



# ST. JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

SPANISH POINT, CO. CLARE



## SCHOOL PROSPECTUS





## Principal's Welcome

Welcome to St Joseph's Secondary Spanish Point School Prospectus. Since 1929 our school has been a centre of innovation in education and excellence in learning and teaching. Today we are a modern vibrant co-educational school catering for Spanish Point and the surrounding area.

Following in the Mercy tradition our students receive a balanced, holistic education, developing spiritually, personally and academically.

We are a caring community with a positive, open relationship between staff, students and parents. Lifelong friendships are forged in St Josephs. Students and staff leave but the spirit of St Joseph's remains with them forever.

We pride ourselves in the provision of a curriculum that provides a wide range of opportunities for our students to develop their talents both academically and in the extra-curricular field.

Our wish for our students is that each one reaches his/her full potential and has a happy, fulfilling school life.



*Paul Reidy*  
Principal

## What We Treasure

The core values of CEIST are intended to support and nourish the lives of the people who are at the heart of our school – students, staff and parents.

These are the members of the school; their rights must be respected and their responsibilities should be performed in a manner which promotes the spiritual development of each person and is founded on compassion and justice.

These values can only be lived out if students, staff and parents work together for the common good of all.

### *Promoting Spiritual and Human Development*

We believe a knowledge of and a personal relationship with Jesus Christ give meaning and purpose to our lives.

### *Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning*

We are committed to excellence and to continually improving the quality of teaching and learning.

### *Showing Respect for Every Person*

We respect the unique and intrinsic value of every person.

### *Creating Community*

Our schools are faith communities of welcome and hospitality where Gospel values are lived and where there is special care for those most in need.

### *Being Just and Responsible*

We seek to act justly and responsibly in all our relationships.





# Care for Our Students

## Catholic Ethos

### St. Joseph's Spanish Point Mission Statement

St. Joseph's is a Catholic school, based on Gospel Values and in the Mercy tradition under the trusteeship of CEIST.

It is characterised by the following:

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| * Reverence and Respect, | * Care and Compassion,    |
| * Responsibility,        | * Tolerance and Inclusion |
| * Justice,               | * Hospitality             |

### Our mission is to:

- Develop and promote the personal, academic and spiritual potential of each student in a caring and disciplined environment.
- Foster a sense of self-esteem, honesty and respect among all members of the school community.
- Assist students in developing appropriate life skills and social awareness.
- Offer direction and leadership in the educational field in the local community.

## Pastoral Care System

In St. Joseph's, we place huge emphasis on student welfare and the excellent pastoral care structure which we have in place supports this.

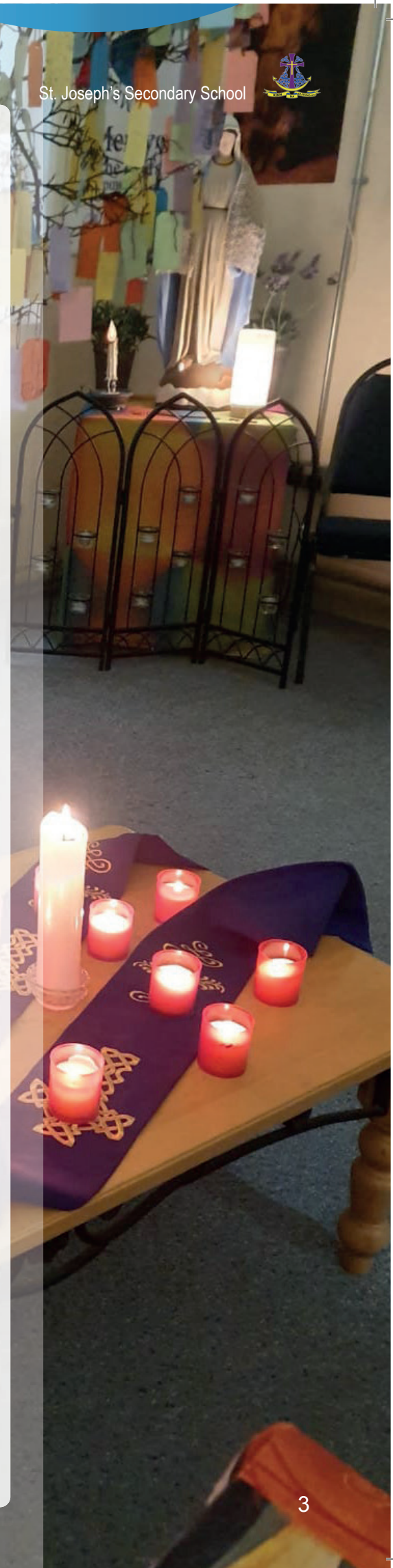
We operate a Class Tutor system and the Tutor's role is not a discipline one but one of care and support. Each Year from 1st to 6th also has a Year Head. The Tutor assists the Year Head with day to day support. 10 minute class tutor time is now built into our day on Monday - Thursday. Students are encouraged to speak to their subject teacher, tutor, year head or any member of staff if they have an issue which needs addressing. We are blessed to have a Chaplain as well as a Guidance Counsellor. A 'care team' meeting consisting of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Chaplain, Guidance Counsellor and Year Heads takes place on a regular basis.

## Prayer Room

Our Prayer Room, located at the centre of the school, serves our spiritual, holistic, meditative and faith journey, for both staff and students at St. Josephs Spanish Point. The Prayer Room serves as the focal point for all church events throughout the year for students and staff to follow on their own faith journey. Sr. Martina Fox and the Religion Department work together to ensure that the prayer room is a safe place for all our students and staff to use.

## Our Educational Practice, Your Pathways

St. Joseph's takes a broad and holistic view of education. Passionate about lifelong learning, we believe that success at examination level is vital for developing the skill set that our students will need to become independent thinkers and self-disciplined learners. Our students are encouraged to explore the curriculum through a number of examinable and non-examinable subjects through which students can experience innovative and progressive classroom pedagogies and develop them in a holistic and well-structured manner.







## Junior Cycle Curriculum

English	French	Guidance	Visual Art
Irish	Science	Wood Technology	Religious Education
Maths	Coding	Engineering	Social, Personal and Health Education
Physical Education	Business Studies	Graphics	Geography
CSPE	History	Home Economics	Music

### Junior Cycle

All subjects at Junior Cycle are offered at a common level except English, Irish and Mathematics which continue to have Higher and Ordinary levels.

The new subject specifications are made up of two Classroom Based Assessments (CBA) an Assessment Task (AT) and a final examination.

### Classroom Based Assessments (CBA's)

CBA 1 is undertaken in 2nd year and CBA 2 in 3rd year. Irish is an exception whereby both CBA's are undertaken in 3rd year. Calendar of CBA's will be available for parents to view on our school website.

Classroom Based Assessments (CBA's) are reported using the following descriptors

Classroom Based Assessments
Grade Descriptor
Exceptional
Above Expectations
In Line With Expectations
Yet To Meet Expectations
Not Reported

### Assessment Task (AT)

Once CBA 2 is concluded students will complete an Assessment Task. This task, set by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA), is undertaken during normal class time and will be sent to the State Examinations Commission (SEC) for marking. For most subjects AT is worth 10% of final grade. Practical subjects may differ and subject teachers will inform students where relevant.

### Final Junior Cycle Examination

Students sit a final examination set by the SEC in June. Junior Cycle examination descriptors are as follow.

Junior Cycle Examination	
Percentage	Grade Descriptor
≥ 90 to 100	Distinction
≥ 75 and < 90	Higher Merit
≥ 55 and < 75	Merit
≥ 40 and < 55	Achieved
≥ 20 and < 40	Partially Achieved
≥ 0 and < 20	Not Graded

### Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

Students will receive a Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA) certification from the school once they have completed the Junior Cycle Programme. This will contain a combination of results of all the different components, Classroom Based Assessment, State Exams and Other Areas of Learning/Wellbeing.

### Other Areas of Learning/Other Areas of Wellbeing

The JCPA also reports on specific learning opportunities and experiences that the student has participated in during curricular, cocurricular and extra-curricular aspects of the Junior Cycle Programme in St Joseph's e.g. engaging in the business enterprise awards, participation in the school's Trad Group and or football team. Students through reflection identifies the learning that has taken place.





## Senior Cycle Curriculum

English	Biology	Business	Home Economics
Irish	Physics	Accounting	Construction Studies
Maths	Chemistry	Career Guidance	Engineering
Physical Education (LCPE) examinable / non-examinable	Agricultural Science	Religious Education	French
History	Geography	Design and Communications Graphics	Music

### Transition Year

Transition Year offers students a broad educational experience with a view to attainment of increased maturity, before proceeding to further study. Students will be actively involved in new methods of learning based on work both within and outside of the classroom. They are taught to think for themselves and to develop problem solving skills, two of the key goals for the Transition Year Programme.

Burren Outdoor Educational Trip	Young Scientist	Student Enterprise	Work Experience
Driving School and Road Safety	Water sports adventure trip	ePortfolio	European Foreign Trip
Variety of lectures and talks	Writing Competitions	Lunch Service Enterprise	Cookery Course
Fitness Programme	GAA Future Leaders	CPR 4 Schools	Garda Presentations

### Leaving Certificate Applied

The LCA Programme here at St. Joseph's is a two year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. It encourages achievement through practical subjects and continuous assessment that strives to ensure that each student will achieve his/her full educational potential. We endeavour to facilitate each student to achieve examination success in accordance with his or her ability and to assist our students in developing appropriate life skills and social awareness.





## Google Suite School

At St. Joseph's we are a Google Suite School, this means we use the Google platform for Teaching & Learning. All students get a google account which enables them to access their school gmail account, Google Classroom, Google docs and sheets etc. Students are taught how to use these applications and will regularly use them during their Classroom Based Assignments. Chrome books are used to compliment teaching & learning within these subject areas.

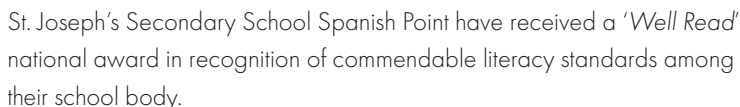
## VSware

VSware is our School Management Information System. Parents can easily access this through an App on your phone which will allow you to access the following information for your child:

- Attendance
- Behaviour
- School Reports
- Pay Fees

The school also sends notifications through this app to keep you informed on day to day life in St Joseph's.





Throughout the year, the school engages in several initiatives in an effort to increase literacy standards, largely through the promotion of reading for pleasure. The school has engaged several stakeholders in this initiative including students, teachers, parents and the local community.

Within the school, several initiatives were rolled out including a designated 'Reading Zone', Literacy Week, 'Book in the Bag', 'Drop Everything and Read' and Book Clubs. Staff took part in a book swap of novels, while staff with young children exchanged children's books and ideas about fostering a love of reading from a young age. Parents were also kept in the loop with regular updates as well as book recommendations through the school's social media channels.



This commitment to wellbeing is implicit in the school's admission policy in the commitment to promoting the spiritual and human development of each individual as outlined in the CEIST charter. All students have access to 400 hours of Wellbeing at Junior Cycle. The programmes offered under our wellbeing umbrella is CSPE, SPHE, PE and Guidance. These subjects support students in becoming more aware of themselves, as learners, as active citizens and human beings enabling them to develop a greater sense of confidence and purpose. We have a wellbeing committee in our school who actively promotes the importance of 'our minds matter'. Fun activities are organised throughout the year culminating in a wonderful celebration of a Wellbeing week.







## STEM Subjects



### Maths

In St Joseph's we strive for all students to happily engage with Maths and through this participation reach their full mathematical potential. Junior Cycle Maths is based on unifying the learning outcomes from the four strands of Number, Geometry & Trigonometry, Algebra & Functions, Statistics & Probability. Within Junior Cycle, there are two Classroom Based Assessments, CBA1 a Mathematical Investigation in 2nd Year and CBA2 a Statistical Investigation in 3rd Year. As a Maths Department we promote the importance of numeracy throughout the school. We celebrate Maths Week annually with lots of fun and challenging activities and encourage everyone (students and teachers) to get involved.

### Junior Cycle Science

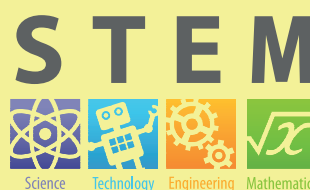
Science essentially deals with knowledge and understanding of our world. The study of science is concerned with the understanding of a body of scientific knowledge and the development of scientific skills through practical activities. It contributes to the development of logical thinking and reasoning, and skills of observation, measurement, interpretation, numeracy, problem solving and decision making. Junior Certificate Science provides a suitable preparation for the study of one or more science subjects at senior cycle.

### Biology

Biology is the study of life. The main areas of study are ecology, the cell, genetics and the systems that make up the organisms of the 5 kingdoms. Students become aware of how organisms and their products enhance human health and the environment. They are provided with the knowledge, skills and understanding to pursue further education, training and employment in biology-related fields.

### Chemistry

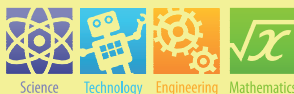
Chemistry is often described as the bridging science between the physical and biological world. Students will study history of the elements and periodic table, chemical bonding, inorganic and organic chemistry as well as environmental chemistry and practical laboratory skills. The syllabus consists of approximately 70% pure chemistry; the remaining 30% deals with the social and applied aspects of chemistry.







# STEM



## Physics

This subject aims to give students an understanding of the fundamental principles of physics and their application to everyday life. It offers a general education in physics for all students, enabling them to develop an understanding of the scientific method and their ability to observe, to think logically, and to communicate effectively. Science, technology and society (STS) is an integral part of the syllabus so that students can be aware of the principles of the applications of physics in the everyday world.

## BT Young Scientist

The BT Young Scientist competition was started by Rev. Dr. Tom Burke and Dr. Tony Scott in 1963. It has grown into a very prestigious competition that attracts over 2000 entries each year, of which only 550 projects are chosen. Students at St. Joseph's are encouraged to enter each year and happily they have gone on to ably represent their school in a variety of categories.

## Agricultural Science

Leaving Certificate agricultural science involves the study of the science and technology underlying the principles and practices of agriculture. Plants and animal types associated with agriculture are studied, and investigations are undertaken into such aspects as soil, ecology, plant and animal physiology, farm crops, farming practices, genetics and microbiology. Over the course of the 2 years students will visit farm enterprises to help embed knowledge gained in the classroom.

## Coding

Students in Junior Cycle study Coding as a Short Course. They have one hour a week and are required to do Classroom Based Assessments. This short course aims to develop the student's ability to formulate problems logically; to design, write and test code through the development of programs, apps, games, animations or websites; and, through their chosen learning activities, to learn about computer science.



## Engineering

Engineering is a technology-based subject that aims to develop students' understanding and skills of the technology in the world that surrounds them. Students will study three interconnected strands: Processes and principles, Design application and Mechatronics.

In these strands, students will learn about and employ the fundamental processes and principles of engineering to design and manufacture products using workshop tools and machinery. They will also develop their skills in the areas of computer aided design and computer aided manufacture using modern software and hardware that is currently being used in today's industry. In addition to this, students will also use a combination of mechanical, manufacturing, electronic and software engineering to explore the relationship between simple inputs, processes and outputs.

Technological advances have brought innovations to education and encourages a more active learning environment in our classrooms. We encourage students to take ownership of their learning by creating their own digital content. The QR (Quick Response) codes are one of these innovative technologies that we used in the Engineering room that develop students digital skills, encourages students to collaborate and reinforces the learning process.



## Leaving Certificate Construction Studies



This practical subject gives students hands-on experience working with tools and machinery. Students also undertake theoretical and background work for their final examinations which provides the students with useful skills for working in the sector.

Studying this subject will be useful for anyone thinking of working/studying in the following areas: building management, carpentry, electrician, architecture, town planning, insurance claims, heating and ventilation and housing management.

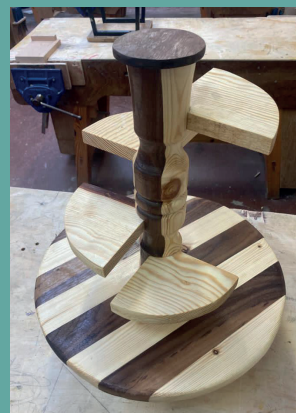
## Leaving Certificate Applied – Graphics and Construction Studies

Graphics and Construction Studies provides learners with an opportunity to develop a range of practical and generic skills in the areas of:

- Graphic Communication (Core Module)
- Construction
- Woodcraft
- Building Services
- Design and Manufacture of Educational Toys
- Computer Aided Design

Graphics and Construction Studies facilitates students' personal and social development by providing opportunities to use a range of graphical and other communication skills. The course also seeks to engage the learners in considering and experiencing the aesthetic, environmental, vocational and consumer awareness dimensions of the construction industry.

Students must study the Graphic Communication and any three of the remaining five modules.





## Junior Cycle Wood Technology

In Wood Technology, students engage in a variety of activities, including research and collaborative projects, to learn about wood as both a natural resource and a manufacturing material.

As well as the practical applications of wood technology, students learn the natural and physical properties of wood that influence how it is used and how economical, sustainable and ethical considerations impact on design and choice of material.

They develop and use a variety of skills including safe work habits, project management, organisation, problem-solving and woodworking techniques.



## English



At St. Joseph's, the English department are passionate about sharing their love for language and literature with students. At Junior Cycle, it is our hope that students develop an appreciation and love for English by exposing students to a variety of literary and non-literary texts including novels, dramas and poetry as well as film studies and podcasts. Students complete two CBAs in Junior Cycle English which allow them the opportunity to develop key their oral communication and presentation skills as well as teaching students how to improve their written work through drafting, re-drafting and editing. In St. Joseph's we aim to foster a love of reading and promote literacy through our Drop Everything And Read initiative, as well as reading a variety of novels over the course of the Junior Cycle. At Senior Cycle students are invited to broaden and deepen their experience of literature through the study of modern and classic texts, critically acclaimed Irish film and world renowned drama. Students are given the opportunity to develop their composition and comprehension skills so that they may become fluent and thoughtful users of the English language. Students are also given the opportunity to see their studied drama live on stage with visits to the theatre, as well as meeting with and taking part in workshops from local authors and poets.

## Gaeilge

Bíonn gníomhaíochtaí ar siúl i rith Seachtain na Gaeilge. Glacaimid páirt sa dúshlán "Gaeilge 24" nuair a bhíonn deis ag na daltaí úsáid a bhaint as an teanga i slí spraoiúil. Chomh maith leis na rudaí seo bíonn deis ag daltaí páirt a ghlacadh i gcomórtas Tráth na gCeist Boird náisiúnta agus Féile na hInse. Bhuaigh foireann na scoile Craobh na hÉireann anuraidh!





## Student Enterprise Programme

Each year St Joseph's secondary school give our students the opportunity to find out what it's really like to be their own boss and run their own business by taking part in the Student Enterprise Programme (SEP).

The SEP is the biggest enterprise competition for students in Ireland. It helps students to grasp real life skills associated with running an enterprise including working as part of a team, managing production and finances, organising a sales and marketing campaign and liaising directly with customers, judges and the media.

The competition compliments the business studies curriculum and is a rewarding experience for our 1st year, 2nd year, Transition Year and Radharc na Mara students, to develop their business concepts to the fullest.

## French

St Joseph's Spanish Point has an established exchange programme with Collège Jeanne D'Arc, a secondary school located in Albertville in the South-East of France. Our second year students have the option to partake in the exchange which offers many benefits, most notably an immersion in the French language and culture. While in France our students attend a variety of French classes and



take part in organised day trips including snow based activities in the Alps. They spend the evenings and the weekend with their host family experiencing French culture in everyday life. It is both an enjoyable and rewarding experience for our students and one we are pleased to offer here in St Joseph's Spanish Point.

## Business/Accounting

Here at St Joseph's Spanish Point there is a great emphasis to educate our students on the ever changing pace of business, to prepare them for the world of work when they leave school. This subject educates the student on practical matters which they will encounter after school such as calculating their pay cheque, insurance quotes, budgeting, consumer affairs, managing accounts, services offered by financial institutions to name but a few topics covered. This is very much a subject that teaches life skills!

Business is taught at junior level for three years with a team CBA taking place in 2nd Year and an oral presentation CBA taking place in 3rd Year. The student chooses a topic to present on, based on the 3 strands which are studied. These are 'Personal Finance', 'Enterprise' and 'Our Economy'. Students then choose to take either Business and Accounting or both in 5th Year to Leaving Cert level.

Many of our past students have gone on to study these subjects at third level and others have been acknowledged by the University of Limerick for their outstanding results in the Junior Certificate.

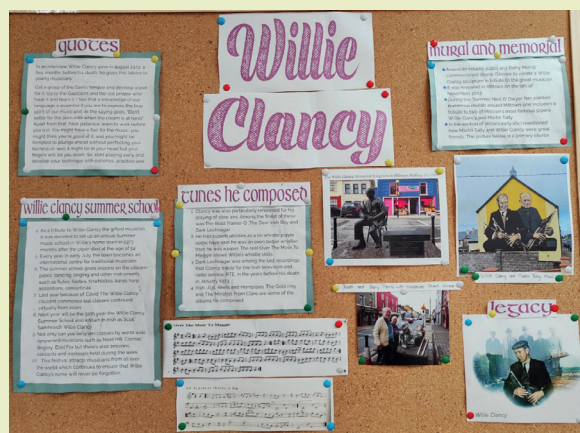
In the ever changing world of business we prepare our students to embrace these changes and become the business leaders of tomorrow!

This is a fun way of learning and our students love every minute of the enterprise programme. Getting to showcase their products/services in our annual Christmas Market is a particular favourite



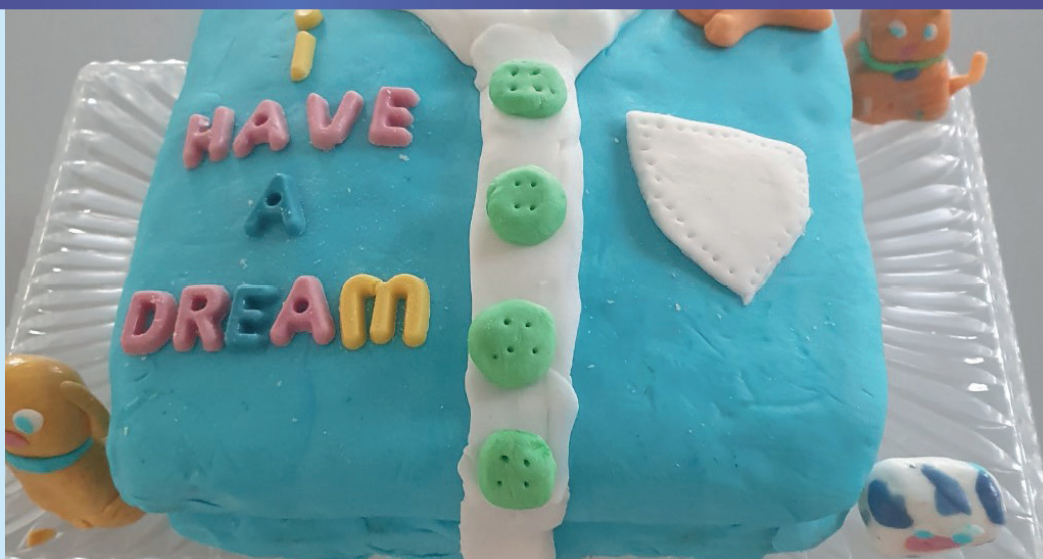
## History

Here at St. Joseph's we offer History at both Junior and Senior Cycle. From 1st to 3rd Year we are now engaged with the new Junior Cycle. The course of study runs from Ancient Civilisations to Modern European and Irish History. In conjunction with this there are two CBAs. One in 2nd Year which involves the research of a local history topic and one in 3rd Year which involves researching a historical topic of the students own choice. At Senior Cycle students study the following topics: Sovereignty and Partition, 1912-49, Politics and Society in Northern Ireland, 1945-93, Government, Economy and Society in Ireland, 1949-89, Dictatorship and Democracy in Europe, 1920-1945, The United States and the Wider World, 1945-89. In addition, students engage in a research project of their choice which comprises of 20% of their final examination result.



## Music

Music is a highly accessible subject for students of all abilities. Music offers students a medium of self-expression and creativity and supports students emotional development, wellbeing and confidence. A common misconception relating to this subject is that students need to have an instrument outside of school. This is not the case. All students are given the opportunity to learn an instrument in class that they can use for their Junior Cycle practical exam. The new syllabus for music incorporates class-based assessments, a practical and a terminal exam. Likewise the Senior Cycle Syllabus is a very relevant and enjoyable course and the syllabus caters for all musical styles; traditional, ethnic, classical, pop, rock, jazz etc. The course is divided into three categories: practical (including music technology) 50%, composition 25% and listening 25%. For the practical performance, students can specialise in an activity/instrument that best suits their talents. It is not compulsory for students to have studied music at Junior Cycle for them to take it up as a Leaving Cert subject.



## Home Economics

Home Economics has a direct relevance to the present and future life of every young person. It is a multi-faceted subject through which students learn to take care of themselves, others their home and their environment.

Home Economics encompasses aspects of Science, Nutrition, Consumer, Social and Resource Management Studies, as well as practical Culinary and Textile Skills.

Students learn about the links between diet, health, family and the home. It is concerned with the way individuals and families manage their resources to meet physical, emotional, intellectual, social and economic needs.

Problem solving, organisational and communication skills are of the utmost importance within the Home Economics Curriculum as well as promoting group work and independence.

The course is developed to provide students with the knowledge, skills and attitude to enable students to take control of their own lives whether that be at home, in future education, in the world of work or other life situations.

The course gives students the insight to pursue careers in areas such as Nutrition, Hotel Catering and Tourism and the Food Industry, Early Childcare and Interior Design to name a few.

In St. Joseph's Secondary School Home Economics is a popular subject which is offered at both Junior and Senior Cycle as well as for Leaving Certificate Applied Students. The Home Economics Department aims for all students to thrive to their full potential as well as enjoy the versatility of the subject.

### Course Content

The syllabus is based on a core of 5 key areas.

#### Core

- Food Studies and Culinary Skills
- Consumer Studies
- Social Studies
- Resource Management
- Textile Studies

With a key focus on sustainability and wellbeing throughout all core areas.

#### Junior Cycle Assessment

The Junior Cycle is broken down into the following:

1. Written Exam 50%
2. Food Studies Practical Examination 50%
3. 2 Classroom Based Assessments

#### Leaving Certificate Assessment

The Leaving Certificate is broken down into the following:

1. Written Exam 80%
2. Course Work journal 20% (completed in 5th year)

Throughout the year students are given the opportunity to participate in competitions both internally and externally within the school environment e.g Bake offs, Kenwood Young Baker etc.

#### Transition Year

Transition Year gives the opportunity for students to develop basic cookery and baking skills as well as providing our students with key skills for transitioning into young adults.

#### Leaving Certificate Applied

This is a mixed syllabus with focus on Key Assignments and Culinary Skills which enables our students to work both independently and within a group with key focus on organisational, communication and culinary skills as well as nurturing our students to become independent confident adults.





## Art

We offer Visual Art at Junior and Senior Cycle at St. Joseph's, Spanish Point.

At Junior Cycle the students are introduced to all the Art Elements and the students develop their artistic practices through the Art Strands - Art, Craft and Design. Our Art students are exposed to the 'Art of Today' and this is encouraged by our extra-curricular activities and Gallery visits throughout Junior and Senior Cycle.

The Art Department is very involved in community projects such as The Community Enhancement Mural Project featured in RTE's 2021 Nationwide & St Patrick's Day Parade annually and more recently BLAST 'Bringing live art to students and teachers'. All TY students are given the opportunity to do Art and work with contemporary Artists of Today from both fine art and design backgrounds. Our TY and senior students have been very successful by their involvement in the NAPD Creative Engagement Projects completed to date which can be admired by all the school community as they are displayed around the school. At senior cycle the students are also offered Art & Visual Studies (a new revised programme), which encourages creative, artistic & independent learners ready for Third Level or other artistic careers.



## Geography

Here in St. Joseph's Geography is offered at both Junior and Senior Cycle, with TY students getting to take part in an engaging module also. Junior Cycle Geography is a three year course which focuses on developing students' knowledge and skills to explore and understand the world around us, our role within it and recognise the interconnections amongst systems. Junior Cycle students complete two CBA's (Classroom based assessments) as well as a common level exam which takes place in June of their third year. The first CBA they complete is in Second Year; "Geography in the News" which is a structured inquiry through a response to a recent geographical event which has appeared in the media. The second is in Third Year: "My Geography" which is a structured inquiry into a geographical aspect in their local area. The Geography classroom is well and truly alive with interactive and engaging lessons that make us more aware of the changing world around us.

We are so lucky that our location right beside Spanish Point Beach allows us to see geography in action right on our doorstep. Leaving Certificate students in particular benefit from this as they can complete their fieldwork project, which is worth 20% of their overall mark awarded, by investigating the physical processes and human interactions that take place at the beach and in the surrounding areas. Students get the opportunity to explore the different elements of physical, human, regional, cultural and economic geography both in the classroom and by taking trips to local sites of interest such as The Burren Geopark, local beaches and enterprises to name but a few. Students who study Geography at Senior Cycle will develop geographical skills that will help them make informed judgements about issues at local, national and international levels.



## Leaving Certificate Physical Education

We at St. Joseph's were chosen by the Department of Education and Skills, to be a pilot school to roll out the new examinable Leaving Certificate Physical Education specification.

The specification for Leaving Certificate Physical Education (LCPE) is outlined below.

### Strand 1 Topics:

- Learning and improving skill and techniques.
- Physical and psychological demands of performance.
- Structures, strategies, roles and conventions.
- Planning for optimum performance.

### Strand 2 Topics:

- Promoting physical activity.
- Ethics and fair play.
- Physical activity and inclusion.
- Technology, media and sport.

There are three assessment components in LCPE:

- Physical activity project – 20%.
- Performance assessment – 30%.
- Written examination – 50%.

The framework for Senior Cycle Physical Education, meanwhile, which aims to encourage learners' confident, enjoyable and informed participation in physical activity while in senior cycle and in their future lives, contains six curriculum models:

- Health-Related Physical Activity.
- Sport Education.
- Contemporary Issues in Physical Activity.
- Adventure Education.
- Personal and Social Responsibility.
- Teaching Games for Understanding.

We are delighted to have been part of the first 80 schools who implemented the new Physical Education for Senior Cycle. It is now very much embedded in our Senior Cycle Curriculum and students have shown to really enjoy the subject.







## Sporting Achievements

### Sports

We offer a variety of sporting activities at St. Joseph's such as:

✎ Basketball ✎ Football ✎ Rugby ✎ Golf ✎ Swimming

### Ladies Football

The strong tradition of Ladies Football in Spanish Point continues following more success in 2022. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Years won their division in Munster Blitz in Mallow, Co Cork whilst also winning the B Shield in Clare. Our Junior Ladies Football Team captured the Clare Post Primary Championship Title. We were delighted to have been chosen to represent Clare in the LIDL Ireland #SeriousSupport Schools Programme. As part of this programme Laurie Ryan Clare Footballer acted as our Athlete Mentor and visited our school on numerous occasions throughout the year lending her expertise. The future looks bright for the Ladies Football in Spanish Point

### Boys Football

Here in St Josephs we have a very proud tradition of success in both Girls and Boys Gaelic Football. Our students compete at all levels both in Clare and Munster.

Over the years we have achieved significant success and representing our school is a great source of pride for students. We encourage all students to become involved and this involvement in GAA in our school helps develop a strong positive relationship between staff and students.



#### Recent successes include:

U 16.5 A County Football Champions 21/22

U 15 D Boys Munster Champions 21/22





## Special Educational Needs (SEN)

As a school community we provide a responsive and flexible approach to the needs of students with Special Educational Needs. Working within the resources provided by the Department of Education and Skills we provide team teaching, learning support classes, support of Special Needs Assistants and a reduced curriculum where appropriate. Each student with SEN is provided with an Individual Programme which is agreed following a consultation with parents/guardians, our SEN Co-ordinator, our dedicated Learning Support Team and other professionals as appropriate.

### Student Care Team

In line with our Ethos and the CEIST Core Values, care is at the heart of our work here in St. Joseph's Secondary School Spanish Point. Our Student Care Team consists of:

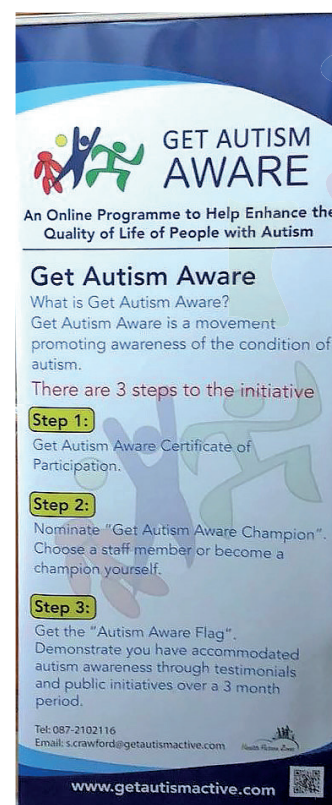
- Principal
- Deputy Principal
- Subject Teachers
- Year Heads
- Guidance Counsellor
- Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

As a growing school we are continually developing our Student Care Team and structures to ensure that each student receives care and support during their time in St. Joseph's Spanish Point. Information shared with the school regarding a student is dealt with in a confidential and professional manner and is shared on a "need to know" basis only.

### Radharc na Mara - ASD

Within our school in St. Joseph's we are very fortunate to have been granted a brand new, state of the art building for a purpose built ASD facility within our mainstream secondary school. Our first ASD class was established in September 2014. We have now expanded to two ASD classes with each class allowing for up to six students. In each class there is one teacher and two special needs assistants, therefore the students benefit from more individual attention and increased participation.

Within the ASD class we encourage integration between the ASD classes and the mainstream classes depending on each child's capability. Our caring inclusive school has a high level of commitment to children with an autistic spectrum disorder and associated social and communication difficulties. Parents are welcome to come visit Radharc na Mara on appointment. Please also see our Radharc na Mara prospectus for further information.







## Student Awards

Students are nominated each year for awards in the following:

- ★ Excellence in Leadership Award
- ★ Student of the Year Award
- ★ Sports Star of the Year Award
- ★ CEIST School Spirit Award
- ★ Subject Specific Awards
- ★ Special Merit Award







## Life-Long Learning

Based on the school's commitment to the local community, maximising links with educational partners and providing direction and leadership in the educational field, the school provides non-evaluative courses for adults through adult education classes.

- Night Classes
- QQI Courses
- BTEI (Back to Education Initiative)



## Student Services

### Evening Study

Evening Study is open to all students and takes place after school Monday – Sunday and includes Mid-term break, Christmas and Easter Study centres (a nominal fee applies).

### School Lunch Scheme

Fruity Tuesday takes place to promote healthy eating. There is fresh fruit on sale each Tuesday at break and lunch time in the Atrium.

Our Chicken Roll Lunch enterprise operates each Thursday by our Transition Year students.

Cookies and Capri Suns are also on sale during the week when there is a demand.

### Lunch-time Games Room

As part of our extra curricular programme, there is a lunch time games room operating for students to take part in board games such as Chess, Jenga, Ping Pong Ball, Pool Table, Scrabble to name but a few. All students are welcome.







## Student Council

The Student Council consists of a representative body elected from and by the general cohort of students in the school. The Student Council gives students the opportunity to voice their concerns and opinions and to play an active role in school events and the life of the school. A member of staff liaises with the Student Council and through the Council, links are formed between the students and school management.



## Care Meetings

Our School Care Team meets regularly to discuss the individual needs and requirements of the students as they arise. The Care Team comprises of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Guidance Counsellor, SEN Co-ordinator and a variety of other staff members. The idea of a team approach within the school is intended to bring all the available resources to the school together to address, in a strategic and co-ordinated manner, the complex needs of students. Interventions can also involve agencies and support personnel from outside the school environment.

## Career Guidance and Counselling

Guidance and Counselling is at the heart of our pastoral care in St. Joseph's Spanish Point. The Guidance Counsellor gives care and support to students learning to cope with the many aspects of growing up and school life and with their individual circumstances. Students in all years may be seen individually, either at their own request or that of a parent or teacher. Students are offered the opportunity to explore and discuss personal issues and are guided and helped through the decision making process. The schools holistic approach

offers students access to guidance in the classroom, around the school and on a one-to-one basis which encompasses the three separate, but interlinked, areas of personal and social development, educational guidance and career guidance.

## Parents Association

A number of parents are elected to form the Parent' Association at the Annual General Meeting of parents each year. The Parents' Association acts as a representative body that:

- represents the views of parents
- informs parents of developments in education and in the school
- fosters co-operation between parents, teachers and school management
- provides opportunities for parents and the school Principal or representative of staff to meet and exchange ideas on the education of their children to discuss issues such as discipline, homework etc. and to address topics of mutual interest
- helps with the provision of extra equipment and fundraising

## Opportunities of Parental Participation

Throughout the year parents are invited to attend information sessions such as:

- Junior Cycle Information evening
- Subject Programme Choice
- CAO Information
- TY Information Briefing
- Tour Briefings for each group travelling
- Transition Year Graduation
- Sixth Year Graduation Mass
- Annual parent teacher meeting
- Personal Appointments



## Positive Behaviour

All members of St. Joseph's are expected to treat each other with respect, good manners and courtesy at all times. We expect and promote high standards of behaviour centred on respect including respect for self and fellow students, respect for staff and respect for property. View our Code of Behaviour on [www.stjosephsspanishpoint.com](http://www.stjosephsspanishpoint.com). We value positive behaviour by recording it on our school management system VSware for students and parents to view. This is hugely successful for our students as they can accumulate points to earn a Certificate to acknowledge their Positive Behaviour each month.

## Student Voice

"I enjoyed attending a small school where everyone knew each other. The atmosphere and positive outlook made my time here more enjoyable. The good teachers and availability of supervised study was also a great help when doing exams".

"The mutual respect between the students and the teachers. I've never experienced any negative interactions with teachers in my time here and feel as though I've been helped to achieve and do my best in all areas. I'm grateful for all the help and encouragement I've received from all the staff in the school".

"I love this school, I think it's really fun and I love being able to meet my friends".

"I think our school has a great family spirit".

"I am proud of how the teachers are considerate and how much we have accomplished as a year group academically and in other activities".

"I am proud of the willingness of teachers to put in more work to ensure students have a good understanding of their subject i.e. after school classes".





# Our Annual Fun Day in Spanish Point!







# ST. JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

SPANISH POINT, CO. CLARE

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