



# Scoil Aireagail

Education for the Future





**Mission Statement:** We will provide a holistic education in which each student is valued and their individual needs are recognised and catered for.

We will provide a structured, caring environment enabling each student to reach their full potential and enter society as a responsible adult.





# Message from the Principal and Deputy Principal

On behalf of the school community, welcome to our prospectus. Scoil Aireagail is a co-educational multi-denominational school whose mission statement is focused on the needs and ambitions of all the students in its care. Our ethos centers on the core values of care, respect, equality, community, and excellence.

Our aim is to transform lives and to educate our students so that they can take their place in 21st century society with confidence having learned the skills of collaboration, creative engagement, and critical thinking.

Scoil Aireagail's reputation for excellence is rooted in a dedicated staff. We are an ambitious school that strives for high standards in all aspects of our students' education and are committed to realising the potential of each individual student in our happy, vibrant learning community.

We hope our booklet gives you a sense of the special qualities of our school and the outstanding all-round education we offer. We look forward to meeting you all soon.



**Ms. Helen McTighe**  
Principal

**Mr. Shane Fallon**  
Deputy Principal

“An ambitious school that strives for high standards in all aspects of our students' education”

# History and Tradition

Scoil Aireagail began serving the educational needs of the community in 1959. From humble beginnings, two classrooms and an office preparing students for the group certificate, it has grown into the modern centre for education it is today. As enrolment quickly grew the Intermediate and Leaving Certificate programmes were added to the curriculum. The increasing enrolment also necessitated the provision of an expanded school campus. New school buildings were added in 1986 and 1999 with the most recent extension occurring in 2009.

A defining feature of the school throughout its development and growth has been its sense of community. It prides itself in playing a central role in the community of South Kilkenny. It prides itself also in loyally serving the educational needs of the community. This loyalty has been duly reciprocated with generations of families having received an education at Scoil Aireagail, a testament to its educational ethos and values which have been evident from the school's inception to the present day.

As the school has evolved, so too has its educational remit. It has long since outgrown its important role in providing for vocational training. The expansion of the curriculum has seen the majority of its students graduating to third level education. Scoil Aireagail is now the natural choice for students of all abilities, confident in the knowledge that the school's focus on academic achievement and student care will enable them to realize their ambitions.





# School Curriculum

Our curriculum constantly adapts to meet the changing needs of students and offers a diverse range of subjects at all levels in both Junior and Senior Cycle.

## Junior Cycle Curriculum

First year students study the following core subjects in their first year and throughout the Junior Cycle programme; English, Irish, Mathematics, History, Science, Religious Education, CSPE, SPHE, PE & Learning to Learn. Students express their preference for four further subjects from the following optional subjects before starting in 1<sup>st</sup> year; Art, Business Studies, Engineering, French, Geography, Graphics, Home Economics, Music, Wood Technology. They are offered

‘taster’ periods in these optional subjects before choosing four subjects which they will remain studying until the Junior Certificate. They make this subject choice at the end of October of their first year.

The school operates a system of mixed ability teaching in most subjects at Junior Cycle. Higher and Ordinary level classes are created in the some subject areas in second and third year. Students who have special educational needs are supported in their subjects within small groups. All subjects in Junior and Senior Cycle are available at higher and ordinary level.

Junior Cycle Core Subjects	Junior Cycle Option Subjects
English	Art
Irish	Business Studies
Maths	Engineering
History	French
Science	Geography
Religious Education	Graphics
Civic, Social & Political Education	Home Economics
Social, Personal & Health Education	Music
Physical Education	Wood Technology
Digital Media Literacy (Learning to Learn)	



## Senior Cycle Curriculum

Senior Cycle students follow a two year programme leading to the Leaving Certificate Examination. During Transition Year students are given the opportunity to sample all Leaving Certificate subjects, therefore assisting them in making their subject choice for senior cycle. Subjects are offered at all levels with students being encouraged to pursue subjects at higher level.

We take a student-centred approach to subject options where students are surveyed well in advance of entering senior cycle. Every opportunity is taken to ensure that student preference is met. Students are provided with advice and guidance, through our career guidance service, when it comes to making subject choices appropriate to their abilities, interests and aptitudes.

The following subjects are offered in Scoil Aireagail at senior cycle.

Senior Cycle	
English	Art
Irish	Music
Mathematics	Engineering
French	Agricultural Science
History	Construction Studies
Geography	Home Economics
Biology	Design & Communication Graphics
Business Studies	Religious Education
Career Guidance	Physical Education
SPHE	



## Transition Year

Transition Year is an optional programme for students who have completed their Junior Cycle. The majority of our students choose to undertake Transition Year as it provides an extremely beneficial set of experiences before they embark on the Leaving Certificate Programme.

The Transition Year Programme in Scoil Aireagail is a very well planned course, designed to enable our students to explore and develop their natural talents and skills, while providing an opportunity

to engage in a host of activities and events throughout the year. It enhances their self-esteem and enables students to mature as young adults. There is a good balance struck between the academic and practical dimensions.

In Transition Year, students partake in two work experience placements and one community placement allowing them to improve skills and develop an understanding of the world of work.

Transition Year	
English	History
Irish	Geography
Maths	Biology
French	Agricultural Science
Physical Education	Religious Education
Construction Studies	Sociology
Engineering	Business Studies
Art	Home Economics
Music	Design & Communication Graphics
Computers	Career Guidance
GAA Future Leaders	Health & Safety





# Facilities

Scoil Aireagail is well equipped to provide an environment which is safe and comfortable, where all classrooms are fully equipped to facilitate high quality teaching and learning.

Our modern facilities include the following specialist rooms;

- Wood Technology/ Construction
- Engineering
- Art
- Two Science laboratories
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Two computer rooms
- Home Economics
- Music room
- Resource classrooms for one-to-one tuition
- Career guidance office
- ASD unit

Other facilities include;

- Sports Hall
- Outdoor sports area
- Access to outdoor pitches
- Canteen facilities





## Ongoing Development

Scoil Aireagail has already secured significant investment in upgrading of equipment and resources. This will continue across all subject areas to ensure students have access to the latest facilities.

Plans are currently at an advanced stage in upgrading and extending our school building, so as our teaching and learning environment is modern, comfortable and pleasant.

“  
Continuing to  
build for the  
future

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# School Life

Participation in **Extra-Curricular** activities plays a hugely important role in the educational process. At Scoil Aireagail students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities, whether they be artistic, social or sporting in nature.

- The annual musical concert showcases the musical talent of the students.
- Students are encouraged to enter numerous art competitions and have been successful on many occasions. The school's entries to the Iverk Craft Show have won a multitude of awards.
- Students have raised funds for many causes including St. Vincent de Paul, Breast Cancer Ireland, Childline, Pieta House and other worthy causes.
- Scoil Aireagail has a strong tradition in public speaking competitions.
- The Green Schools Committee promotes environmental issues.
- School trips and tours are a regular feature of school life. These include year group day trips, Transition Year tours and Gaeltacht tours.





## Sport

Scoil Aireagail boasts a proud tradition of sporting participation and success in a variety of sports. The school has enjoyed success in many sporting disciplines over the years and students are offered the opportunity to participate in a wide variety of sports while at Scoil Aireagail.

## Hurling and Camogie

Hurling and camogie are of course very much part of our culture, where our school teams have been hugely successful at local and interprovincial level.

Indeed, many of our past students have gone on to play for their county. The school has contributed significantly to the Kilkenny hurling cause. In the last twelve years alone students from Scoil Aireagail have won over 60 All-Ireland medals at various levels, including minor and senior All-Irelands and club All-Irelands.

## Other Sports

Our boys and girls are also involved in Gaelic Football, Basketball, Handball, Soccer, Badminton and Athletics.

1.



3.



2.



1. **Cian Franks:** "The teachers are really nice. They are kind and it's fun to learn here."
2. **Abby O'Brien:** "The Cairdeas mentors play games with us. It's great to meet new friends. My favourite subject is PE. The teachers are great at getting everyone involved."
3. **Saoirse Walsh:** "All the students here are really friendly and will help you if you need it."



# Student Supports

Pastoral care is integral to the school's mission statement. Scoil Aireagail offers the following supports to ensure that student welfare is catered for, enabling them to reach their potential.

## Class Tutor and Year Head

Each student is assigned a class tutor whose role is to act as a mentor for each student in his or her class. If a student has difficulties the class tutor will be the first person to deal with that difficulty. The class tutor will also encourage positive behaviour from students, and will sign the students' homework diary each week. The matters dealt with by the class tutor will mainly be homework, uniform and behaviour. The respective Year Heads also play a vital role in catering for the pastoral, educational and other needs of the students and the school.

## Support / Resource Teachers

We have a very thorough, efficient and effective support education system in the school. We screen every new entrant and, as resources permit, provide literacy and numeracy support services to students in small groups. Progress is monitored, students are supported to set targets and parents/guardians are kept informed through consultation and Parent/Teacher meetings.

## Career Guidance

The guidance and counselling service is well established in Scoil Aireagail. This service refers to a range of learning experiences designed to assist students to make appropriate and informed choices about their lives. The service provides for the personal and social, educational and vocational development of its students. The guidance and counselling process endeavours to help students to grow in self-knowledge and self-esteem by assisting them:

- to understand their emotions, abilities, interests and special aptitudes
- to acquire information about educational and career opportunities within a changing society
- to make and carry out appropriate life choices and plans and to achieve satisfactory adjustments in life

Students can avail of this service by making appointments. Referrals to outside agencies are made through the Principal with parental consent.

*Excellence, Care, Equality,  
Community, Respect.*

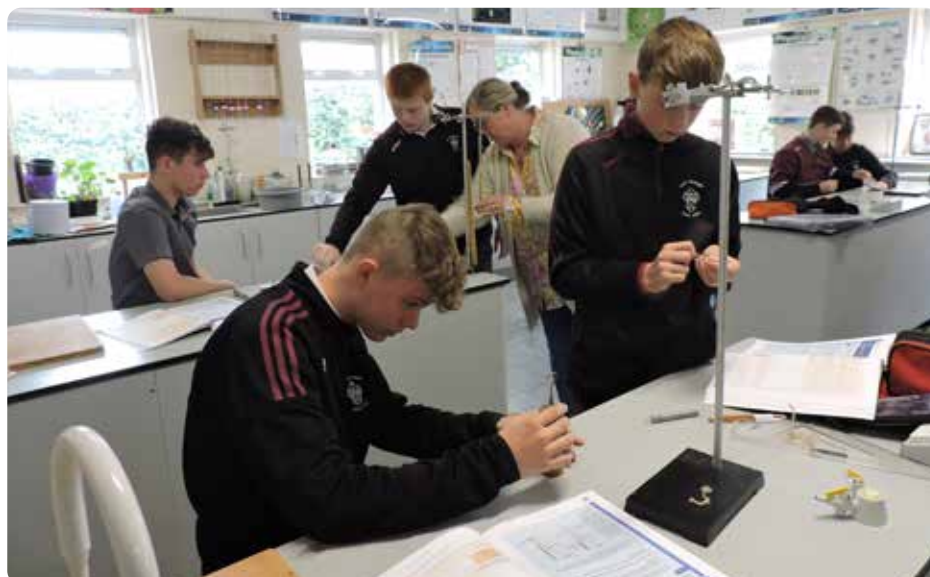


## Autistic Spectrum Disorder (A.S.D.) Unit

Scoil Aireagail provides a specialist learning resource and facility for students who are within the autistic spectrum. Specially trained staff put together a learning programme specific to the needs of each individual child, with clearly identified learning objectives. These programmes are largely based on reports from primary school where the child previously attended. Input from parents is also very important here. Regular contact with parents is maintained throughout, where feedback and progress reports are provided to parents.

## Study Skills Seminars

The promotion of academic achievement lies at the core of teaching and learning practices at Scoil Aireagail. Study skills seminars are provided annually to students to inform students of best practice in relation to examination preparation.



# Academic Excellence

The school places a strong emphasis on students achieving their potential in an environment of high quality teaching and learning. Students are encouraged to take subjects at higher level wherever possible. Student achievement at homework and in examinations is acknowledged and rewarded at the school's annual awards ceremony.

There is a strong tradition of excellent results in state examinations. Past students have excelled in a wide variety of careers and third level institutions such as TCD, UCD, SETU, UCC, NUI Maynooth, UL, DCU, TUD and many more colleges across the country.



**Michael Delahunty, Scoil Aireagail Student of the Year 2022**



# Our School Community Board of Management

We have a very effective Board of Management which oversees the overall management of our school. Parents, teachers, Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board and school management are represented on the board together with elected local representatives.

## Parents' Association

Scoil Aireagail is fortunate to have a highly motivated Parents' Association. Membership of the association is open to parents/guardians of all students attending the school. The members have contributed to the formulation of school policies and school improvement plans. In recent times the association has organized highly successful events such as a 'Clothes Recycling Programme' and 'Tractor Run'. These events have raised funds which will go towards improving our facilities and school building.





# Student Leadership

## Student Council

At Scoil Aireagail we encourage students to take part in the development of school policies and procedures. Each year, two representatives are elected from each class to form a Student Council. Anyone can put themselves forward to be elected. Once elected the council nominates a year group representative, a secretary and a chairperson. Scoil Aireagail strongly encourages every pupil to participate in the Council and to make every voice heard. It is an excellent means of promoting the democratic process and exercising student leadership.

## Class Prefects

Class prefects are selected in fifth and sixth year. They represent their class group and school at school events. They are selected by an interview process and seek to represent the school ethos.

## Cairdeas Programme

This is a mentoring programme involving 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students. The senior students act as mentors to the 1<sup>st</sup> Year students. They help the younger students transition to secondary school life and ensure they feel safe and welcomed in their new community.

## School Day

Scoil Aireagail has moved to a one-hour class. This has proven to be popular with all in the school community.

<b>Monday</b>	8.50 a.m. – 3.50 p.m.
<b>Tuesday</b>	8.50 a.m. – 3.50 p.m.
<b>Wednesday</b>	8.50 a.m.- 1.10 p.m.
<b>Thursday</b>	8.50 a.m. - 3.50 p.m.
<b>Friday</b>	8.50 a.m. - 3.50 p.m.

**Morning Break:** Monday to Friday – 10.50 - 11.10 a.m.

**Lunch Break:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday – 13.10 - 13.50

**Wednesday** – half-day, school ends at 13.10



*Excellence, Care, Equality,  
Community, Respect.*

# What Makes Scoil Aireagail Special

## Student Support

A strong, caring approach to student care and discipline create the conditions for a positive environment for teaching and learning.

## Sense of Community

The strong sense of community in the school promotes a strong sense of identity with the school, enriching the school experience.

## Student Achievement

Student achievement across all aspects of school life, academic and extra-curricular, is celebrated and acknowledged at whole school assemblies and awards ceremonies.

## High Expectations

High expectations for the students ensure that they consistently reach their academic potential obtaining excellent results in their Junior and Leaving Certificates.

## Home-School Links

We at Scoil Aireagail recognize that a strong relationship between home and school is crucial to the success of each student. We operate an “open door” policy where meetings are arranged on request with the Principal, Deputy Principal, Career Guidance Counsellor, Year Head, Class Tutor, Subject Teachers.

## Student Journal

The school journal is a valuable means of communication between the school and the home.

## Information Evenings and Parent Teacher Meetings

Parents/Guardians are invited to attend a number of information meetings during the course of each academic year. Parent Teacher Meetings are held for each year group annually.

## School Newsletter

The quarterly newsletter seeks to keep parents and the wider community informed of school life.

## Website

Our school website [www.scoilairagail.ie](http://www.scoilairagail.ie) is regularly updated and contains the most up to date information on the school and school related activities.

## Instagram Page

School events and student achievements are posted regularly on the school's Instagram page; scoil\_aireagail

## SMS Text Messaging System

Parents/Guardians are informed of upcoming school events and changes to schedule through our web-text system. Parents are asked to ensure that the school office has the most up to date mobile number to ensure that they receive the texts.

## Parents Association

The Parents' Association is the parents' representative association and offers a forum for parents' views to be heard and for parents to make a contribution to the school on a number of different levels, from policy formulation to fundraising.

*We are proud of our team here at Scoil Aireagail*





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*A holistic education in which each student is valued*









## Scoil Aireagail

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Chill Chainnigh agus Cheatharlach  
Kilkenny and Carlow  
Education and Training Board

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