

Mission Statement

of St. Conleth’s N.S.

Ar AGHaidh le chéile

*( …… de réir a chéile.)*

**Motto**

Our school motto is ***Ar Aghaidh le Chéile.*** This motto reflects the reality of the whole school community working together. Pupils, Staff, Board of Management, Parents, Parish and the wider community together help make St. Conleth’s National School, Derrinturn, a better place for learning and teaching. Our school is part of the local community; the community is part of our school. We give life to the community and the community gives life to the school, all enriched by mutual respect and by the commitment of individuals working in partnership. Such a community knows how to hold each other accountable for education by continually giving of itself courageously, knowing how to start again when mistakes are made, and by leading its young people on the road of hope, *‘ar aghaidh le chéile.*’ While respecting and maintaining the great tradition of education in Derrinturn, the school also moves forward with modern approaches in education, interweaving the traditional and progressive strands gradually, but steadily, *‘de réir a chéile.’*

**Ethos**

St. Conleth’s National School, Derrinturn operates under the patronage of the Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin.It is a Roman Catholic School. *“Being a Catholic means …being united to others, it means helping one another, learning from the qualities of others and generously giving our own qualities; it means seeking to know one another, to understand one another and to esteem one another.” Cardinal Ratzinger (later Pope Benedict XVI)* Being a Catholic means that we live the golden rule: *Treat others as you would like them to treat you.*  The school welcomes other Christians, people of other religions and all people of good will. Gender Equality and Inclusivity are both part of our school life. In St. Conleth’s National School we teach ‘Grow in Love’, the Religious Education programme approved for Roman Catholic Primary Schools in Ireland. Working together with parents, priest and parish, we help to prepare children for the Sacraments of Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation as part of their faith journey.

Pope Francis said on World Youth Day in Rio in 2013:- “Put on faith, and your life will take on a new flavour, it will have a compass to show you the way; put on hope and every one of your days will be enlightened and your horizon will no longer be dark, but luminous; put on love, and your life will be like a house built on rock, your journey will be joyful, because you will find many friends to journey with you. *Jesus is the one who brings God to us and us to God. Put on Christ! in your life, and you will find a friend in whom you can always trust; put on Christ and you will see the wings of hope spreading and letting you journey with joy towards the future;****put on Christ and your life will be full of his love; it will be a fruitful life.*** Our school promotes a climate of respect, trust, caring, consideration and support for others. This is the characteristic spirit of our Roman Catholic School based on the Gospel values of, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” St. Conleth’s National School recognises the importance of developing the full potential of the child. We seek to develop children both spiritually and morally and to foster in each child an ethical sense that will enable him or her to acquire values on which to base choices and form attitudes, that will serve them not only in their lives as children, but later as adults.

**Learning Environment**

Our school aims to provide the highest possible standard of learning for all its pupils. A stable, secure learning environment is an essential requirement to achieve this goal. The quality of the relationship between the teacher and the child is of paramount importance in the learning process at St. Conleth’s National School. A relationship of trust and respect creates an environment in which the child is happier in school and more motivated to learn. The school strives to create and maintain an environment which is supportive of learning by fostering a climate of welcome, discipline, care and learning. This learning environment is based on the principles of fairness and co- operation.

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St. Conleth’s National School celebrates the uniqueness of each child in our school, as it is expressed in each pupil’s personality, intelligence and potential for development. Our school strives to nurture each child in all dimensions of his or her life – spiritual, moral, cognitive, emotional, imaginative, aesthetic, social and physical. By celebrating children being children, and enriching the child’s life we see foundations being laid for happiness and fulfilment in later education and in adult life. We acknowledge that children are deeply affected by their relationships in the home, with each other and with other people in society. We seek to balance individual and social development, and help the child to work co-operatively with others. We try to enable our children to meet, with self-confidence and assurance the demands of life, both now and in the future. We are concerned with developing the full potential of each of our pupils:- spiritual, moral, emotional, physical. Interpersonal skills and skills in communicating are essential for personal, social and educational fulfilment. Our school aims to instil a love of learning that will remain with the child through life and that will express itself in an enquiring mind and a heightened curiosity.

**The Role of the Teacher**

It is the quality of the teaching more than anything else that determines the success of the child’s learning and development in St. Conleth’s National School. There is a sense of enthusiasm and a commitment to teaching in our staff, each of whom recognises the uniqueness of the child as a learner. The quality of the relationship that the teacher establishes with the child is of paramount importance in the learning process. Our teachers are committed to a process of continuing reflection, development and renewal.

**The Role of the Parents**

Parents are the child’s primary educators, and the life in the home is the most potent factor in his or her development during the primary school years in St. Conleth’s. It is widely recognised that significant educational, social and behavioural benefits accrue to the child as a result of effective partnership between parents and teachers. We promote close co=operation between the home and St. Conleth’s National School so that our pupils receive the maximum benefit from their years with us. We strive to have regular consultation with parents and good communication between parents and school. Parents also have a special contribution to make in creating and fostering a positive school spirit in which the whole school community can feel a sense of belonging. The work of our Parents Association is much appreciated and valued.

**The Role of Management**

The Board of Management has the responsibility for the overall management of our school and the appropriate accommodation of our pupils. It has a crucial role to play in the collaborative process of ensuring that the educational needs of all our pupils are identified and catered for. The Board also has a responsibility for supporting and monitoring the characteristic spirit of our school.

**Inclusivity and Equality**

*The Education Act (1998) formalised the rights of all children to education, including the right of access to all schools, and conferred on parents the right to be consulted about their children’s education and to be involved in the management of schools.*

*The Education Welfare Act (2000) was introduced to safeguard every child’s entitlement to an appropriate minimum education.*

St. Conleth’s National School is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for each of our pupils. The promotion of equality is embedded in the Education Act of 1998. Gender equality is fully part of our school life, in all areas of the curriculum, among staff and Board of Management. Irish society has changed dramatically in recent years, and this is also true in Derrinturn. People of all nationalities, of ethnic minorities, of all religions and none are welcome in St. Conleth’s National School. Our school is an inclusive community where diversity is acknowledged, valued and catered for, and where equality of experience is sought. Pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds get equal opportunities in curricular and extra-curricular activities, even when funding is sought from families. The School Support Programme, DEIS, aims to help our school compensate and provide inclusivity and equality for all our pupils. Our school policies on enrolment, anti-bullying and attendance help enhance the ethos of equality in our school. Traveller Community In our school we aim to have meaningful participation and the highest attainment of the Traveller child so that, in common with the other children of the school, he or she may live a full life as a child and realise his or her full potential as a unique individual, proud of and affirmed in his or her identity as a Traveller and a citizen of Ireland. Children of Different Cultures Our school believes in the importance of educating children through an intercultural approach, so that pupils are able to recognise and reject inequality, injustice, racism, prejudice and bias and at the same time, are able to appreciate the richness of a diversity of cultures. Gender Equality Our school is committed to the promotion of equality, including gender equality, at all levels of schooling, and throughout all activities and subjects. We promote equality of opportunity for both male and female staff and pupils in our school.

This Mission Statement was adopted by the Board of Management on February 19th 2014.

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(Chairperson Board of Management) (Principal)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_