



St Mary's Secondary School Mallow is a Voluntary Catholic Secondary School for girls, in the trusteeship of CEIST.

**Principal:** Yvonne Bane **Deputy Principals:** Sinead Lutrell, Damien Moloney

**Current Enrolment:** 750 **Staff:** 72 including SNAs and Ancillary staff

St Mary's is situated in the heart of Mallow and has a wide catchment area, welcoming students from Mallow town and its surrounding hinterland.

### **History and Mission:**

St. Mary's Secondary School is an all-girls Catholic Voluntary Secondary School, established by the Mercy Order in 1932. The school building shares the site of the Convent, home to the Sisters of Mercy in Mallow since 1845. Inspired by the vision of our founder Catherine McAuley, Mercy education is committed to the holistic development of each student, particularly those who are disadvantaged or marginalised. We value nurturing each student to reach their full potential, celebrating success and encouraging all students to grow and develop as individuals with unique talents and a strong sense of self-worth. Respectful and caring relationships between staff and students are evident in daily interactions and in the classroom. The characteristic spirit of our school is tangible through our warm, caring and Christian ethos.

Since 2008 St. Mary's Secondary School has been under the trusteeship of CEIST (Catholic Education an Irish School Trust). We treasure the core values of CEIST which support and nourish the lives of the people who are the heart of our school community, our students, our staff, our parents and the wider community. We constantly strive to promote student wellbeing and a positive school culture which is holistic, respectful, spiritual, academic and affirming.

## **CEIST: Catholic Education Irish School Trust**

St. Mary's, as a CEIST school, is animated by the Charter and the CEIST core values:

- ❖ **Spiritual and human development:** a faith-sharing community rooted in the Catholic Church, celebrating diversity and personal growth.
- ❖ **Quality teaching and learning:** a holistic curriculum, encouraging students to reach their full potential.
- ❖ **Respect for every person:** inclusivity, valuing individual needs and talents, and promoting a positive and safe environment.
- ❖ **Creating community:** building strong relationships, providing pastoral care, and promoting service to others.
- ❖ **Being just and responsible:** acting ethically, supporting those in need, and encouraging responsible citizenship.

### **School Development:**

St Mary's Secondary School has experienced significant growth and development over the past 10 years with the student population increasing from 550 to 750. Additional accommodation has been provided in the form of a new 1st year building with 5 classrooms and more recently a TY modular building consisting of 4 additional classrooms. The Department of Education has sanctioned a school extension, which when completed will accommodate 900 students. This design process for this project has been completed and we are currently waiting on the green light from the Department to apply for planning permission. This 3 story extension will include 11 classrooms, Science laboratory, Home Economics room, Art room, Multimedia room and 2 ASD classes with specialist facilities.

### **Curriculum**

In St. Mary's Secondary School we are committed to creating an environment that is centred on excellence in teaching and learning. We provide a broad and balanced curriculum to afford students' opportunities to achieve success in accordance with their talents, aptitudes and interests. We offer Junior Certificate, Transition Year programme, the established Leaving Certificate, the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) and the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) Programme. We are an inclusive school and have a special class for students with Mild General Learning Difficulties (MGLD) called Rang Réiltin. Reiltin students complete Short Courses and PLUs in addition to core subjects. We provide support for all and also targeted learning support tailored to the individual needs of students from all year groups according to identified needs aligned to the Continuum of Support.

Some of the unique features of our curricular provision include the following;

- Taster Programme in 1st Year, whereby students study and experience all option subjects prior to choosing their preferred option subjects in 2nd year.
- Our Wellbeing Programme and student supports aim to foster happy, confident, responsible and resilient students who feel connected to St. Mary's Secondary School. We have devised wellbeing units of learning In St. Mary's our wellbeing curricular programme, spans 400 hours provision over the three years of Junior Cycle. Our Wellbeing programme is anchored in the following subject areas: SPHE, PE, CSPE, Learning to Learn and Units of Learning in Guidance, Yoga, Craft & Design, Financial Wellbeing and Digital Media Citizenship.
- Our TY Programme showcases an innovative creative approach to planning a broad spectrum of experiential learning experiences for TY Students. We have designed four layers to the programme, 1.core subjects, 2. subject sampling 3.modules and specialisms and 4.calendar layer of events. All students participate in the TY Musical, Careers events, personal development and social awareness workshops. Students record learning in their e-Portfolios and present on their learning experiences to parents/guardians and teachers at the end of year TY Showcase. We introduced the TY Credits system of assessment in TY in 2022.
- Senior Options: We offer a suite of 16 option subjects to choose from at senior cycle with each student selecting 4 options out of 16 on offer. The range of subjects includes Physics, Applied Maths, Chemistry, Biology, Agricultural Science, French, German, Home Economics, Leaving Certificate Physical Education, History, Geography, Art, Music, Business, Accounting and Economics. We have a high uptake of STEM subjects.

### **Notable Achievements**

- Academic Excellence: We are committed to excellence in teaching and learning and our Leaving Certificate results continue to exceed national averages. Students from St Mary's continue to be awarded scholarships and awards based on their exceptional performances in Leaving Cert exams.
- Extra-Curricular and Co-curricular Activities: Students enjoy participation and success in a wide range of sporting extracurricular activities. School teams have experienced great success in Basketball, Golf, Showjumping, Swimming, Orienteering, Camogie, Rugby and Ladies football.
- Social Awareness: Young Philosopher Finalists, Concern Debating team, Green Schools, Young Social Innovators, ECO-UNESCO Young Environmentalist Award and Climate Change Initiatives.
- Cultural Activities: Multi-Cultural Fashion Show, Belonging, Inclusion & Diversity Week, European Languages Day, TY Think Languages, Language Connect national event, Seachtain na Gaeilge and Annual TY Musicals.

- Wellbeing Initiatives: Wellbeing Week, Anti-Bullying Week, Digital Media Citizenship initiatives, Active School Week, Bonding Workshops and Motus Learning Emotional Resilience Workshops.
- Lunchtime Clubs: This year to promote student engagement in school life we expanded our range of lunchtime clubs. The aim of our lunchtime clubs is foster student engagement in school life and provide a sociable outlet for students.
- Arts: TY Composer in the Classroom Award 2023, NAPD Creative Engagement Project 2023, Winner of Ocana Art Competition 2023, Junk Kouture and Fast Fashion projects.
- Student Leadership Opportunities: St. Mary's Student Council, Student Mentors Programme, Gaisce Presidents Award, Annual CEIST student conference
- School-Community Links: Mallow Tidy Towns, Mallow Rotary Club Youth Leadership Award, volunteering for charities, St. Vincent de Paul Christmas Hampers Appeal, AIB Build a Bank, Mallow Maths & Science Fair , John Paul II Awards for volunteering in local parishes and Mallow Student Enterprise Awards.

**Further Information:**

**For further information, please visit our website and social media platforms:**

**Website:** <http://www.stmarysmallow.com>

**Twitter / X** @stmarysmallow