**Scoil Mháirtín**

**Kilworth**

**Co Cork**

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**School Ethos and Religious Education Policy**

Scoil Mháirtín is a co-educational Catholic primary school under the patronage of the Bishop of Cloyne. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life of Jesus Christ. Our Catholic ethos represents the norms of behaviour which have emerged and continue to emerge gradually from the repeated interactions and relationships between people in the school community. While Scoil Mháirtín is a school with a Catholic ethos, it has due recognition for pupils of other faiths or no faith.

Our Catholic ethos finds expression through the care values of our school and through our actions, attitudes and practices:

* The staff of this school want to create a climate of physical, emotional, social, and intellectual safety for students, teachers and parents so that teaching and learning can occur within relationships of mutual valuing and respect.
* With this in mind, the teachers of the school see education not just as providing students with knowledge and skills but also as providing for the emotional, social, sexual, physical and spiritual development of students.
* In this school we want students to be self-motivated and to be at peace with themselves, others and the world. Achievement of these aspirations by the school requires the help and co-operation of students, teachers and parents.

**Religious Education and Faith Development**

Scoil Mháirtín promotes Religious Education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Catholic Church and promotes the formation of the pupils in the Catholic Faith. Sensitivity is always shown to pupils of all faiths. The school cannot, however undertake to educate children of other faiths in their own faith, nor can it provide supervision during the religious education period apart from the class. Supervision is offered in school for children of other faiths for

* School Masses which take place during the school day.
* Preparation and practice for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
* Preparation and practice of the school choirs for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Scoil Mháirtín has adopted the Alive-O and the Grow in Love Catechetical Programmes approved and recommended by the School Patron for use in Catholic Schools. The programme is normally timetabled each day for one half-hour. A Christian ethos however permeates the school day and the life of the school. There is a spirit of prayer in the school.

* The major Catholic and local feasts are celebrated.
* Liturgical celebrations are held on occasions and the whole school celebrates the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation annually with classes involved in the junior and senior school choirs.
* Carol services are held on alternate years at Christmas.
* Some classes visit the church as part of the Grow in Love programme.
* The school chaplain visits the school regularly.
* The Diocesan Advisors visit the school annually.

**Whole School Dimension**

There is a spirit of prayer in the school. In each classroom there is an atmosphere of openness, forgiveness, and understanding.

There is a Sacred Space in every classroom and meaningful icons, pictures and artworks are on display throughout the school building. Scoil Mháirtín has a Religion Board which each class has a responsibility for decorating on a rotation basis.

The major Catholic and local feasts are celebrated. They are marked with the aid of signs and symbols displayed throughout the school: