

Coláiste Cholmcille



Béal átha Seannaigh

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WELCOME

CHARACTERISTIC SPIRIT

Coláiste Cholmcille is a co-educational multi-denominational post-primary school under the joint patronage of the Bishop of Raphoe and Clogher and Donegal ETB.

Community Schools provide a comprehensive system of post-primary education open to all the children of the local community. An innovative approach to delivery of a wide-ranging curriculum contributes to the spiritual, moral, mental, physical and social well-being of students within their community. Community Schools may also provide for life-long learning within their local community through the provision of adult education programmes.

Our school was established under the Deed of Trust and opened on 26 April 2002. Coláiste Cholmcille is an amalgamation of the Sacred Heart Secondary School, the De La Salle College and Ballyshannon Vocational School, built on a greenfield site in the centre of the town of Ballyshannon, Co. Donegal. The values of Donegal ETB as a multi-denominational State Body and the inherited traditions, Christian values and founding intentions of the Mercy Sisters and the Bishops of Raphoe and Clogher are enshrined in the characteristic spirit and in the life of our school and are respected and cherished.

The core values of Coláiste Cholmcille are care, respect, community, inclusion, equality, justice and fairness. These values combine to provide and support an atmosphere which is conducive to excellence in teaching and learning. We endeavour to assist each student to reach their full potential in a calm, caring and creative environment.

Our values are reflected in how we live as a school community. The unique and intrinsic value of each member of the school community is recognised and respected. All are treated equally, regardless of race, gender, religions belief, age, family status, marital status, and civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability, disability or socio-economic status. All students are given equal opportunity for enrolment, in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act (2018) construed in accordance with section 3 of the Equal Status Act 2000. Once enrolled, our school Coláiste Cholmcille, provides all our students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum, school life and the local community.

In Coláiste Cholmcille, we celebrate the partnership, collaboration and empathy which nurtures and develops our young people in a community where the essence of our ethos is care and respect for self, others and our environment.

HISTORY OF OUR SCHOOL

Coláiste Cholmcille represents decades of excellence in education serving students from South Donegal, Fermanagh, Leitrim and Sligo. As a community school, we are part of a wider group of community schools nationwide. In 2022, we were granted DEIS status. DEIS status means that our school qualifies for a range of extra resources which help us to support all students on a daily basis.

ONE GOOD SCHOOL

One Good School is Jigsaw's initiative aimed at supporting the mental health and wellbeing of young people by developing a shared responsibility for mental health across the whole school community. By participating in this initiative, it will support our school community to build their knowledge and understanding of mental health, develop skills to mind their own mental health and learn strategies to support young people with theirs. We want our school to be a place where mental health and wellbeing is valued. We know the impact that school can have on the lives of young people, and we want to make sure that our school fosters a sense of belonging and connection for all, so that looking after our mental health and wellbeing is a part of the fabric of our school. We all have a role to play in supporting youth mental health.

SPECIAL AND INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

In Coláiste Cholmcille, we pride ourselves on being a special and inclusive school community. Our school has a strong Special Educational Needs (SEN) Department with qualified Special Educational Teachers and Special Needs Assistants (SNAs) who work hard to ensure that every student in our school achieves their potential. Our SEN Co-ordinator identifies students with special needs by liaising with the Primary School. The SEN Department also check in with students who are transitioning from other schools. Parents and guardians are encouraged to inform the SEN Department of any difficulties students may be experiencing. Special Individual Educational Programmes (SIPs) may be devised for students with special needs where appropriate.

We have two dedicated Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) classrooms for students who need extra support throughout their journey in Coláiste Cholmcille.

Learning Support and resource teaching is available to facilitate students in need of additional help and guidance in literacy and numeracy. Learning support/resource classes aim to develop

social skills and life skills and to improve literacy and numeracy skills for these students. Students who receive resource hours have a reduced timetable to accommodate this additional teaching.



HOLISTIC EDUCATION

In Coláiste Cholmcille, we work with every student to give them the opportunity to achieve what they feel is their potential. We recognise that every student is different and has their own set of skills. At Coláiste Cholmcille, we aim to allow these talents to flourish. For some, it will be academic excellence, for others it will be in performing arts, for others it will be in their contribution to our community. Whatever the skills are, we endeavour to give students the opportunity to demonstrate these skills.

CAREER GUIDANCE / COUNSELLING



We have two Guidance Counsellors in our school; the Guidance Team offers advice on all aspects of subject choice, third level courses and the world of work. The Career Guidance and Counselling service is designed to assist students to make choices about their lives and to ease their transition. Delivering a comprehensive, up-to-date and caring guidance counselling service is the goal of our team. Career

advice and counselling is offered to students via confidential one to one meetings. Guidance is a whole school activity. All Senior Cycle students receive careers education classes and guidance is delivered in the Junior Cycle classes via an excellent wellbeing curriculum.

Assistance is given to students at the end of First, Third and Transition Year to make subject choices that will allow them to keep all options open for their choice of career. Students are prepared in interview skills, job application procedures, higher education and for further training. Guest speakers are frequently invited to speak to our students from Industry, Apprenticeship Programmes, local Universities, Institutes of Technology and Colleges of Further Education. The school guidance service organises trips for senior students to a variety of careers related events and Open Days.

Parents are always very welcome to make contact if they want to discuss anything further about their child's pathway.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Two parents of students currently in the school are elected to the Board by the parent body.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association have a unique role in capturing the voice of our parents in Coláiste Cholmcille. The role of the Parents Association is to help maintain a link between our school community and parents by having parents contribute their unique perspective to our school. The association organise many events for the school community. The function of the association is to

- (1) Promote the interests of the pupils in co-operation with the school
- (2) To advise the Board and Principal on school matters
- (3) To adopt a programme of activities to promote parental involvement.

PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent Teacher meetings take place during the school year. These are vital contacts between home and school, and between parents and teachers. We encourage all parents to make attendance at these meetings a priority. Parents are encouraged to contact the school if they have any concerns.

INFORMATION MEETINGS

Throughout the year there are many opportunities for parents to meet for information evenings.

COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS

In Coláiste Cholmcille, we communicate with parents through different means including:

- VShare (Online platform which all parents have access to)
- Coláiste Cholmcille School App
- School Journal
- Term Reports
- Parent Teaching Meetings
- Website
- Twitter
- Facebook
- Information Evenings
- Parents' Association

PASTORAL CARE

CLASS TUTOR

A Class Tutor is assigned to each class, acting as a mentor to each student in that class. The tutor oversees' the day-to-day running of the class monitors the progress of each student, and liaises with the Year Head when they have identified a pupil experiencing difficulties.

YEAR HEAD

Each year group is assigned a Year Head who encourages students to do their best and be their best. The Year Head focuses on the positive development of the student and promotes positive behaviour and overall pastoral care of each student. The Year Head monitors the academic progress of their students on a continuous basis and liaises with class tutors, class teachers and parents regularly.

HOME SCHOOL COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICER

The HSCL Officer is a designated teacher in the school. The HSCL Officer can:

- Make home visits
- Organise parent classes and other courses
- Support families as their child moves through the education system

The HSCL works closely with School Completion and the Educational Welfare Service.

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Our School Chaplain assists in the transition of all students into Coláiste Cholmcille and is available to all students. The chaplain will meet with any student who needs supports on daily basis. They assist in the planning of the many liturgical and ecumenical services held during the school year.

HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL

Each year Coláiste Cholmcille vote to nominate one boy and one girl to represent our school. The Head Boy and Head Girl are expected to serve as role models to the student body, representatives of the school, and co-ordinators of student activities. While the roles are accompanied by a myriad of responsibilities, it also provides students with numerous opportunities.



SENIOR PREFECTS

Each year a number of Leaving Certificate students apply to become prefects. This programme is supported by our School Chaplain and Care Team. They have several important duties in our school. In particular, they are a presence on the hallways and corridors, there to chat to new students and welcome them to our school community.

TRANSITION YEAR MENTORS

The aim of the programme is to help First Year students to make the transition from primary school to secondary school. Transition Year students act as mentors to First Year students. The First Year students meet their mentor on a weekly basis; they also accompany them on the First Year walk. Since its introduction, this programme has helped many First Years settle happily into school life.

INDUCTION PROGRAMME: NEW BEGINNINGS

The school operates a comprehensive Induction Programme for students transferring from primary to secondary school called ‘New Beginnings’. The programme has been effective in allaying the stress and anxiety in pupils who are making the move from sixth class to secondary school. There are several activities organised throughout First Year to help students to integrate with their year and the wider school community. Activities include a First Year walk in early September, lunchtime activities, a disco at Halloween, an Easter Egg hunt, to name but a few.

AFTER SCHOOL STUDY

After school study sessions are provided for students in Third, Fifth and Sixth Year. Students have the opportunity to work in a silent, studious environment, similar to exam conditions. This extra service is of huge benefit to students, helping them to improve their study skills and achieve their aims.



POSITIVE LEARNING PROGRAMME

At the end of each school year, we have an Awards’ Ceremony where we acknowledge student achievement.

GETTING STARTED

PERIOD SET FOR A TYPICAL DAY IN COLÁISTE CHOLMCILLE MONDAY, TUESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY

School day finishes at 3:53pm on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Period	Start	Finish	Duration
Tutor	08:50	09:00	10 min
1	09:00	09:59	59 min
2	09:59	10:58	59 min
Break	10:58	11:15	17 min
3	11:15	12:14	59 min
4	12:14	1:13	59 min
Lunch	1:13	1:55	42 min
5	1:55	2:54	59 min
6	2:54	3:53	59 min

WEDNESDAY

The school day ends at 1pm on Wednesdays.

Period.	Start	Finish	Duration
1	08:50	09:49	59 min
2	09:49	10:48	59 min
Break	10:50	11:05	17 min
3	11:05	12:02	57 min
4	12:02	1:00	58 min

LOCKERS

Lockers are available for student rental. We encourage our incoming students to use their lockers to develop independence and to enable them to take responsibility for their books and belongings. Lockers are assigned during the first few days of school.

CANTEEN

We have a canteen in Coláiste Cholmcille which serves food at both break and lunchtime. First and Second year students may not leave the school at lunchtime. Students may bring a packed lunch to school or purchase lunch in the school. Students in other years may choose to remain in school for their lunch or go down the town.

COLÁISTE CHOLMCILLE ONLINE

Coláiste Cholmcille operate the Office 365 platform. Students have a dedicated class in First Year to teach them how to interact with this technology. Our website, www.ccbs.ie is regularly updated with news from all aspects of our school life. Enrolled students and parents have access to our school app which you can download from the App or Google Store.

Simply search Coláiste Cholmcille in your app store.

Twitter- @ccbsnews (school news)

@ccbscareers (CCBS Careers Department);

@ccbspe (PE Department and Sports News)

BOOK RENTAL

Coláiste Cholmcille operates a Book Rental Scheme for all students to help reduce the cost of purchasing textbooks and equipment. The approximate costs for 2023 are as follows:

	Book Rental Charges
One Student	€210
Two Students	€390
Three Students	€550
More Than Three	€550 Plus €100 per additional student.
L.C.A	€105
T.Y (Transition Year)	€400 (Charge includes the trip to Delphi)



SHOPPING LIST- FIRST YEAR

Subject	Copies/ Equipment Required
Irish	1 A5 copy book and an A4 hardback
English	1 standard copybook
Mathematics	1 Exercise copybook; 1 A4 Hardback- Squares- Project Maths Formulae and Log Tables Book Calculator Casio FX-83GTX or Casio FX-85GTX and Mathematics Set
History	1 Hardback copybook (A4) 1 Exercise copybook Display Folder
Geography	1 Hardback copybook (A4) 1 Exercise copybook
French	Standard copybook and a durable notebook (any size).
German	1 Hardback copybook (A4) 1 A4 Folder
Business Studies	1 Hardback copybook (A4) 1 Exercise copybook
Science	1 Hardback copybook (A4) (with graph paper one side) 1 Exercise copybook Display folder
SPHE	1 Exercise copybook
CSPE	1 Exercise copybook
Religion	1 Exercise copybook (Softback)
Wood Technology and Graphics	Set Squares 45° and 60°, Compass and Protractor 2 Exercise copybooks HB Pencils (H2, H5, H), Pencil Sharpener, Eraser A3 Size Carry Case Masking Tape and Colouring Pencils T Square Good Compass (not one from a maths set)
Engineering	1 Pocket Folder for Handouts 1 Exercise copybook

Home Economics	1 Hardback copybook (A4)
Music	1 Exercise copybook
Visual Art	A4 Sketch Pad Range of Pencils- B, 2B, 4B, Colouring Pencils
Each subject	A zip folder to keep all subject books and materials in

A selection of pens in several colours.

We are a Green School, where possible, students will continue to use the same copies from one year to the next.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform is designed to help pupils dress neatly and to avoid undesirable competition.

- Blue school jumper with crest
- White collared shirt
- Black trousers or official school skirt (Knee length)
- Black/brown shoes or runners with no markings
- Black school crested jacket

School tie is optional

School fleece is also optional (NB: this does not replace school jumper)

School PE uniform is compulsory for all students (Available from O'Reilly's order online)

[Coláiste Cholmcille, Ballyshannon Archives - O'Reilly Sports \(oreillysofficial.com\)](http://oreillysofficial.com)

- Choice of CCBS jumper from O'Reilly's
- CCBS Tracksuit bottoms
- CCBS Tracksuit leggings
- CCBS Tracksuit t-shirt
- Appropriate footwear

Please Note: If you are not attending or participating in PE, you must wear the traditional school uniform.



SCHOOL TRANSPORT



Official information on school transport and an online application form can be found at [or search for Bus Eireann- School Transport.https://www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=256](https://www.buseireann.ie/inner.php?id=256) or search for Bus Eireann- School Transport. Please read carefully. In particular, please note details on cost, eligibility

and distance from school. You will note that forms should not be returned to the school.

CURRICULUM

Programmes offered

- Junior Cycle
- L1LP and L2LP
- Transition Year Programme
- Leaving Certificate
- Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

JUNIOR CYCLE

We offer a wide range of subjects as part of our Junior Cycle curriculum. Coláiste Cholmcille students uniquely get to sample all subjects throughout First Year, making their choice of two option subjects plus a language at the end of First Year.

Students engage in a taster programme for Modern Foreign Languages. After October midterm students select one language, either French or German.

L1LP and L2LP

These programmes will target the specific group of students with general learning disabilities in the range of lower functioning moderate to severe and profound categories. The programme can be personalised to suit the individual needs of the students.

TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year is optional and available to interested students after Junior Cycle.

We aim to:

- Promote personal, social, educational and vocational development of students.
- Enable students to take responsibility for their learning and decision making.
- Help students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.
- Prepare students for the world of work.
- Enable students to develop basic competencies in key areas according to their individual needs.
- Prepare students to be participative and responsible members of society.

Students maintain a portfolio throughout their year. This is presented in an interview at the end of the year.



LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED (LCA)

The LCA programme is a two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The programme sets out to recognise the talents of all students and to provide opportunities for developing personal responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge, and helps students apply what they learn to the real world.

The two-year programme consists of four half-year blocks called sessions. Achievement is credited in each session. Courses are offered in three principle areas: Vocational Preparation; General Education; and Vocational Education.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

The Leaving Certificate is a two-year programme that aims to provide learners with a broad, balanced education while offering some specialisation towards a particular career option.

Most students choose between 6-8 subjects for their Leaving Cert although English, Irish & Maths are the only mandatory subjects.

SUBJECTS

Accounting	Design & Communication	Home Economics S and S
Agricultural Science	Graphics	Irish
Art	Engineering	Link Modules (LCVP)
Biology	English	Mathematics
Business	French	Music
Chemistry	Geography	Physics
Construction Studies	German	Physical Education
	History	

STUDENT VOICE

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council is an invaluable part of school life. The council liaises between staff and students and holds weekly meetings. Being a council member is excellent preparation for leadership roles in society. It is an area where students have the opportunity to display responsibility and to play an active part in the life of the school.

A council member is elected each year to represent our students on the Donegal Youth Council. In addition, council members participate in various activities in our school throughout the year from running in school events and helping to organise outreach to various charities. Within the school, they have been highly active in raising awareness of and for LGBTQAI+ issues, amongst other important topics.

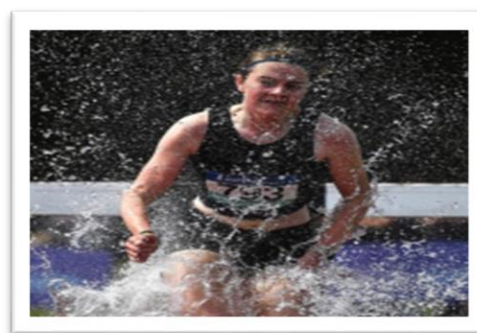
The council has also been involved in Literacy initiatives in the school. Council members continuously promote the school's ethos and work in consultation with school management on some of the school's policies. They present to the Board of Management each year and report to the Board regularly.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

There are a variety of extra-curricular activities on offer for our students.

ATHLETICS

We encourage students to compete in Cross-Country events including track, steeplechase, long jump, triple jump and field events.



BASKETBALL



We have a long tradition of phenomenally successful girls' and boys' basketball teams in our school. In the past, our teams have finished in the top eight teams in Ireland in the 'A' section, which is a huge achievement.

GAA

We have a number of very successful girls and boys Gaelic Football Teams, competing at all levels in our school. In addition, to Gaelic Football we have a strong tradition of Hurling in our school. We have teams at U14, U16 and Senior level.



GAISCE

Within the school community, students sign up to partake in the Gaisce Challenge. Gaisce: The President's Award is a self-development programme for young people aged 14 -25 which has been proven to enhance confidence and wellbeing through participation in personal, physical and community challenges. It is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to all young people to dream big and realise their potential. Gaisce Awards are non-competitive and self-directed: participants choose their own activities, goals and projects with the support of their President's Award Leader.

GERMAN DEBATING



The German language debating competition is open to TY, Fifth and Sixth Year students and this is the 23rd year of the competition. It is organised by the Goethe-Institut Ireland.

GREEN SCHOOLS

The Green Schools Committee work hard to promote a clean and sustainable environment for both students and staff. The Green Schools Committee encourages everyone to take an active role in caring for the environment. In a recent initiative, they have worked hard to install a variety of bins within our school environment to allow for the segregated disposal of waste.

GIRLS ACTIVE



We have an extremely popular Girls Active Programme. It is a joint programme between the Donegal Sports Partnership, the Health Service Executive (NW) (HSE) and Sligo Sport and Recreational Partnership (SSRP) and Youth Sport West (YSW). The programme aims to increase the number of teenage girls not currently participating in sport or physical activity to get involved in long term regular physical activity through developing more supportive environments in schools. Activities include aerobics, hip-hop, basketball and football coaching to self-defence and tag-rugby.

JOHN PAUL II AWARD

The Pope John Paul II Award is a faith achievement award for young people between the age of 16 and 18. It is non-competitive, inclusive, flexible, and voluntary; it is generally undertaken by students in Transition Year.

JUNK KOUTURE



A showcase of young design talent from students aged 13 to 18, Junk Kouture empowers youth at a school level to embrace the principle of sustainable living by creating apparel and couture from recycled materials. Coláiste Cholmcille has been successful with entries from peat, passion fruit peelings to bottle caps, inspired by own local lands and the manner in which they've been exploited.

PERFORMING ARTS

The Performing Arts Department in Coláiste Cholmcille is a vibrant, enthusiastic, and friendly place to be. It offers a great balance between curriculum, vocal and instrumental based learning. Our students have a variety of opportunities within the school to develop their performing skills. Our school has produced numerous musicals in TY such as Grease, Back to the 80's, Hairspray etc.

SCIENCE: BT YOUNG SCIENTIST

We have four fully equipped science laboratories. Prescribed experiments for the New Junior Cycle Course continue to enhance our students in Leaving Certificate Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Agricultural Science. Educational trips form an important part of our Science Education Programme. Participation in competitions such as the BT Young Scientist, Sci-Fest, Schools' Science Quizzes as well as excursions to Science exhibitions has proven to strengthen the students understanding and appreciation of Science in everyday life. The BT Young Scientist and SCI- Fest Exhibitions are an integral part of the school calendar. The full value of participating in this competition is in students developing their independent learning. It also teaches the skills of research, scientific experimentation and develops analytical thinking. It also gives our students the chance to showcase their knowledge and skills on a wider stage and to engage in collegial dialogue with other students from other schools.

SWIMMING



We encourage students to get involved in school swimming competitions. Over the years, our students have made a splash at both regional, national, and international levels, even on the Olympic stage.

EXTRA AND CO-CURRICULAR TIMETABLE

LUNCHTIME ACTIVITIES

<i>Monday</i>	Board Games R7	Volleyball New Hall	Music Club Rm 28	HE Club Rm 16
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<i>Tuesday</i>	Walking Club Rm 32	Shelfie Book Club Rm 49	Dancing New Hall	Badminton New Hall
<i>Thursday</i>	Board Games Rm 7	Zen Doodling Rm 6	Step Aerobics New Hall	Coding Club R20
<i>Friday</i>	Wizards and Muggles Club Rm 54	Mindfulness and Wellbeing Rm 23	Step Aerobics New Hall	Chess and Draughts Club Rm 35



What our First Year students are saying about school in Coláiste Cholmcille:

"A place where I've felt myself from the beginning. I love discussion classes..."

"Fun, exciting, refreshing... I love Engineering and the fact that we get to change to different subjects each hour..."

"There are so many different teachers. I love woodwork. The teacher takes his time explaining how to do something. It's totally different from primary."

"I really enjoy the activities at lunchtime. There is always something on and something to do..."

"Choosing Coláiste was the best decision ever. I have so many friends. I love Home Economics... we have learned how to cook so many new recipes. It's always great fun".

Useful reading:

Jigsaw One Good School [One Good School](#) | [Initiative for Schools](#) | [Jigsaw](#)

National Council for Special Education's Guidelines on Moving from Primary to Post-Primary School

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus;

We look forward to welcoming you very soon to

Coláiste Cholmcille, Ballyshannon

