School Profile

St Paul's Secondary School
Oughterard, Co Galway

Brief history

1964 Founded by the Sisters of Mercy
1991 New School building
1999 New Extension
2007 CEIST patronage
2015 New Construction Studies Room
2021 ASD & MGLD Special Classes
2021 Refurbishment of all bathrooms
2023 Two Modular Classrooms
2024 60th Anniversary celebration

CEIST
Catholic Education
An Irish Schools Trust

Mission Statement

St. Paul's Secondary School is a Catholic Secondary School, which aims:

- to nurture the academic and personal development of each individual in a caring and safe environment within our school community
- to enhance the self-esteem of each individual in an atmosphere of mutual respect
- to strive as a Catholic school to apply the core values of the gospel through all aspects of school life
- to foster good relationships with parents, guardians and the wider community

Ethos

Mercy education is committed to holistic development and to the achievement of the full potential of each student. We promote the full and balanced development of our pupils in a caring, Christian community.

CEIST's core values

Our school motto at St Paul's is 'Be the Best that You Can Be' and we are grateful to have CEIST's core values guiding and supporting us in our efforts. Our daily mission is to ensure that the words of our motto and of CEIST's core values are reflected in the world our staff and students experience here every day.
This means that we strive for community spirit and a sense that each individual in our school feels respected. In terms of growth, we aim for quality both academically in teaching and learning and also more holistically by promoting spiritual and human development. Here at St Paul's we strive to act justly and responsibly in all our relationships across the school community.

Bí mar an duine is fearr, gur féidir leat a bheith

The Learner Experience

Junior Cycle – 3 years

All students study

Mathematics
Irish
English
Science
History
Geography
RE
PE
SPHE
CSPE
Digital Wellbeing

Choice subjects

French or German

plus 2 of the following:

Technical Graphics
Home Economics
Wood Technology
Art
Business

Transition Year - 1 year

Personal Growth

TY Show
Killary Adventure Centre
European Tour

Being a Learner

Core subjects
(English, Irish, Maths, MFL)
LC Taster modules in 12 subjects
TY-specific modules, e.g.
Craft, Politics & Society
Sustainability
Law

Civic & Community Engagement

Volunteer work both in school & the wider community, e.g. assisting with extra-curricular, Tidy Towns

Career Exploration

3 Work Experience weeks
Extensive support with LC subject choice

Leaving Certificate - 2 years

All students study

Mathematics
Irish
English
Religion
LCVP
Career Guidance
PE

Choice subjects

French or German

plus 3 of the following:

Accounting
Agricultural Science
Applied Mathematics
Art
Biology
Business
Chemistry
Construction Studies
DCG
Geography
History
Home Economics
Leaving Certificate PE (New Sep 2025)

We have 2 ASD Special Classes & 1 Moderate GLD Special Class. Students enrolled there avail of a timetable that best meets their individual needs. This includes participation in mainstream class and availing of L1LP & L2LP Programmes. All our learners avail of a wide range of supports, and staff work together to ensure that we do our best by our students.

Luna, our therapy dog, is a very popular source of support for our whole school community.

Staff profile

Staff overview
46 teachers
9 SNAs
2 admin support staff
4 maintenance support staff
(1 caretaker & a cleaning team of 3)
1 member of canteen staff

Leadership & Management Team
Principal
1 Deputy Principal
7 Assistant Principal 1 posts (plus
1 Programme Coordinator at AP1 level)
9 Assistant Principal 2 posts

Extra-curricular life at St Paul's

Sport, song, dance, adventure, games, quizzes, trips