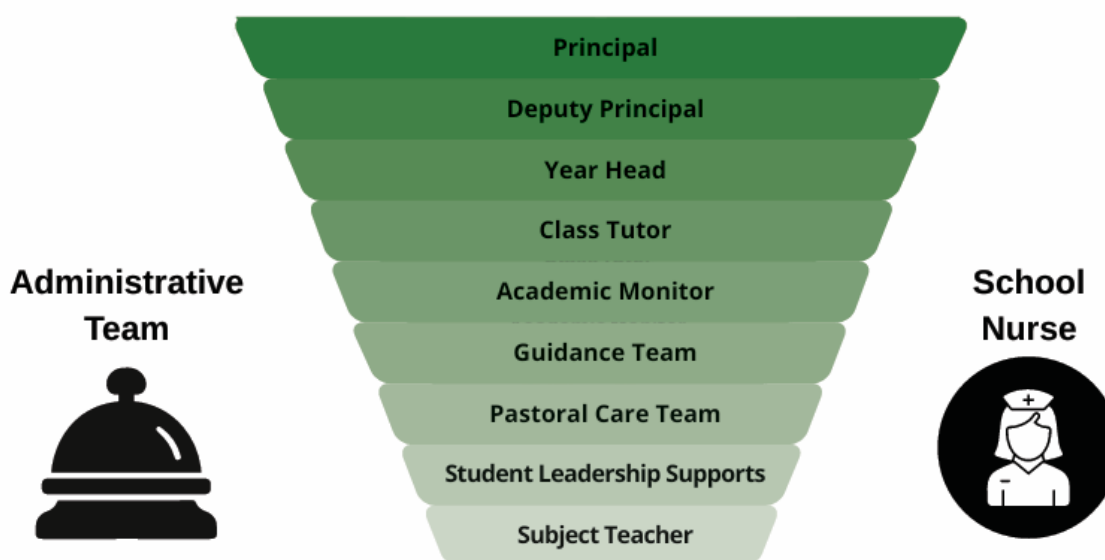
Ian Curran
Deputy Principal

Leadership & Management Structure:



Additionally:

Each class group has the following support structures in place...



Mission Statement

Inspired by the vision of Catherine McAuley, St. Leo's College is committed to the holistic development of each student. As a Catholic school, we pursue excellence in an inclusive, caring and respectful environment.



CEIST

St. Leo's College is under the trusteeship of CEIST - a Catholic Education Irish Schools Trust. CEIST is the trustee body for the voluntary secondary schools of the Daughters of Charity, the Presentation Sisters, the Sisters of Mercy, the Sisters of Christian Retreat and the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart. The Vision of CEIST is to create a compassionate and just society inspired by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Their Mission is to provide a holistic education in the Catholic Tradition.

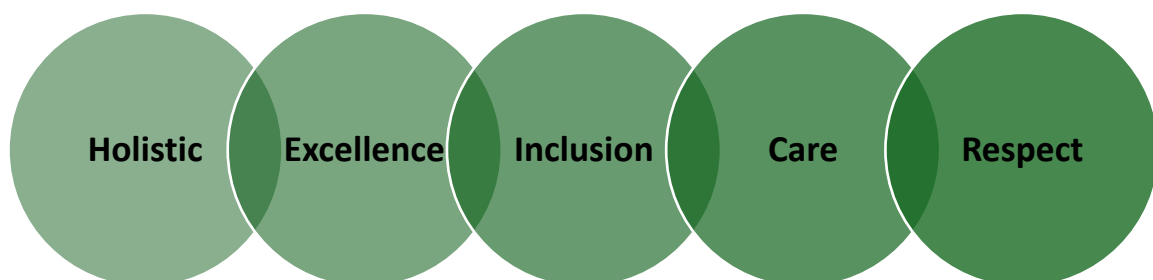


Our Ethos, Heritage & Vision

St. Leo's College was founded 187 years ago. Its commitment to educating young women, empowering young women and encouraging them to excel in all aspects of their development is unrivalled. While maintaining a strong Catholic tradition and ethos, we welcome students from every religious tradition. Our Catholic ethos is characterised by our caring spirit and our commitment to student and teacher. Students are immersed in a rich tradition, where the qualities of commitment, dedication, professionalism and volunteerism are alive and well.

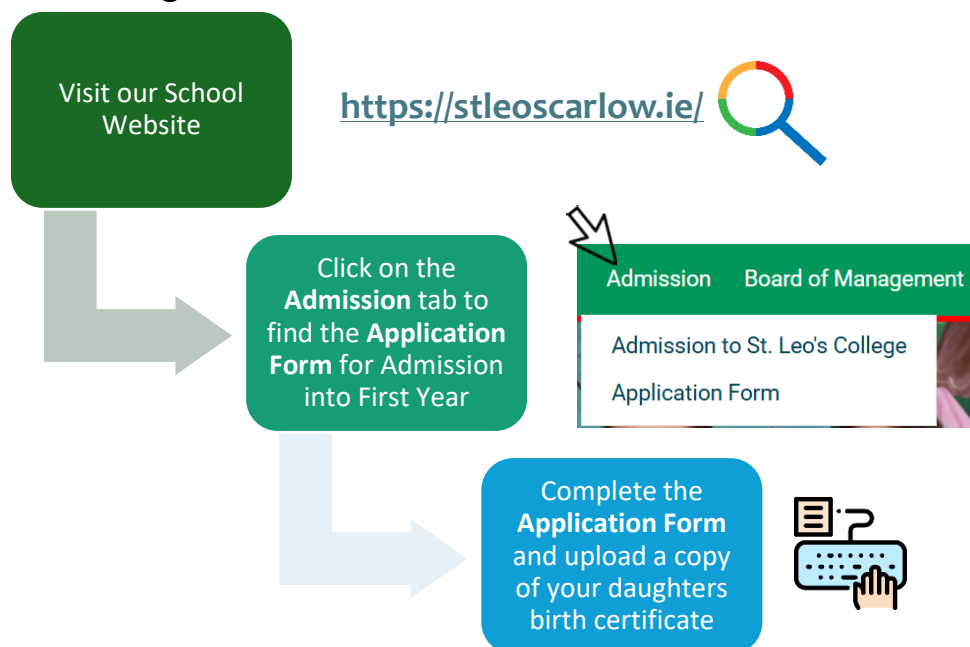
When you choose to send your daughter to complete her secondary education at St. Leo's College in Carlow, you are choosing to give her the best education possible in terms of excellence in Teaching and Learning but you are also giving her the opportunity to witness first-hand the rich heritage of St. Leo's College.

Today in St. Leo's College we carry the torch lit by these first Mercy sisters in 1839 and we proudly continue their work by teaching the young women of Carlow and its surrounding areas to become the best they can be.



Admission into St. Leo's College

Follow these three simple steps to apply for Admission into First Year in St. Leo's College:



**You can also request a copy of the form by emailing enrolments@stleoscarlow.ie.*



Applications OPEN SOON! Scan the QR code to access our website for up-to-date application timelines and information.

Please be advised that a waiting list may be formed in the event of oversubscription.

Please read the **St. Leo's College Admission Policy**, accessible on the school website or via this QR code:



Why Choose St. Leo's College

Tradition

A long-standing tradition and culture of success, achievement and excellence in education.

Expectations

High Expectations of students to achieve their full potential, supported by our vibrant, enthusiastic and dedicated teaching staff.

Holistic Development

Broad curriculum, varied subject choice and wide range of extra-curricular activities.

Care and Support

Excellent care, support and guidance systems. A dedicated School Nurse on-site.

Innovation

A range of highly effective learning initiatives to support student engagement, achievement, progress and wellbeing.

Safe and Included

Inspired by the vision of Catherine McAuley, our whole school community experiences a welcoming, caring and inclusive learning environment.

When you become part of the St. Leo's College Community

Upon her acceptance into and commencement in St. Leo's College, each student is fully supported throughout the transition from Primary to Post-Primary School. Our Supports include:



Academic Curriculum

Junior Cycle (First–Third Year):



St. Leo's College offers a broad range of subject choice for Junior Cycle. Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy are integrated into the teaching of all subject areas.

Core (Mandatory) Subject		Optional Subjects		Wellbeing Subjects
Irish	Science	Visual Art	Music	CSPE
English	Religious Education	Business Studies	Applied Technology	SPHE
Mathematics	Modern Foreign Languages (French or German)	French	German	Physical Education
History		Home Economics		My Brain & Me
Geography				

Wellbeing is a core focus at Junior Cycle. Wellbeing brings together three familiar areas of learning - Physical Education (PE), Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) and Civic, Social and Political Education (CPSE). St. Leo's College also offers a unique subject called 'My Brain and Me' which acts as our fourth pillar. 'My Brain and Me' the science of learning, offers students the opportunity to explore how their brain works to optimise learning.

Our wellbeing programme provides learning opportunities to enhance the physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing of students. It supports students in developing important life skills and in building a strong sense of connectedness to their school and to their community.

**** St. Leo's College offers students the option of studying two Modern Foreign Languages in Junior Cycle. Provision of this facility is dependent on the number of students who wish to avail of this option.***

For more information on Junior Cycle



Senior Cycle (Fifth–Sixth Year):



Senior Cycle education is the period of education that follows the Junior Cycle and is generally taken by students between the ages of 15 and 18. Senior Cycle Students follow a two-year programme leading to the Leaving Certificate Examination. All subjects are offered at all levels with students being encouraged to pursue subjects at higher levels. We take a student-centred approach to subject options with the opportunity being afforded to study an extensive curriculum. Students are supported in advance of entering Senior Cycle and every opportunity is taken to ensure student preference is met, thus resulting in the highest possible satisfaction rating.

At St. Leo's College we offer

Core Subjects
Irish
English
Mathematics
Religious Education
Career Guidance
Physical Education

Optional Subjects		
Accounting	Economics	Physical Education (LCPE) Exam
Agricultural Science	Business Studies	Modern Foreign Languages (French or German)
Chemistry	Home Economics	
Biology	Music	
Physics	Art	
History	Applied Maths	
Politics & Society	Geography	

For more information on Senior Cycle Subjects:

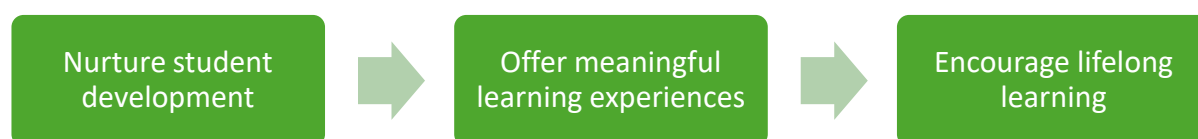


In 2026, changes to Senior Cycle are being introduced. For more information on Senior Cycle Redevelopment:



Transition Year:

Our Transition Year Programme aims to:



How we achieve this:



Special Programs:

LEAVING CERTIFICATE LIFE, COMMUNITY AND WORK (LCW)

Life, Community and Work (LCW) is an enhanced programme introduced under the Senior Cycle Redevelopment to replace the former Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP). It combines the academic strengths of the established Leaving Certificate with a dynamic focus on self-directed learning, enterprise, work, and the community.

Under the updated specification, students are no longer restricted by strict subject-specific criteria or modern language requirements to access the programme. Instead, the course provides practical learning opportunities through active learning strands, a Digital Portfolio, and a work-experience placement to prepare students for adult and working life.

Assessment remains structured to reward continuous practical engagement, evaluated through a portfolio of coursework and a written examination. Achieving a Distinction in this programme continues to hold significant value, carrying 66 CAO points which is the equivalent reward value of a H3 grade on a higher-level paper.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED

The Leaving Certificate Applied* is a distinct, self-contained two-year Senior Cycle programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The programme places an emphasis on forms of achievement and excellence, which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past. This programme is designed to meet the needs of students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes. Grades are allocated on a continuous assessment method over the two years of the programme with practical examinations, interviews and terminal written papers among the different forms of assessment used. The Leaving Certificate Applied is acceptable for most Post-Leaving Certificate Courses. Completing these courses will allow a student to progress to third level Institutes of Technology.

**LCA runs every 2-years in St. Leo's College*

Beyond the Classroom

St. Leo's College prides itself on the wide variety of opportunities it provides for students to develop holistically. These include our broad range of extra-curricular activities, clubs and societies, student leadership roles, school tours and community involvement opportunities.

Student Voice:

"In St. Leo's College I get to enjoy lots of sports activities outside of schoolwork. There are so many sports to choose from like basketball, camogie, hockey, athletics, GAA, volleyball, soccer, badminton, rugby and netball, I got to try out lots of sports that I have never experienced before. The best part is learning all the new skills in each sport. I have met so many new friends from the extra-curricular sports and it is so much fun playing in all the competitions in school"

- Laura Malone (3rd Year Student)

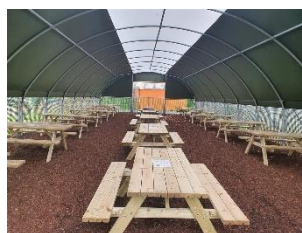
Explore all we do at St. Leo's College



Our school has an abundance of excellent facilities to support student learning and experiences beyond the classroom.

We have over forty general use classrooms, a number of specialist rooms including two Art Rooms, Assembly Hall, Biology Laboratory, Chemistry Laboratory, Physics Laboratory, Agricultural Science Laboratory, three Computer Rooms, three Home Economics Kitchens, Geography Room, Language Laboratory, Outdoor Learning Environments, Library, Study Hall, Music Room, Technology Laboratory, Hair & Beauty Salon and Learning Support area.

Every student also benefits from the experience of Microsoft for Education in her engagement with Microsoft TEAMS, Outlook 365 and OneNote. Class sets of student devices are available for the completion of assessment components, project work and digital literacy skills development. Each student also has access to ExamRevision.ie to enhance their learning.



Additional Student Support Services:

- **Guidance and Counselling:** Career advice, personal support, college preparation.
- **Special Educational Needs (SEN):** Learning support is available for students with additional educational needs. At St. Leo's College these students receive support both in mainstream classes and in the Learning Centre. The Learning Centre is equipped with the technology and resources to support and improve students' literacy and numeracy and help them to progress in various subjects, with both individual and group assistance.
- **AS Class:** A dedicated, supportive learning environment for students with complex educational needs. Operating with a lower student-teacher ratio, the class focuses on delivering individualised learning plans while promoting maximum inclusion within the wider school community. Students benefit from specialised resources and a tailored learning support area, allowing them to engage in active learning alongside their mainstream peers whenever appropriate.
- **Pastoral Care:** Initiatives and programmes that support students' wellbeing.
- **Code of Behaviour and Bí Cineálta Policy:** Commitment to a safe and inclusive environment.



Student Voice:

"St. Leo's College encourages leadership and involvement through clubs, student leadership roles and volunteering opportunities. Students have the chance to develop skills outside the classroom, build friendships, and get a sense of belonging within the college community. The diverse range of extra-curricular activities at St. Leo's College ensures that there is something for every student, supporting their overall development and providing a well-rounded experience. This is one of the aspects I love most about St. Leo's College, there is something for everyone in the school and everyone fits in!"

- Zarah Willoughby (5th Year Student)



Contact Information

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Website: <https://stleoscarlow.ie/>

Social Media Links:

 @leoscollege - <https://www.instagram.com/leoscollege/?hl=en>

