



ST. MACARTAN'S COLLEGE, MONAGHAN

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS





A Thuismitheoirí dhí

Over the next few months you must choose a second level school for your son. It is an important decision and I hope that we can provide the information you require about St. Macartan's College in order to help you make an informed choice.

St. Macartan's, the diocesan college for the diocese of Clogher, is a Catholic school in which we seek to develop our students through broad and balanced programmes and a wide range of extracurricular activities.

Recent developments at our school include upgrading of our ICT infrastructure, the development of our remote learning platform to support students, the opening of a Learning Support Facility, upgrading of our Science Laboratories and the further development of our College Theatre and Sports Facilities.

We have also introduced new subject areas including Leaving Certificate Physical Education, Leaving Certificate Computer Science, Applied Mathematics, Robotics, Wellbeing, Agricultural Science and Technology.

The new Junior Cycle is fully embedded in our school and has added significantly to the education and experience of our students.

These developments underline our determination to meet the needs of all our students. We aim for high standards of behaviour and learning in our school. Our modern facilities, pastoral care system and the commitment of our staff all contribute to the development of each individual student in our care.

Our modern and progressive approach to education was best exemplified by how we managed to continue with the education of our current students online, when schools were forced to close due to the Covid Pandemic.

I am delighted that we are in a position to open our school to visitors on November 11th and 12th. I hope that you have a chance to enjoy our school. I also invite you to visit the enrolment section of our website.

I encourage you to access the enrolment page on our website www.stmacartanscollege.ie. This page will allow you access to some introductory videos about the school, Admissions Statement, Admissions Policy and Prospectus.



A link to our Enrolment Form is also available on our website. You may also download this form and return it as a hard copy to the school.

An offer of a place in First Year, 2022, at St. Macartan's College, based on our Admissions Policy will follow. An online information meeting for the parents / guardians of successful applicants will take place in January.

Our school policies are available online or in hard copy on request.

If you have any questions regarding enrolling your son at St. Macartan's College, please feel free to contact me at 047 81642.

Is mise le gach dea ghuí,

Raymond McHugh
Principal



Parent Testimonials



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We chose the Sem for the variety of subjects they offer to Junior and Leaving Cert, particularly the introduction of Technology and PE into the exam curriculum. We also feel there is a strong community spirit, good pastoral care and high quality teaching in the school. The standard of sport and other extra-curricular activities was also part of our decision.

Pauline O'Brien

1st Year parent



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Having been a past pupil of St Macartan's College, I know my experience there formed me from teenager to young adult and the teachers and staff helped do that. My wife Stephanie and I have 3 boys attend St Macartan's. Adam has just finished his Leaving Cert and now is attending college and my other boys are in 2nd and 4th year. They really enjoy going to school and I can see this in their development as they go through the school. The boys have all enjoyed the academic side of the school as well as the other activities such as football, school musical and the various trips abroad.

Dessie McGarry

Parent of 3 boys



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We chose St. Macartan's College initially because of its excellent academic reputation. The school is very well managed and students are well taken care of. It is academically challenging, yet in a very supportive environment. The range of sporting and creative activities available and encouraged is great.

My son received a very warm welcome to the school in his first year from both staff and students which helped him to settle in very quickly. He is in his second year now and I am very happy with the progress he has made to date. I cannot recommend the school enough and choosing St. Macartan's College was the best decision we could have made for Konrad.

Magda Oleksy

Parent of boy in 2nd year



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Our decision to send Colin to St Macartan's College was a culmination of several different factors. Numerous family members had attended the school through the generations from the 1940's as boarders and day pupils and had recommended St Macartan's College for the academic, musical and sporting traditions that the school has nurtured since inception. Something to suit most students. The opportunities available for student self- development with extra-curricular activities on offer. Competitions, Debating, Student Council, Prefects.



The Open Evening proved interesting and inviting for Colin himself for the facilities on offer- Computer Room, Music Room, Theatre, Science Labs, Canteen and outside grounds and pitches Also, most importantly, the engaging and encouraging Teachers and Staff and current students that we met at St Macartan's on the night. On touring the building we came across photos and presentations of past pupils from our locality which was interesting and the progression of the school with the constantly changing times. Most of Colin's friends from St Mary's BNS were going to St Macartan's and this was another deciding factor for him to attend the school.

Damhnait and Mick Bracken



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We have three boys currently attending St Macartan's. We wanted to give them a good start in life. The Sem was the natural choice based upon the academic & sporting opportunities available to them. The staff encourage the lads to partake in all kinds of activities within the educational environment. This is great for their social skills & allows them to develop their confidence. They are continuing to prosper thanks to the guidance & support from their teachers. They're enjoying their time at school and are very proud Sem boys.

Bernie McElwain



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As a mother of three boys, two of who have completed their education in St Macartan's and one who is currently attending, I can say that the Sem is a fantastic school and I would highly recommend it. The teachers take a great interest in their students and fulfil the students' potential. There are plenty of different sports on offer and equally lots of extra curricular activities for boys who are not just interested in sports. I have no hesitation recommending the Sem.

Emer Conway

Mother of 3 boys

Nurturing our First Years

We are conscious of how challenging it is to make the transition from 6th class to 1st year, even with all these support structures in place. We understand that the transition from primary to post primary school can be a stressful time for students and their parents/guardians. To ease this and to make it as enjoyable as possible, all first years are invited to participate in an onsite induction programme. This programme eases our first years into school life by showing them how to navigate their way around the school buildings and grounds, to read their

timetable and become familiar with our online learning platform, Google Classroom. First years start school in late August ahead of other year groups allowing them to meet new friends, their teachers and become familiar with the layout of the school.

At St. Macartan's College we are committed to creating a community. One which values excellence in everything we do where each person is given the opportunity to reach his or her potential as a learner and educator.

Our Goal...

To create a community of excellence in second level education where each person is given the opportunity to reach their full potential. We endeavour to enable all member to...



Develop physically



Nurture healthy relationships



Achieve academically



Make informed moral choices



And embrace the spiritual dimension of their lives

Links with home



Our school operates an open door policy for parents and we are delighted to welcome parents into our school. We are always aware that parents / guardians are the primary educators of our students and as such we see their role as such. We work in partnership with our parents and encourage a great deal of interaction between home and school. We develop this partnership through parent teacher meetings, regular reports, information meetings, Parents' Association, website and social media, home school liaison and Compass our new school information management system.



Parent / Teacher Meetings



Reports



Information Evenings



Parents' Council



Email and Compass



Website, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram



Home School Community Liaison

Why choose an all boys school for your son?

At St Macartan's College, we offer boys the academic challenges which reflect their natural way of learning. They respond with enthusiasm to inspirational leadership from their teachers and are encouraged to make the most of every one of the many opportunities presented to them at the school.

In a co educational setting, many boys often shy away from joining activities such as choir and drama. At St Macartan's we have a large number of boys in our school choir who enhance school life by singing and playing music at school liturgies and other events. Our very successful annual Transition Year musical is testament to the number of boys who feel comfortable performing on stage.

Because boys learn differently from girls, our teachers understand and are experienced in knowing how boys learn. Our large and spacious campus is designed solely with the needs of teenage boys in mind.

Throughout their time in the Sem, boys are afforded the time and space to develop into responsible young men ready to progress onto third level education, apprenticeships or the world of work and ready to make positive contributions in their communities.



Compass is our primary means of communicating with parents and students.

It is used to communicate messages from school to home as well as school news and events.

It is used to record attendance, punctuality concerns and any concerns we may have regarding homework, discipline etc.

Through Compass, our parents have immediate access to their sons' progress at school.



The Transition Year Programme



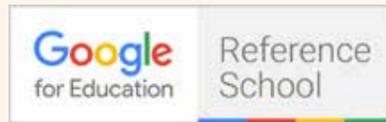
The Transition Year Programme in St. Macartan's College is a one year programme bridging the gap between the Junior Cycle and 5th year. In addition to year long subject sampling of Leaving Certificate option subjects, students will study new subject areas as modules. Currently they can choose from 22 modules including:

GAA Future Leaders, Foróige's Leadership for Life, Biodiversity in association with Trinity College, Robotics, Diet & Lifestyle, Psychology, Positive Mental Health, Photography, Enterprise to name but a few.

TY also allows students to learn experientially outside the classroom through various projects, work experience opportunities, university TY courses and links to the community. Our TY students visit residents in local nursing homes and teach computers to older learners in association with Age Action Ireland, coach GAA skills in local primary schools and take a TY trip to European destinations. Two major elements in every Transition Year at St. Macartan's is our annual musical and European trip.

Enda McCabe, Programme Coordinator

Google Reference School



St. Macartan's College is Ireland's first Google Reference School!

Google Reference status is awarded to schools that use Google for Education tools in creative, innovative or exemplary ways. St. Macartan's College Monaghan was the first school in Ireland to be awarded reference school status in recognition of their use of technology in the classroom to positively impact the education of their students and their learning. St Macartan's College has developed a culture of improvement, collaboration and creativity in learning, teaching and assessment by providing students and teachers with opportunities to collaborate online or in person through the use of Google Suite for Education. The school's commitment to digital education has seen the introduction of Digital Learning and the Junior Cycle Coding in Action Programme for all junior students. The students in Transition Year are offered modules such as Computational Thinking, HTML Web Design, Data Analytics and Artificial Intelligence. Students in Senior cycle are offered Computer Science which challenges Leaving Certificate students to recognise how programming and computational thinking can be applied to the solution of problems, and how computing technology impacts the world around us. St. Macartan's has cultivated a supportive and collaborative teaching and

learning environment for integrating digital technology as a meaningful and effective part of the educational process. The school has integrated digital technology into the student experience and continually fosters an environment of support and innovation.

Sharon O'Shaughnessy, ICT Co-Ordinator



Supporting Autism Spectrum Condition

There are currently two established autism classes at St. Macartan's College with highly qualified teachers who have experience in the area of autism and special educational needs. The ethos of provision for our autistic students centres around access and inclusion.

Parents are encouraged to make contact with the school when their son is in 5th class to prepare for the transfer from Primary to Post-Primary Education. There is a proven Transfer Programme in place.

Students enrolled in an autism class are included in a tutor group, have a personal pupil plan and every effort is made to design a timetable appropriate to their needs and abilities, with the support of the Learning Support Department.

The staff in St Macartan's College are committed to supporting autistic students in our school. To this end, the National Council For Special Education (NCSE) has provided Whole School training and teachers voluntarily undertake further courses as part of their Continuous Professional Development. We are aware that all autistic students do not need to be enrolled in the autism class and are aware of the sensory needs associated with autism in our classrooms and plan for those accordingly.

Fionnuala Gallagher, Seomra 16 (Autism Facility)

Learning Support

Supports for mainstream students with Learning Difficulties / Special Educational Needs include but are not limited to:



One-to-One teaching



Small group resource



Team-Teaching in core subjects (Maths and English)



Assistive technology (where applicable)



SNA support (where applicable)



Reasonable accommodation for state exams

At St. Macartan's we are aware that every child learns in different ways and at different speeds. The Learning Support Department ensures that every student can access the curriculum in an equitable manner and encourages students to reach their full potential despite difficulties they may have regarding learning.

In order for us to provide the best support for your son we encourage parents who have concerns to contact us before your son arrives at the college so that supports can be put in place as soon as possible. As the first educator of your child we are aware that you know your son best and we can gain valuable insights into your son from communication with you.

Students arriving to St. Macartan's sit standardised tests which inform us of your son's strengths and any areas of concern in their learning. Where areas of concern are highlighted a personal pupil plan is drawn up and supports are provided to help your son. These supports

range from one to one support, in class support or small group support. While these supports are in place your son's learning is monitored and support is increased or reduced as necessary.

In third year, Reasonable Accommodations for Junior Cycle exams are applied for, where it is felt support is required to help our students reap the rewards of their hard work in state exams. If granted these supports also apply to Leaving Cert examinations.

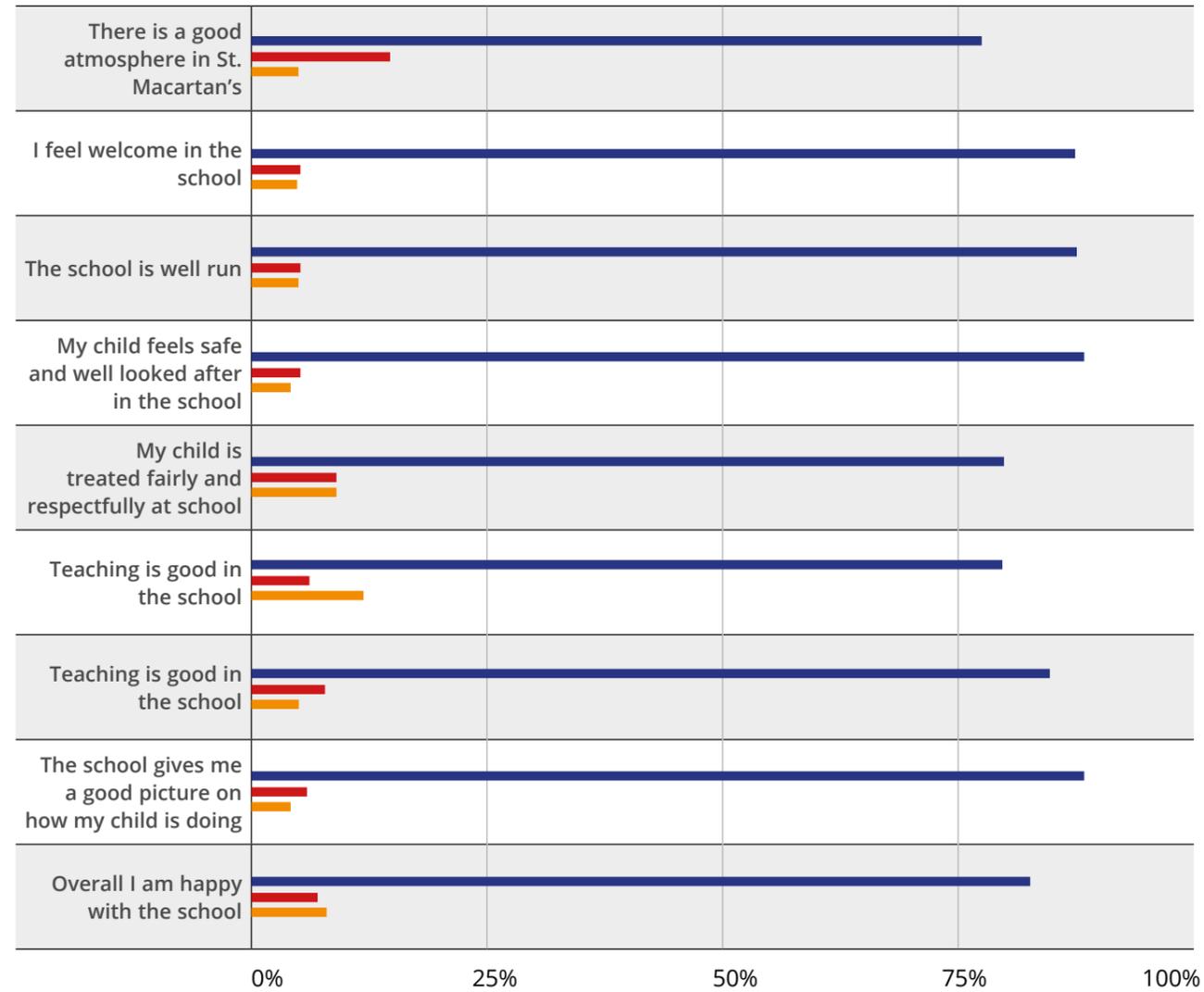
Linda Walsh Fitzgerald, SEN Co-Ordinator

A big decision!

One of the most important decisions you will take in your child's life will be the secondary school you choose. Choose carefully. This is what our parents said about our school during our last whole school evaluation by the Department of Education in 2020.

Parents' impression of St. Macartan's College taken from 2020 School Inspection

● Agree ● Don't Know ● Disagree





FORTIS ET FIDELIS

ST. MACARTAN'S COLLEGE

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