



Characteristic Spirit for Athboy Community School

Ratified June 2024

Athboy Community School is a co-educational multi-denominational post-primary school under the patronage of the Bishop of Meath and the Louth Meath Education and Training Board.

Community Schools provide a comprehensive system of post-secondary education open to all the children of the local community. An innovative approach to the 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 provided for lifelong learning through the provision of adult education programmes.

Our school was established under the Deed of Trust and opened following the amalgamation of St. James' Vocational School and St. Joseph's Secondary School in 2004. The values of Louth Meath Education and Training Board as a multi-denominational State Body and the inherited traditions, Christian values and founding intention of the Bishop of Meath are enshrined in the characteristic spirit and in the life of our school and are respected and cherished.

The core values of Athboy Community School are care, inclusion, creativity, safety and respect. These values combine to provide and support and atmosphere which is conducive to excellence in teaching and learning. We endeavour to assist each student to reach their 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, religion/belief, age, family status, marital status, civil status, membership of the travelling 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, Athboy Community School provides all our students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum, school life and the local community.

Our school, Athboy Community School, provides a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and the wider society. We strive to

enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identify, culture or background. Our school promotes a fully inclusive education which recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents and staff. We prepare open-minded and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values with a view to contributing to a just and fairer society.

Our school is multi-denominational where we welcome, respect and support students of all religions and beliefs. The provision of religious education, religious worship and the work of the Chaplain all combine to reflect the founding intentions of the school. The characteristic spirit of the school finds practical expression through the provision of pastoral, liturgical and social outreach activities, as appropriate, for each student.

In Athboy Community School, 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.