

**WELCOME
TO
THE COLLEGE
OF
THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Summerhill College



Summerhill College
PJM 2012

INFORMATION BOOKLET



Welcome

The College of the Immaculate Conception, Summerhill has a distinguished history in the field of education for well over one hundred years. The school is a Voluntary Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Elphin. In partnership with parents, the college strives to educate children in accordance with the teachings of Jesus Christ and his Church. It aims to foster the students' spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical and creative development and thereby develop their full potential.

In our school we offer a broad range of subjects and programmes including:

- Junior Cycle Programme
- Junior Cycle Schools Programme (JCSP)
- Leaving Certificate Programme
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)
- Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCA)
- Transition Year Programme

We have a new modern building with state of the art facilities. We have an expert Special Educational Needs Department and a dedicated ASD Resource Centre - the Bishop Christopher Jones Centre. We are renowned for excellence in striving to achieve our mission and objectives and are represented nationally and internationally by past and present pupils in sport, music, arts, journalism, business, politics, academics and science.

We look forward to welcoming you and your son to the Summerhill Community in the near future.

Paul Keogh

CIC Principal

Pastoral Care

An overview of the Pastoral Care Programme of Summerhill College

A structured and timetabled pastoral care programme and tutor system is in place in the college. This means that every student in the college will be appointed a teacher who will be their **tutor**. The tutor will closely monitor each student in the class group. The **class tutor** will meet with his/her class at various points during the week. The roll will be taken; absences and uniform will be checked. Every student will have a hard-back journal (School Journal). The class tutor will check this journal daily. Parents are expected to sign the School Journal (comment form) at the end of every week

This is an ideal way for tutors, year heads and parents to keep in regular communication.

A weekly log of your son's behaviour, homework, uniform and time-keeping will be recorded. At the end of each term, students will be awarded a Certificate of Merit or a Certificate of Improvement if earned. It is very important to the staff of Summerhill College to recognise and acknowledge the achievements and improvements of our students. Students who may need extra support or guidance will be cared for by our pastoral care team who include the guidance counsellor, school chaplain, year heads, tutors, learning support teachers, home school liaison officer, school completion officer, programmes co-ordinator and senior management.

The primary aim of the Pastoral Care Programme is to ensure and maintain an atmosphere where all members of the school community feel that they are known, safe, valued, respected and happy. A mentoring system also operates in the school whereby senior students act as mentors to First Year students to ease their transition into life in Summerhill College. The mentoring programme continues throughout First Year. The Year Head has general responsibility for activities within the Year. The Deputy Principal is the Discipline Co-ordinator and deals with any serious misdemeanours. The School Rules are explained clearly to each class at the beginning of the year.

It is school policy to have a positive approach to discipline, with the emphasis on helping students develop responsible attitude and respect for self, others and others' property. Our ultimate aim is to develop in each pupil the concept of self-discipline. Discipline is considered an aspect of moral guidance and not a form of punishment.

The purpose of discipline is:

- a) To provide a classroom situation helpful to learning;
- b) To promote pupil development;
- c) To foster respect for authority and peers.

Health

Parents are asked to inform the Principal of any health problems a pupil may have. If a student becomes ill or is injured during the day, parents will be contacted. If hospital treatment is necessary, every effort will be made to obtain parental consent before bringing him to hospital. Parents are liable for any charges incurred. The school has been advised by the Insurers not to administer any medication to students for legal reasons.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The involvement of students in extra-curricular activities is deemed an important part of their social development. Sporting activities range from Golf, Soccer, Gaelic Football, basketball, surfing, rugby, tennis and badminton to athletics, cross-country, water sports and indoor games. Debating, drama, film making, quizzes and computers are among some of the club activities that thrive in our school. School tours are organised annually to develop student interest in Art, Literature and travelling.

Absenteeism

Pupils are expected to be punctual for all classes. Students must present a note of explanation from a parent to explain absences. If a parent or guardian wishes to collect a student early from class, a request in writing must be sent to the Year Head, Deputy Principal or Principal. Students may not leave the school grounds during school hours without permission and without signing out.

All medical/dental appointments should be made outside school hours, where possible. Parents are requested not to take students on breaks or holidays during school time.

Homework

Homework is an essential part of learning and an important aspect of a student's school life. It helps them to develop study skills and self-discipline. Homework each evening consists of the following:

Revision of the work done in the class that day.

Committing to memory any work the teacher prescribed.

Completion of work started in class and of written exercises prescribed.

Research into topics that are being studied.

Project work.

Every student is required to have a Summerhill Journal in which they record their homework daily.

School Uniform

Students are expected to be hygienic and well-groomed at all times, and to wear their full school uniform during all school events in and out of school unless otherwise directed.

The official uniform is:

Blue Shirt and Tie.

Blue v-neck jumper with school crest.

Grey Trousers

School Jacket

All black shoes

School Tracksuit and runners must be worn for P.E.

All valuable articles should be clearly marked with owner's name.

The school is not responsible for valuables lost, stolen or mislaid.

Parent-School Link:

Parents are the prime educators and as such are encouraged to be real partners in our education process. Summerhill College has a Parents Association who play a key role in the life of the school. They are the consultative forum for the parent body. Elections take place at the beginning of each school year. This committee meet regularly to discuss matters in relation to education policy. Two Parent nominees (one male one female) are elected every three years to the Board of Management.

Parent/Teacher meetings take place annually for each year group. These are vital and provide an ideal opportunity for parents to meet the teachers. Parents should make attendance at these a priority. Other meetings are organised at various times for particular groups, e.g. parents of in-coming pupils, Information nights for all Third Year parents; Information nights for Transition Year pupils; L.C.A. students; L.C.V.P. students and J.C.S.P. students,

If parents are concerned at any time about their child's progress, they may contact the Principal or Deputy Principal, who will be happy to discuss the concern and get a special report from the student's teachers. If a parent wishes to meet the student's subject teacher(s), the parent should make an appointment by making ringing 071-9160311 or emailing info@summerhillcollege.ie through the School Secretary. Parents who are experiencing difficulty paying for books, examinations or other school-related costs are encouraged to contact the Principal where they are assured of understanding and confidentiality.

Guidance & Counselling

All students have access to a guidance and counselling service which includes;

(a) Personal Counselling:

This aims is to heighten self-awareness and develop personal, social and decision-making skills, and also to offer counselling and support on a wide range of issues in a confidential environment. Referrals may be made by parents, teachers or students themselves.

(b) Educational Counselling:

This helps students explore choices with regard to subjects, courses and levels. Developmental programmes explore motivation, improve study skills and exam techniques.

(c) Career Guidance

Students are prepared for progress to further education and the world of work. Psychometric tests and interest inventories are conducted to assist students to identify their aptitudes and interests. Students are met individually and in small class groups.

Home/ Youth Liaison

The School has the valuable support of Sligo Home/Youth Liaison Services. They provide support in a sympathetic and caring way to students and families who require assistance. They visit homes as well as providing advice to parents, students, teachers and School Management. They are involved in:

- Parenting Programmes, which are specially designed to aid them in their work of building happy, healthy families, and to support them in their task of handing on Christian values.
- In co-operation with Sligo City School Completion Programme they provide a specially designed transfer programme for all pupils transferring from Primary to Summerhill College.
- They also run an Anti-Bullying programme for all our students each year.
- They are involved in selecting, training and monitoring our Mentors who take good care of all our new First Year pupils.
- They are involved in ongoing training with our Student Council.

Chaplain

The school has a chaplaincy service which is about "being there" for all in the school community; staff, students and their families. The chaplaincy service aims to be observant and sensitive to the needs of others as far as possible. In order that all in the school community receive the care they need, it is important that members of the staff, family, or friends inform the school immediately if a student or staff member is sick at home/hospital or if they are bereaved in any way.

School Transport

To qualify for this facility, the student must live three or more miles from the nearest post-primary school. Application Forms are available through the school. Email info@summerhillcollege.ie

REFLECTION



What will the years ahead bring?
We do not know;
They will likely bring their usual times of work and
play,
experiences of success and failure,
all the things that are part of school life.
This is a new beginning;
The planting of a seed that will grow forever,
It offers new hope;
Hope for good work, for successful results, for
friendship, for fun, for learning.
In the coming years, may there be learning prayer
and fun.
May there be hard work, faith and friendship,
As we begin in this new school we do so in hope, in
prayer and in friendship,
May God begin with us, be with us during our time
here, and successfully bring it to its conclusion.