



Cumann
Chomhphátrúin
na Scoileanna
Pobail agus
Cuimsitheacha

Association of
Joint Patrons of
Community and
Comprehensive
Schools

Characteristic Spirit of a Community School under the joint patronage of Catholic and ETB Patrons

Blackwater Community School

Blackwater School Community school is a co-educational multi-denominational post-primary school. In accordance with Section 8 (5) of the Education Act 1998, the Provincial of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, the Provincial of the Presentation Sisters, Catholic Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, and the Chief Executive of the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board are deemed to be the Joint Patrons of Blackwater Community School. The school is multi-denominational, recognising all Christian faiths, other non-Christian faiths and those with no faith and will operate in accordance with the Deed of Trust for Community Schools and with relevant legislation.

Community Schools provide a comprehensive system of post-primary education open to all the children of the local community. An innovative approach to 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 provide for life-long learning within their local community through the provision of adult education programmes.

Our school was established under the Deed of Trust and opened on 1st September 2003. The School was established following the amalgamation in 2003 of the St. Annes Secondary School (Cappoquin), the Christian Brothers Secondary School (Lismore) and the Presentation Convent Secondary School (Lismore).

The values of Waterford and Wexford ETB as a multi-denominational State Body and the inherited traditions, Christian values and founding intentions of the Provincial of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, the Provincial of the Presentation Sisters, Catholic Bishop of Waterford and Lismore, and the Chief Executive of the Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board are enshrined in the characteristic spirit and in the life of our school and are respected and cherished.

The core values of Blackwater Community School are care, respect, community, inclusion, equality, justice and fairness. These values combine to provide and support an atmosphere which is conducive to excellence in teaching and learning. We endeavour to assist each student to reach his/ her full 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 Traveller 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, our school, Blackwater Community School, provides all our students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum, school life and the local community.

Our school, Blackwater Community School, provides a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. We strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity, 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 intention of the school, the school's mission statement and the needs of the students within 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 Blackwater 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.