



TARBERT COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

Brief History

Tarbert Comprehensive School was established in 1973. It is a co-educational second level school catering for students from the North Kerry and West Limerick regions.

School Ethos

In keeping with the philosophy of comprehensive education the school caters for all levels of ability – classes at Junior Certificate level are not streamed. All students are offered a wide choice of subjects, both practical and academic, with no gender bias. There is a high level of support for students with special educational needs.

Mission Statement

In Tarbert Comprehensive School we seek to foster mutual respect and an atmosphere of trust. We promote a healthy work ethic and a love of learning in a spirit of collegiality and co-operation so that all may reach their full potential.

The ethos of the Comprehensive School is one of equality and inclusiveness, welcoming and nurturing all of the diverse abilities and talents of the various communities we serve.

We value each other, facilitate our special needs students, celebrate our achievements and look forward to becoming an increasingly multi-cultural school.

Each day we aim to live up to our school motto “Mens Sana in Corpore Sano” – A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body.

“Mens Sana in Corpore Sano”
A Healthy Mind in a Healthy Body



Richard Prendiville
Principal



Leila Moloney
Deputy Principal





General Information

School Day

Monday	9.00am – 3.50pm
Tuesday	9.00am – 3.50pm
Wednesday	9.00am – 1.20pm
Thursday	9.00am – 3.50pm
Friday	9.00am – 3.50pm

Students from Tarbert village only may go downtown at lunchtime. There is a supervised lunchtime for all other students and a tuck shop that provides a wide selection of healthy foods.

School Uniform

- Jumper:** Grey v-neck with school crest.
- Shirt:** Light blue polyester/cotton
- Tie:** Navy & blue striped tie.
- Pants:** Navy Trevira/Wool Blend. Girls pants must have school name incorporated into side seam.
- Polo Shirt:** Navy polo shirt with crest incorporated is compulsory for all year groups for PE.

Code of Behaviour

The Code of Behaviour is designed to help students to show respect for themselves, for others and for property. It ensures a safer environment for everyone whether in school or on extra-curricular activities. Parents and students are expected to sign up to the Code before entry to the school.

Book Rental Scheme

The school operates a book rental scheme for Junior Cycle students. This is an invaluable service to parents who rent school books at a far lower cost than having to purchase them.

Career Guidance

The Guidance programme within the school is designed to help the students to:-

- develop self-awareness and an appreciation of their many abilities and talents.
- make educational and occupational choices that match their interests and aptitudes.
- make informed decisions and choices about the direction they want to take in life.

Areas covered by the Guidance Counsellor

include: subject choice; study skills; exam targets; individual and group guidance; career investigation; CAO/UCAS/PLC application; college open days; job applications; interview preparation and when required personal counselling.



Jeanelle Griffin
Guidance Counsellor

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care system supports each student.

We take a personal interest in each student's welfare.

Communication between school and home is very important. Class teachers, Year Heads, Learning Support teacher, Guidance Counsellor, Principal or Deputy Principal are available to students and parents to assist in any possible way.

First year students are helped to settle into the school by their "mentor" leaders. These are trained Leaving Certificate students who choose to take a pastoral interest in first years and work under the guidance of designated staff.

The pastoral care team meets regularly to ensure adequate assistance is given to students and to address matters of concern.



Ms. Yvonne O'Connor
Chaplain

The Chaplain works with staff, families and students. She is always willing to meet with students, to listen and counsel on a range of personal, spiritual and family matters.

Year Head System

Each year group is assigned a Year Head. This teacher is responsible for liaising with subject teachers and monitoring overall student academic progress as well as disciplinary issues. The Year Head also liaises with home and has a pastoral role in the school, offering any appropriate support a student may need.

Home-School Contact

Home and school are the primary and secondary educators of students. As such, it is vital that communication between home and school is of a high standard. To ensure this the following structures are in place:

- Class teachers are assigned at junior cycle. The class teacher has a pastoral interest in each child's welfare. Class teachers monitor and collect student journals on a weekly basis.
- Year Heads monitor student academic progress, attendance and behaviour. It is vital that parents/guardians convey any relevant information that may impact on their child's progress to the Year Head.
- Formal meetings between parents/guardians and teachers take place on an annual basis. Notice of such meetings is given at the start of the year. Subject teachers will also be only too pleased to meet parents/guardians on an appointment basis throughout the year should the need arise.
- The Principal and Deputy are available to meet parents/guardians on an appointment basis throughout the year.
- The school organises a number of information talks each year in relation to the following matters:
 - Study skills
 - LC1 subject/option choices
 - Transition Year / Leaving Certificate Applied
 - Open night for incoming First Year students
 - Careers/3rd level college information
 - Specific pastoral talks for parents and teenagers on various topics.
- The Guidance Counsellor, Chaplain and Learning Support teachers are contactable by phone or available to meet by appointment.
- A comprehensive, computerised school report is issued in respect of each student twice per year.

THE CURRICULUM

Junior Cycle:

All Junior students study the core subjects. All optional subjects are sampled in the first term of 1st Year before two are selected.

Core Subjects:

Irish	French
English	Science
Maths	Computers
Religion	Wellbeing (PE, CSPE, SPHE, Guidance)
History	
Geography	

Optional Subjects:

Home Economics
Business Studies
Metalwork
Technical Graphics
Art
Music
Materials Technology Wood



Senior Cycle:

Senior Cycle operates four programmes – Transition Year, Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP), Leaving Cert Applied (LCA), and the traditional Leaving Certificate.

Transition Year is a one year programme that provides a bridge to students enabling them to make the transition from Junior to Senior Cycle. It promotes the personal, social, vocational and academic development of students.

LCVP is designed to give a strong vocational dimension to the established Leaving Certificate – it combines the virtues of academic study and self directed learning, enterprise, work and the community.

LCA is a two year Leaving Certificate programme for those students who wish to follow a practical programme with strong vocational emphasis.

In the traditional Leaving Certificate the core subjects are compulsory. Senior students select four additional subjects for the Leaving Certificate.

Core Subjects:

Irish
English
Maths
Religion
PE

Optional Subjects:

French	History	Engineering
Physics	Geography	Construction Studies
Chemistry	Business Studies	Accounting
Biology	Home Economics	Design & Communication Graphics
Agricultural Science	Art	

School Examinations

The school operates a system of in-house exams at Christmas and Summer. Junior and Leaving Cert students sit Pre exams each Spring. Reports are issued to parents detailing attendance rates, academic progress and conduct. These reports are accessible to parents online through VSware, the Schools' online administrative system. Each family is issued its own unique log on code to VSware when students enroll.



School facilities

Our school boasts some of the most modern educational and recreational facilities including:

- ✓ three computer laboratories
- ✓ computerised Design & Communication Graphics laboratory
- ✓ full high speed broadband
- ✓ a school library with computer access
- ✓ a fully equipped home economics kitchen
- ✓ a sewing room
- ✓ three science laboratories
- ✓ a career guidance office
- ✓ a chaplain's office
- ✓ a dedicated art room
- ✓ a fully equipped modern resource classroom
- ✓ a sports hall
- ✓ gym fitness suite
- ✓ sports fields
- ✓ two dedicated engineering rooms
- ✓ two fully equipped woodwork rooms
- ✓ a dedicated technical graphics room
- ✓ our school layout is fully wheelchair accessible.
- ✓ All our classrooms are equipped with interactive digital projectors and dedicated classroom PCs'.



Parents Association

The Parents Association is an active and vibrant feature of the school community. Membership of the association is open to parents/guardians of all students attending the school. The association and committee is elected annually at the AGM in late September/October and meetings are held regularly.

Student Council

Under the guidance of a member of our teaching staff, who works closely with our students, we promote instructional leadership in our entire student body and afford them the opportunity to become active citizens in our school.

The council gives students an active voice and platform to discuss issues of relevance and concern.



Extra Curricular activities:

- ✓ Young Entrepreneur Programme
- ✓ School Magazine
- ✓ Awards Night
- ✓ Music
- ✓ LINK (after schools programme)
- ✓ Gaisce
- ✓ Fundraising for charities
- ✓ Walking Club
- ✓ Junior & Senior Book Clubs
- ✓ School Choir
- ✓ Ukulele Club
- ✓ Tarbert's Got Talent show
- ✓ Seachtain na Gaeilge
- ✓ Young Scientist Competition
- ✓ Quiz Team





TARBERT COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

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www.tarbertcomprehensive.ie