

St. Gerard's Senior School

2025-2026

A blue-tinted photograph of the school building and its grounds, showing a modern structure with large windows and a set of stairs leading to the entrance, surrounded by landscaping and trees.

**NEW PARENT / GUARDIAN
INFORMATION HANDBOOK**



ST. GERARD'S SCHOOL ~ MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

St. Gerard's is a lay Catholic, co-educational school founded in 1918 by John James. John James was a man of faith and his philosophy of education emphasised the dignity of each individual and the development of the whole person. Grounded in these principles, St. Gerard's has developed into the vibrant School which it is today - educating pupils from Montessori to Leaving Certificate. The School motto "Memor" - to be mindful - encourages each person in our School community to strive for excellence in all endeavours.

MISSION

St. Gerard's School seeks to enable each young person to realise their full potential as a unique individual by providing an educational environment which:

- Promotes academic excellence through the provision of a broad and dynamic curriculum.
- Instils a love of learning and an appreciation and enthusiasm for the world beyond the classroom - in particular promoting excellence in sport, music and the performing and visual arts.
- Sustains a happy, secure and encouraging environment in which all members of the school community flourish and are nurtured and valued.
- Supports pupils in Catholic faith formation while welcoming pupils of other faiths and none.
- Fosters Christian values of kindness, honesty, integrity, self-discipline and self-esteem as well as positive relationships characterised by dignity, respect, equality and care and concern for others.
- Encourages a keen sense of social awareness and sustainable care for the environment.

Overall, St. Gerard's School seeks to develop educated, resilient, thinking and caring individuals with the self-confidence to act and make decisions which will enrich their lives and contribute to the lives of others.

VISION

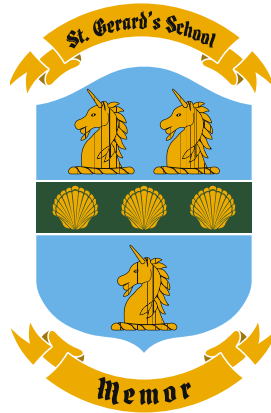
In a rapidly changing, diverse, and multi-cultural society, St. Gerard's will :

- Remain at the forefront of international best practice in education from early childhood to Leaving Certificate by adopting a dynamic and innovative approach.
- Be at the cutting edge of co-educational, holistic, inclusive and Catholic educational thought and practice.
- Demonstrate commitment to social justice as a faith-based School.
- Equip and empower young people to become innovators, leaders, advocates, critical thinkers and compassionate citizens of the world.

CORE VALUES

- **Commitment to Academic Excellence** - a culture of achievement, in an inclusive educational environment.
- **Commitment to Holistic, All-round Development** - a balanced and broad curriculum which supports each student to reach their full potential.
- **A Caring, Inclusive Catholic Education** - which encompasses faith formation, respect for diversity and a commitment to social justice.
- **The Importance of Community** - a partnership approach between parents, pupils, staff and the local community.
- **The Dignity of the Person** - respect for each individual member of our School community.
- **Futures Oriented** - rooted in tradition but with a focus on innovative practice.

OUR SCHOOL CREST



'Memor'
To be to be mindful of others



SCHOOL POLICIES

On Commencing in St. Gerard's Senior School all students will have signed up to the following policies/forms for the duration of their time with us;

- Code of Behaviour Policy
- I.C.T Acceptable Use Policy
- Permission for Use of Photograph Form
- Medical Form

All other School Policies including our new “Bí Cineálta” (Kindness) Anti-Bullying Policy may be viewed on

<https://www.stgerards.ie/senior-school/parent-information>

Note: the I.C.T. Acceptable Use Policy covers the use of all internet enabled personal devices / Camera use / Internet & Email use / Images and Video / Cyberbullying.

N.B. 1st to 3rd years are not allowed to bring any mobile device to school.



HOW WILL MY YEAR GROUP BE ORGANISED?

Junior Cycle: 1st / 2nd / 3rd Year Groups

Form classes are set in 1st year for the Junior Cycle based on **5 x Form Classes with 20 students in each.**

Form classes are set with an equal mix based on:

- Primary / Junior School attended
- Gender
- Mixed ability

All subjects are taught in the Form Class and only split during the day for subject choice classes.

Senior Cycle: 4th & 5th Year Groups

Form classes are re-set in 4th year for the Senior Cycle based on 5 x Form Classes.

New 2nd to 5th Year Students are assigned class “Buddies” to help them get to know the school / locate classrooms & lockers / where to go for break / lunch / games etc.



St. Gerard's Daily School Timetable 2025 - 2026

TIME	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8.45 - 9.44	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1 8.45 - 9.37	Period 1	Period 1
9.44 - 10.43	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2 9.37 - 10.30	Period 2	Period 2
10.43 - 10.58	BREAK	BREAK	Period 3 10.30 - 11.23	BREAK	BREAK
10.58 - 11.57	Period 3	Period 3	BREAK 11.23 - 11.38	Period 3	Period 3
11.57 - 12.56	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4 11.38 - 12.31	Period 4	Period 4
12.56 - 13.35	LUNCH	LUNCH	Period 5 12.31 - 13.24	LUNCH	LUNCH
13.35 - 14.34	Period 5	Period 5	LUNCH 13.24 - 13.45	Period 6	Period 5
14.34 - 15.33	Period 6	Period 6	GAMES 14.00	Period 6	Period 6
15.50 - 17.00	GAMES	GAMES	GAMES	GAMES	NO GAMES School Ends
	ARKLOW BUS 17.15	ARKLOW BUS 17.15	ARKLOW BUS 17.00	ARKLOW BUS 17.15	ARKLOW BUS 16.00
EVENING PREP	17.15 - PREP DINNER 17.45 - 20.45 EVENING PREP	17.15 - PREP DINNER 17.45 - 20.45 EVENING PREP	17.30 - PREP DINNER 16.30 - 20.00 EVENING PREP	17.15 - PREP DINNER 17.45 - 20.45 EVENING PREP	6 TH YEAR PREP 16.00 - 18.00

EVENING PREP/STUDY

The office will email a google form to register for Evening Prep before return to school.

- Evening Prep is for 3rd, 5th and 6th years only.
- The Prep Cost for 2025 – 2026 will be €1,650 (including evening meal).
- Students MUST attend games from 4 – 5pm before attending Prep.
- Students MUST sign up to the Prep Code of Behaviour before they will be admitted.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
SUPPER 17.15 EVENING PREP 17.45 - 20.45	SUPPER 17.15 EVENING PREP 17.45 - 20.45	SUPPER 17.30 EVENING PREP 16.30 - 20.00	SUPPER 17.15 EVENING PREP 17.45 - 20.45	- EVENING PREP ONLY 16.00 - 18.00
				OPEN TO ONLY 6TH YEAR STUDENTS AT NO COST.



SCHOOL BUS ~ ARKLOW TO ST. GERARD'S (RETURN)

The School provides a daily return bus service from Arklow with the following route used:

1. **Old Rugby Club Road (AM) Homesavers/Arklow cvrt (PM)**
2. **Beehive**
3. **Wicklow Town** - bus stop opposite Tesco
**evening stops at Marlton Road & at Hudson Garage
4. **Bus Eireann Bus Stop, Rathnew Cemetery, Rathnew**
5. **Ashford** - bus stop opposite Centra
6. **Bus Eireann Bus Stop** - bottom of Rossmore Industrial Park Newtown
7. **Kilpedder** - bus stop at the footbridge

2025 – 2026 return Costs:

- Wicklow €1,462
- Arklow €2,498

Our Bus provider is Moroney's. Cost for the Bus is charged to Parent Accounts at the beginning of the School Year.

Please note the bus cannot wait at stops and all students should be at the bus stop at least 5 minutes before scheduled departure time. The driver will share a tracking link in the What's app group.

The bus will leave the school in the evenings at the following times:

St. Gerard's School	Departs School
<i>Mondays, Tuesdays & Thuredays</i>	5.15pm
<i>Wednesdays</i>	5.00pm
<i>Fridays</i>	4.00pm

Any School Bus queries should be directed to Shauna in accounts on: accounts@stgerards.ie



SPORTS PROGRAMME

Games is compulsory unless excused on medical grounds.

Please email this to the Head of Year, Healthcare Officer and relative Head of Sport

Monday, Tuesday and Thursday

4pm - 5pm

Wednesday

2pm - 4pm
(Depending on Fixture)

Saturday

9am - 12pm
(Depending on Fixture)

Sporting Options - Term One

September - St. Patricks Day

Main Sports

- Hockey for Girls
- Rugby for Boys



Other Sports

- Tennis
- Basketball



Other Sports we participate in:

- Cross Country
- Leinster Golf
- Sailing
- Equestrian
- Swimming

Sporting Options - Term Two

St. Patricks Day - Summer

Leinster Schools Competitions:

- Athletics
- Tennis
- Cricket

Recreational:

- Soccer
- Basketball
- Hockey
- Tag Rugby
- Badminton
- Touch Rugby
- Hockey and Rugby Development





Extra Curricular Activities

(Notification sent via. School App at the start of the year)



Tennis Coaching

Golf Lessons

Martial Arts

Archery

Show Jumping



WEEK EVENTS

Arts Week

Catholic Schools Week

Christmas Bazaar Week

Modern Languages Week

Science Week

Seachtain Na Gaeilge

Wellbeing Week

CLUBS

Book Club

Chess Club

Craft Club

Debating Club

Drama Group

Gaeilge Club

Games Club

Robotics & Coding Club



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Annual Retreat

Art & Photo Competition / Poetry Competition

Debating / Public Speaking / Soroptimists

Extra-Curricular Music Tuition / Extra-Curricular Sport

Irish Computational Thinking Quiz

Irish Maths Teachers Association Quiz

Irish Science Teachers Association Quiz

Music Festival / Summer Concert / Choir

Prize & Sports Day

St. Gerard's Day

Student Council / Young Social Innovators / Green Schools Committee

Parent and Child Tennis Evening

Parent and Child Golf Competition

Young Scientist Exhibition

Youth Parliament / Model United Nations

