



Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. Ethos Statement

Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. is a co-educational, Church of Ireland school under the patronage of the Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, *the Rt. Rev'd Kenneth Kearon* and his successors.

It is a community where all pupils are equally valued and respected – irrespective of gender, sexuality, social background, family circumstance, educational achievement, physical characteristics or intellectual functioning. Pupils experience a sense of caring and belonging, they are treated fairly and their spiritual, moral and religious development is encouraged as is their intellectual, social and academic achievement.

It is a community where moral values such as honesty, truthfulness, justice, fairness, sensitivity to others, and civic responsibility are nurtured and protected.

Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. is part of the local church community and has strong links with Cloughjordan & Borrisokane Group of Parishes. This, for example, is shown by participation in church services e.g. School Carol Services and on Ash Wednesday, and the rector visits the school on a regular basis as chaplain and chairperson of the Board of Management.

The work of the school is conducted in an atmosphere of tolerance and respect for religious differences. The enrolment policy of Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. allows those of other denominations, faiths, or none, to become pupils.

Religious Education occupies a central position in the school curriculum and is regarded as a core subject. As part of the emphasis of the holistic development of the child the religious education curriculum, *Follow Me*, is taught. *Follow Me* has been developed and approved by the Church of Ireland Board of Education in conjunction with the Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. It includes a regular worship dimension, usually a whole school assembly and participation in church services. Postal Bible sheets from the Postal Bible School are taught to pupils each month as part of the school's R.E. Curriculum. Postal Bible School staff visit the school each year, usually in spring, to present prizes to the pupils. The teaching of religious education is restricted to specific times in the school timetable but moral, religious and spiritual values underlie the teaching of all subjects and on occasion themes and topics will be integrated across a number of subjects.

Cloughjordan No.1 N.S. is one where the traditions and teaching of the Church of Ireland inform the position taken in regard to moral issues which arise in the teaching of secular subjects.

The school nurtures freedom of thought and a personal relationship with God. This is most evident in the teaching of Religious Education, and in the prayer life of the school community.

The school recognises the complementary role of parents and teachers in education in pursuing the common aim of educating the children in accordance with the Revised Primary Curriculum and with the aim of having every child receive appropriate education, subject to the availability of resources, and achieving their potential in all the activities of the school. The school seeks to encourage the talents of every pupil and to affirm their individuality and personal development.

Parents are asked to consider this statement of ethos carefully before enrolling their child in the school. Enrolment implies acceptance of the aims and ethos of the school and a willingness to work in the spirit of partnership which underlies the school's life and in all matters relating to the individual child.

This statement was ratified by the Board of Management of Cloughjordan No.1 N.S.

on 18th January 2016

Signed: Ruth Gill
(Chairperson of Board of Management)