



BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS
2027

PRINCIPALS WELCOME



Dear Students, Parents, Staff, and Community Members,
It is a great privilege to welcome you to Ballinrobe Community School.

As I reflect on my first two years as Principal, I am deeply appreciative of the warm welcome I have received and of the commitment and enthusiasm that exists throughout our school community. These two years have provided an opportunity to listen, to learn, and to work together as we continue to develop our school and build on its proud traditions.

A significant part of this journey has been the development of our new School Mission Statement, created through consultation and collaboration with students, parents, staff, and our wider community. It provides us with a clear and shared vision for the school and reflects the values and aspirations that we hold for every member of our community.

'At Ballinrobe Community School, we endeavour to nurture a vibrant community built on respect, inclusion, kindness, and spiritual growth. We endeavour to empower every individual to achieve academic and personal excellence.'

This mission captures our belief that education is about more than academic achievement. We seek to create an inclusive and supportive environment where every student feels valued, respected, and encouraged to fulfil their potential, both personally and academically.

To our students, I encourage you to be curious, ambitious, and willing to embrace the many opportunities that school life offers. To our parents and guardians, I look forward to continuing our partnership in supporting the growth and success of every student.

As we look ahead, our mission gives us a strong foundation and a clear sense of direction. I am excited about the journey ahead and confident that, together, we can continue to make Ballinrobe Community School a place where every individual can flourish.

'Ní neart go cur le chéile'

Warm regards,

Julie Anne Collins

Principal
Ballinrobe Community School

Deputy Principals



Ms. Kathleen Devaney



Ms. Jane Halloran

School Details

Mission Statement

At Ballinrobe Community School we endeavour to nurture a vibrant community built on respect, inclusion, kindness and spiritual growth. We endeavour to empower every individual to achieve academic and personal excellence.

Board of Management 2025–2028

The Board of Management for the period 2025 to 2028 is committed to providing strong leadership, strategic direction, and effective governance to support the ongoing development of our school community.

Board Members

▪ Pat McHugh	Chairperson
▪ Pat McHugh	Religious Nominee
▪ Patrick Cronolly	Religious Nominee
▪ Julie Anne Collins	Secretary
▪ Seamus Coyne	Parent Nominee
▪ Maria Ryan	Parent Nominee
▪ Fionnuala Dooley	Teacher Nominee
▪ Michelle Rabbette	Teacher Nominee
▪ Richard Finn	ETB Nominee
▪ Rosaleen O' Grady	ETB Nominee
▪ Malachy Molloy	ETB Nominee
▪ Father Denis Carney	Bishop's Nominee

Parent Council

If you are interested in being on the Parent Council, please send an email to info@ballinrobebs.ie

GENERAL INFORMATION

School Day

Monday to Thursday

9:10 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday

9:10 AM - 1:25 PM

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Friday

9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

School Telephone Numbers

094 9541777

School Email Address

info@ballinrobe.cs.ie

School Website

www.ballinrobecommunityschool.ie

School Calendar

Calendar details for academic year are forwarded to all families in August. It is important to note that this calendar may be subject to change as the school year progresses.

Parent Communication & Absence Notification

The school offers a dedicated app for parents to notify the school of a child's absence. This system ensures accurate record-keeping and timely communication between the school and families.

School Uniform (Subject to change 27-28)

Junior Cycle

- Maroon & grey v-neck jumper with crest
- Plain black jacket
- Grey skirt or pants
- Grey shirt
- Black shoes

Senior Cycle

- Black & grey v-neck jumper with crest
- Plain black jacket
- Grey skirt or pants
- Grey shirt
- Black shoes

School Uniforms are available from:

Ken Murphy's
Main Street, Ballinrobe

OR

Deirdre Biggins
Church Lane, Ballinrobe

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@BALLINROBESCS



FB.COM/BALINROBESCS



@BROBESCH



Leaving Certificate 2026 students who received over 500 points.

JUNIOR CYCLE

Three Year Course

Overview

Ballinrobe Community School offers a wide range of Academic, Scientific, Business, Artistic and Practical subjects at Junior Cycle. Core subjects Irish, English and Maths are taken at Higher or Ordinary level.

First Year students have a broad range of subjects to choose from for their Junior Cycle Course.

Core Subjects

Irish, English, Maths, Science & History

Additional Subjects

In addition to core subjects, each student will study a combination of subjects from the list below:

- Home Economics
- Technical Graphics
- French
- German
- Engineering
- Materials Technology Wood
- Geography
- Business Studies
- Art
- Music

First Year Students will also study the following non-examination subjects:

- Religion
- Computers

Short Courses

Students will study the following Short Courses for certification:

- Physical Education
- Civic, Social & Political Education (CSPE)
- Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)



Additional Information

Prospective First Year students who intend enrolling for the new school year will have an opportunity to sample the optional subjects over a period of one day prior to choosing their subjects.

Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs)

The Level 2 Learning Programmes (L2LPs) provide guidelines for learning, teaching and assessment for students with general learning disabilities in the low mild to high moderate range of abilities during first, second and third year of post-primary school.

These programmes are designed to support students' individual learning needs and to promote progress in key areas of development. The L2LPs focus on skills such as elementary literacy and numeracy, language and communication, mobility and leisure, motor coordination, and social and personal development, enabling students to build confidence, independence, and essential life skills.



SENIOR CYCLE

OPTIONS

On completion of the Junior Cycle, students have a number of options:

- A Transition Year
- B Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Life, Community & Work (LCW)
- C Leaving Certificate Applied

Transition Year

Our Transition Year Programme is a highly successful and valued part of life at Ballinrobe Community School. We provide a broad and balanced programme designed to promote personal, social, educational and vocational development, while giving students the opportunity to explore new interests, develop key skills and gain experiences beyond the traditional classroom.

Students continue to study English, Irish, Mathematics and a modern language, providing valuable continuity and placing them in a strong position as they progress to either the Leaving Certificate or Leaving Certificate Applied programmes. Students also have the opportunity to sample a range of Leaving Certificate subjects throughout the year, helping them to make informed and confident choices about their future programme and subject options.

The programme offers a wealth of experiences, including work experience, participation in school musicals, overseas trips and tours, outdoor pursuits, workshops, guest speakers and personal development opportunities. These experiences encourage students to develop confidence, independence, resilience and a greater awareness of their own interests, strengths and abilities.

Typically, 80% of our Third Year students choose to progress into Transition Year, which is a significant indicator of the programme's success and popularity. We continually adapt and develop the programme in response to feedback from students, parents and teachers, ensuring that it remains relevant, engaging and responsive to the needs of our students.

We are immensely proud of our Transition Year Programme and the opportunities it provides for students to grow, explore, experience and prepare for the next stage of their education and lives.



Leaving Cert student who received 625 points in his Leaving Cert 2026.

Key Aims

A school's Transition Year (TY) programme is designed to support students in their personal, social, academic and vocational development. Our TY programme aims to:

- 1) **Nurture the development of the student as a whole person** by building on their previous experiences, through a curriculum designed by the school that is aligned with the national TY Programme Statement.
- 2) **Create space and opportunities for meaningful and enjoyable learning experiences**, through which students can develop key competencies in the classroom and school, at home, and in their roles as local, national and global citizens.
- 3) **Expand students' experiences and awareness of diverse future pathways**, nurturing their capacity to sustain growth and development through a process of lifelong learning.
- 4) **Evolve continuously to support student learning and development**, through an ongoing process of reflection and renewal involving students, teachers, school leaders, parents, and community partners.

Main Features

- **Leaving Certificate Main Subject Areas:**
This gives students the opportunity to experience many different subject areas which, in conjunction with our Career Guidance Programme, is of great benefit when choosing their Leaving Certificate subjects.
- European Studies
- Work experience and Community Service
- Mini Companies
Developing entrepreneurial and business skills.
- Public Speaking and Debating
- School Musical
- European Tour
- Outdoor Pursuits

SENIOR CYCLE

Leaving Certificate

At Ballinrobe Community School, we offer a comprehensive choice of subjects for students undertaking the traditional Leaving Certificate.

Students study seven subjects for examination, with subjects available at both Higher and Ordinary Level, providing a broad and flexible programme to meet a wide range of interests, abilities and future ambitions. We have a long and proud tradition of academic success and are committed to supporting every student to achieve their full potential.

The Leaving Certificate Class of 2026 was a particularly successful year group, with 20% of students achieving over 500 points, which is in line with the national average.

Core Subjects

- English, Irish and Mathematics

Optional Subjects

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Accounting | • Economics |
| • Agricultural Science | • Engineering |
| • Applied Mathematics | • French |
| • Art | • Geography |
| • Biology | • German |
| • Business | • History |
| • Chemistry | • Home Economics |
| • Computer Science | • Music |
| • Construction Studies | • Physics |
| • Design and Communication Graphics | |

Non-Examination Subjects

Leaving Certificate students also study:

- Career Guidance
- Physical Education
- Religion
- SPHE

Our focus extends beyond examination results. We support students in progressing successfully to third-level education, apprenticeships, further education and training, and the world of work, while recognising and celebrating the individual achievements and endeavours of every student.

We are proud of the commitment and ambition demonstrated by our students and remain dedicated to providing the guidance, support and opportunities they need to flourish and succeed in their chosen pathway.



QQI Level 3 Programme

As part of our inclusive approach to senior cycle education, students also have the opportunity to participate in QQI Level 3 programmes. These nationally recognised qualifications are designed to support students in achieving success through practical, applied and accessible learning experiences. It is an excellent follow on from the Level 2 Learning Programmes at Junior Cycle.

The QQI Level 3 awards focus on essential knowledge, skills and competencies in areas such as communication, mathematics, information technology, personal effectiveness and vocational skills. They provide a valuable alternative or complementary pathway to the traditional Leaving Certificate programmes and support progression into further education, training, or employment.

SENIOR CYCLE

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

We were delighted to reintroduce the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) Programme at Ballinrobe Community School in September 2026, providing students with a practical and engaging pathway through Senior Cycle.

LCA is designed to support students in achieving their full potential through continuous assessment, practical learning and real-life experiences. Students develop academic, vocational and personal skills through a broad range of activities and projects, with a particular emphasis on preparing them for further education, training, employment and adult life.

A key feature of our LCA programme is weekly work experience every Wednesday, giving students valuable opportunities to develop confidence, independence, responsibility and workplace skills. We have created a vibrant, student-centred programme that recognises individual strengths and provides students with a format of learning that suits them best.

At Ballinrobe Community School, LCA reflects our commitment to providing inclusive and diverse pathways to success, ensuring that every student has the opportunity to flourish.

Leaving Certificate Life, Community and Work (LCW)

The new Leaving Certificate Life, Community and Work (LCW) programme provides students with an opportunity to develop the skills, confidence and experiences needed for life beyond school.

Building on the strengths of the former LCVP, LCW places a strong emphasis on career preparation, enterprise, community engagement and the world of work. Students are encouraged to develop their communication, collaboration, problem-solving and personal skills while connecting their learning to real-life experiences.

LCW complements students' academic studies and supports them in making informed decisions about their future, whether that leads to further education, training, employment or other opportunities.

Together, LCA and LCW form an important part of our commitment to providing broad, inclusive and future-focused Senior Cycle pathways at Ballinrobe Community School.

SCHOOL STRUCTURES

We are delighted to have achieved our first Amber Flag in recognition of the positive work taking place across Ballinrobe Community School to support the mental health and wellbeing of our students and wider school community.

The Amber Flag recognises the range of supports, initiatives and activities we have developed to promote positive mental health, encourage open conversations about wellbeing, and ensure that students know where and how to seek support when they need it.

This achievement reflects the commitment of our students, staff and wider school community to creating a caring, inclusive and supportive environment where wellbeing is valued and every individual feels that they belong.

We are extremely proud of this achievement and see our first Amber Flag as an important milestone in our ongoing commitment to supporting the mental health, wellbeing and personal development of every student.

Wellbeing

In Ballinrobe Community School we believe in fostering the wellbeing of every student. Our curriculum is a direct reflection of our commitment to student wellbeing with full provision being made for SPHE, RSE, CSPE and PE.

Additionally, we have a weekly pastoral care class where a class tutor connects with the students in their assigned class and follows a programme of wellbeing promotion.

The physical environment of the school carefully considers student needs. We have excellent indoor and outdoor seating facilities, a canteen that provides nutritious food options, a water fountain to ensure students remain well hydrated and warm & welcoming classrooms and corridors. Student artwork adorns our halls and student achievements are celebrated regularly.

The oratory in school provides a quiet space for students prayer and supports the diverse range of religious faiths in our school community. The extra curricular programme in the school is vibrant and varied. All students are encouraged to get involved in an activity that they enjoy and helps them in building relationships and connections outside of the classroom.

Our school chaplain, guidance counsellors and Year Heads provide excellent pastoral support to students on an ongoing basis. Our Learning Support Teachers ensure students with additional needs are supported across the curriculum. Our Code of Discipline, Antibullying policy, Child Safeguarding policy and Acceptable Use policy are reviewed regularly.

Student voice is highly valued, and our student council is active and respected across the community for the important contribution it makes to school development. Throughout the year, the school organises various events, guest speakers, retreats, workshops, and trips to promote and support student wellbeing.

The core value of respect is evident throughout our school community.

ICT Information Communication Technology

At Ballinrobe Community School, we recognise the importance of digital learning and technology in preparing students for the future. We have modern ICT facilities throughout the school, supported by high-speed broadband and a range of digital devices available for student use. Our facilities include a fully equipped Technical Graphics room, alongside five sets of laptops/Surface Pro devices that can be used by students to support classroom learning and complete coursework and projects.

ICT is embedded across the curriculum, enriching the learning experience and providing students with opportunities to develop the digital skills, confidence and independence required in further education, training and the world of work.

As part of our commitment to developing confident digital learners, all students have one hour of dedicated Computer Studies each week in both First and Second Year. This provides a strong foundation in digital literacy and complements the use of technology across all areas of the curriculum.

In September 2026, Ballinrobe Community School introduced a one-to-one laptop programme for all Leaving Certificate Year 1 students, recognising the increasingly important role of digital learning within the new Leaving Certificate curriculum.

The introduction of one-to-one devices supports students in engaging with the significant digital component of their subjects and in completing the Additional Assessment Components (AACs) that form an important part of many new Leaving Certificate subjects. In a number of subjects, these components account for up to 40% of the overall Leaving Certificate grade, making access to a suitable device an important part of students' learning experience.

Devices are purchased by parents/guardians through our third-party provider, Wriggle, and are managed by the school to ensure that students have secure and appropriate access to the technology they need for learning. A range of payment and financial options is available to support families with the purchase.

Importantly, the device belongs to the student. When they complete their time at Ballinrobe Community School, the school-managed restrictions are removed, leaving students with a fully independent device that they can take with them into the next stage of their lives — whether that be third-level education, further education and training, an apprenticeship or the world of work.

Our one-to-one device programme is an important investment in our students, equipping them with the digital skills, confidence and independence they need for the future.

Learning Support and Additional Educational Needs Teaching

Our Additional Educational Needs department is dedicated to ensuring that every student reaches their full potential. We recognise that students have a wide range of abilities and learning needs, and we are committed to providing tailored support that enables all learners to access the curriculum and thrive in school life.

Our school uses the Continuum of Support framework to identify and respond to students' individual learning needs in a structured and effective way. This approach enables us to provide targeted support at different levels, ranging from classroom-based strategies to small group interventions and individualised teaching, depending on the needs of each learner.

The primary aim of our learning support provision is to ensure that every student can access the curriculum, participate fully in school life, and achieve their personal potential. By working collaboratively with teachers, parents, students, and external professionals, we create tailored support plans that promote progress and confidence in learning.

At the heart of our approach is a commitment to inclusion. We value the uniqueness of every student and strive to foster a school environment where diversity is celebrated, barriers to learning are removed, and all students feel respected, supported, and empowered to succeed. Support may be offered in many forms, including small group teaching, one-to-one tuition, team teaching within the classroom, and targeted interventions in literacy, numeracy and social skills. Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are developed in collaboration with students, parents, and staff to ensure a coordinated approach to support.

We work closely with external agencies, educational psychologists, and the Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) to provide additional guidance and resources where required. Our goal is to promote confidence, independence and a lifelong love of learning for all students.

INDUCTION / ASSESSMENT

Students transferring from primary schools will be required, as far as possible, to attend one sampling day, which is usually held in the early Spring term.

This induction day will be used to familiarise the students with the school and its facilities, and students will be mentored throughout the day. First year students follow a specifically designed two day induction programme when they start in our school.

This programme helps the students make the transition from Primary to Post Primary School. Students build a rapport with their tutor and familiarise themselves with the school structures.

All first-year students complete a range of assessments to support their learning journey. These assessments, including the CAT4 (Cognitive Abilities Test) and PPAD-E test, help us to understand students' strengths and learning preferences and to plan teaching and support strategies that meet their individual needs.

Assessments & School Reports

Topic studies and classwork are assessed through continuous assessment, ensuring that students receive ongoing feedback on their learning. House exams are held at the end of Term 1 (November) and the final term (May), and students are required to sit all house exams.

Mock exams take place in February for exam years, helping students to prepare for the Leaving Certificate or Junior Certificate.

Detailed school reports are made available online to parents at the end of the first and third terms. These reports provide a comprehensive account of a student's progress, including academic achievement, effort, and engagement across all subjects, enabling parents to support their child's learning effectively.

ROOM 20 AND ROOM 25

Room 20 and 25, the dedicated autism classes in Ballinrobe Community School, are welcoming and supportive spaces designed to help each child reach their full potential. In these classrooms, we focus on life-skills, independence, and the Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes, while also encouraging students to participate and engage with their Level 3 mainstream classes as part of their daily routine. The teaching and learning in Room 20 and 25 is supported by two dedicated full-time SNAs who work closely with teachers and students to provide individual care and guidance. Room 20 and 25 also feature a much-loved sensory room and an outdoor sensory area, both of which offer students the opportunity to relax, regulate, and enjoy activities that support their wellbeing and growth.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Arts

Ballinrobe Community School prides itself on its long established involvement with the Arts. For many years the school has produced school musicals of outstanding quality.

The annual Transition Year school musical is an integral part of the school year and is one of its most significant extra-curricular activities.

The involvement of dedicated staff interacting, coaching and encouraging the students has given the school its outstanding reputation in this field of activity.

Students participate in a wide variety of other educational activities e.g. public speaking and debating, quiz competitions, table quizzes, essay competitions etc..

Debating

Ballinrobe Community School has an active debating club, open to all year groups, which meets weekly to discuss the issues of the day. It is a place where students of all abilities can develop confidence, communication and critical thinking skills.

In recent years, students have participated, with great success, in a range of competitions including the National Concern Debates and the Mayo Association Dublin Schools Debating competition.



Senior Ladies GAA All-Ireland Champions 2026



Sports and Games

Ballinrobe Community School has always taken pride in the emphasis it places on the physical, social, mental and emotional wellbeing of students through our extra-curricular programme. This is pursued through developing the students self-image and personal and social skills in practical skills.

Games / Sports on offer include:

- Basketball
- Gaelic Football
- Soccer
- Cross-country
- Track & Field
- Futsal
- Golf
- Equestrian sports
- Outdoor Gym/Basketball Court
- Badminton



Students compete in various competitions. Ballinrobe Community School has a large fully equipped Sports Hall, a fully equipped Gymnasium, Football pitches, Running/Walking Track and Changing facilities.

Students who participate in sports are required to pay a €10 registration fee to cover the cost of a bus to matches.

Ballinrobe Community School is a Health promoting school and was recently awarded the ACTIVE SCHOOL FLAG. This is in recognition of our success in striving to achieve a physically active and physically educated school community.

STUDENT FACILITIES



Facilities

- **Supervised Evening Study:**

Supervised evening study takes place in the school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 4.15–6.30pm. A fee applies to this facility, and it is only provided when there is a minimum of 30 students signed up.

- **Canteen:**

A fully equipped canteen caters to the culinary needs of the students. A varied competitively priced lunch menu (hot and cold lunches) is available.

- **Internet:**

Research facilities are available to all students.

- **Sports Hall:**

Large fully equipped Sports Hall.

- **Gymnasium:**

Fully equipped with Treadmill, Exercise Bikes, Weights etc..

- **School Textbooks, Stationery and Class Materials**

School textbooks and stationery are provided to all students. All class materials in practical and technical subjects are included in annual charges. As much as possible, we are always conscious of the heavy financial burden facing parents who have children attending post-primary schools, and we endeavour not to place unnecessary expenses on the parents of our students

- **Seomra Ciúin/Zen Garden/Outdoor Chess facilities**

STUDENT SERVICES – Student Mentor Group

- The members of the Student Mentor Team are assigned in small groups to First Year classes at the beginning of the academic year.
- In the early weeks of the first term they spend time getting to know the First Year students by meeting them regularly and organising activities for them.
- Relevant training is organised for the Student Mentor Team.
- A member of the teaching staff acts as co-ordinator of the Student Mentor Team. Regular meetings with the Student Mentor Team are convened by the co-ordinator and such meetings address concerns which may arise for the Student Mentors.
- 1st and TY students take part in the Big Brother Big Sister Programme each year.

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council gives the students an opportunity to take an active part in the life of their school. The establishment of Student Councils in second level schools is recognised by the Education Act 1998. Students involved in the Council improve their communication skills and foster a great sense of responsibility for their immediate environment.

The Student Council promotes the interests of the school and the involvement of students in the affairs of the school, in partnership with the Staff, Students, Board of Management and Parents / Guardians. Each year group elects their own representatives to the Council. They hold regular meetings and also make representations to Senior Management.

CLUB GAELACH

Tá Club Gaelach gníomhach sa scoil a bhunaigh an idirbhiliain agus a chasann ar a chéile uair sa tseachtain. Tugann an club deis do dhaltáí úsáid a bhaint as a gcuid Gaelige agus cabhraíonn sé go mór le scrúdú béil a bhíonn le déanamh.

PASTORAL CARE / CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Pastoral Care Organisation

Ballinrobe Community School provides a Pastoral Care System which meets the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual well being of the students. It does this by:

- Directing the students in matters relating to social behaviour such as self-discipline, respect and sensitivity to others.
- Helping the students in problem solving and decision making.
- Nurturing of self-esteem.
- Maintaining a caring environment.
- Counselling students in matters relating to their lives

Each group is assigned a Year Head who takes a direct interest in the welfare of each student in that year.

The role of the Year Head is:

- Meeting parents / students by appointment.
- Taking responsibility for promoting the positive aspects of good discipline and behaviour.
- Co-ordinating general files for students and keeping student records.
- Consulting with the Principal and Deputy Principals about any serious problems when they arise.

The Team of Year Heads, the Chaplain and Counsellor have a scheduled weekly meeting with the Principal and Deputy Principals where disciplinary and other issues are discussed. Matters of immediate concern to Year Heads can be brought to the attention of the Principal or Deputy Principals on a daily basis.



The Care Team

The Care Team consists of the Principal, Deputy Principals, Chaplain, Guidance Counsellor and Year Heads. The Care Team is there to provide sustained assistance to students who may be experiencing difficulties of a personal / emotional nature. The Team have a scheduled weekly meeting where students concerns / issues are discussed.

Code of Behaviour

Our Code of Behaviour sets out the standards and expectations that underpin a safe, respectful and positive school environment. It reflects our core values of respect, kindness, inclusion, and spiritual growth, and applies to all members of the school community.

The code aims to promote good behaviour, support student wellbeing, and foster positive relationships based on mutual respect and cooperation. It outlines the rights and responsibilities of students and staff, the standards of behaviour expected in classrooms, corridors and online, and the procedures for managing breaches in a fair and consistent way. Through a restorative approach, we encourage students to reflect on their actions, understand their impact on others, and make positive choices. Our goal is to create a community where every student feels valued, supported and empowered to achieve their best.

Our code of behaviour is available on our school website.



“Education is not preparation for life;
Education is life itself.”



BALLINROBE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Convent Road
Ballinrobe
Co. Mayo
RCN: 20149314



094 954 1777



info@ballinrobe.cs.ie