



# St. Oliver Post Primary

Oldcastle, Co. Meath



## Supporting Our Students

### Moving From Primary To Secondary

In order to help students move from Primary to Secondary school, we have designed a special induction programme. This programme is operated during the first two days of the new academic year, with First Year students being the only students in the school during this time. They are introduced to the school and become familiar with the structures and practices that they will encounter on a daily basis. An information night is also held for parents to address questions and concerns pertaining to life in St. Oliver Post Primary.

### Welcome

St. Oliver Post Primary School is located in Co Meath close to the borders of Cavan and Westmeath. Consequently, the school population is made up of students from all three counties. Our modern and impressively equipped school currently has 550 students and 40 teachers.

### School Mission Statement

St. Oliver Post Primary School is committed to quality education. It seeks to enrich students' lives and empower them for life's many challenges. This is done in a caring atmosphere of good order, discipline and in partnership with parents.

In our daily life we value the principles of justice, mutual respect, equality and tolerance leading to promotion of a positive self image and the confidence to achieve the highest levels.

## *“Creating a Caring Community”*

### Pastoral Care:

Much emphasis is placed on Pastoral Care within the school, so as to support students on their journey through the education system. The school's Pastoral Care Co-ordinator, the Guidance Counsellor, Year Heads, Tutors and an external Psychotherapist work together to ensure that students in need of assistance are identified and that suitable support can be given.



## *“Inspiring and Empowering”*



### Parents' Association:

The Parents' Association plays a vital role in assisting parents and guardians in matters affecting their child's education. Each year, an A.G.M. is held. All parents are encouraged to attend the A.G.M. as feedback obtained from the Parents' Association helps to shape the school environment. The Parents Association meets on a regular basis throughout the year.

## Student Voice

### Peer Mentors

The peer mentoring programme enables students to support each other in terms of their well being and mental health. Over seventy students meet regularly with their support teachers and a senior clinical psychologist from the HSE, who monitors the program. It is a very exciting and important area in which students help to create a caring school environment.

### Student Council

The Student Council of St Oliver Post Primary School consists of students from each year group. The council will have regular meetings to discuss student issues which are brought to their attention from class representatives or from teachers or management. The council looks at these items in detail and discuss ways in which action can be taken on them. Meetings take place between the council and other members of the school community to address concerns among the student body and to improve school life.



### Green schools programme:

This international programme promotes responsible behaviour among school children and the wider community towards the environment. After years of hard work, the prestigious Green School Flag now flies outside our school. The work continues and we are now concentrating on conserving energy and managing litter and waste in our school.

*“Student Responsibility”*

### Prefects:

Over fifty students are nominated as prefects each year and play a very important role in day to day operations in the school. The prefects work very hard in fulfilling their responsibilities, some of which include: mentoring first year students and assisting teachers as required. They act as positive role models for younger students within the school.



*“Excellent Teaching Staff”*

## Curriculum

### Academic Success:

St Oliver Post Primary is extremely proud of the accomplishments of all our students and wishes to acknowledge the recent outstanding success of Caroline Hourigan, Matthew Taggart, Rory Gibney, Eoin O'Shea, Ciara Browne and Vaida Kasparaviciute.



## Subjects Offered Within The School:

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS:	
English	Irish
French	Maths
History	Geography
RE	C.S.P.E
S.P.H.E	Art
Science	Home Economics
Wood	Metal
Technical Graphics	Business Studies
Music	Physical Education
Computer Studies	

## Transition Year Programme (TYP):

The Transition Year programme has proven to be very popular and highly successful. TY is a highly structured one-year programme aimed at developing a more mature student with a wide range of transferable skills. Transition Year allows students to partake in a range of subjects and activities that will enhance their personal development while maintaining their academic progress.

Students take a wide variety of classes such as Music, Maths, Media Studies to name but a few.

Courses include:

- MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist),
- First Aid,
- Swimming,
- Driver Education,
- Public Access to Law and many more.

Guest speakers and trips are also important learning opportunities.

SENIOR CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS:	
English	Irish
French	Maths
Geography	ICT
S.P.H.E	History
RE	Biology
Physics	Chemistry
Agricultural Science	Art
Science	Home Economics
Construction	Engineering
Business	Physical Education
Music	Career Guidance
Design & Communication Graphics	

## Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (L.C.V.P.):

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme is proving to be a popular add on to the traditional Leaving Cert. This is a normal Leaving Certificate programme, which has been enhanced by the addition of certain elements, which make it more focused on preparation for the world of work. Students take three Link Modules:

1. Enterprise Education
2. Preparation for Work
3. Work Experience.



## Post Leaving Cert Course

A FETAC Level 5 course in Early Childhood Care and Education is provided within the school. The course allows participants to enhance their skills and to develop specific competencies. The PLC is open to school leavers and mature students.

## Supervised Study:

Supervised study operates within the school so as to give students the opportunity to complete homework and study assignments in an appropriate environment. Evening Study runs from Monday to Thursday for two hours and is open to all year groups.



## State of the Art Facilities

### Major Extension 2014-2015

Due to increasing pupil numbers, the Department of Education have sanctioned a €1,500,000 extension for our school. We are finalising the plans and design for this building project which involves a new Science room, Home Economics room, Art room and Technology room. It is planned that this extension will be open and in use by September 2015. We are also in the process of building a €100,000 7-a-side all weather pitch.



### Information Technology:

ICT is an important part of St Oliver Post Primary School. All classrooms are furnished with PC's and multimedia projectors. The school is also endowed with two computer rooms.

- Students are also provided with their own individual school email account SKY DRIVE online storage facility.
- Students also have access to WISEPAY which is an online payment facility which should be used for payment of school fees.
- Students and Parents can check results and attendance online via EPORTAL

### EXCELLENT FACILITIES:

School Library	2 Science Labs
Metalwork Room	Woodwork Room
Home Ec. Room	Career Guidance Office
Sen Room	Support Offices
Tech Graphics Room	Art Room
2 Computer Rooms	Sports Hall
School Canteen	Oratory
School Pitch	Athletics Track

## Student Enrichment

Our school is committed to developing all the talents that students possess. An extensive programme of extra-curricular activities has been developed including table tennis, football, soccer, basketball, European Studies, debating competitions, field trips, tours, art competitions, fashion shows, student enterprise awards, theatrical productions and concerts.



### Sporting Activities:

St Oliver Post Primary fields teams in the following sports:

- Gaelic Football
- Soccer
- Basketball

Our school has enjoyed success in many of these sports with the most notable of these occurring in 2007, when the school's senior Gaelic football team won the 'All-Ireland Vocational Final'. We also won the U-16 Boys Leinster Final in 2014.



### Athletics:

The school works closely with St Brigid's Athletic Club in promoting athletics in the school. Each year students partake in the Geraldine Dolan Memorial Cross Country Competition in Ballinacree. The school won this competition for the first time in our history in 2014.

A 5k fun run is also held on a yearly basis with students, parents and athletes taking part.

### Music, Art And Drama:

We recognise the importance of music and drama for the holistic development of students and consequently organise numerous activities throughout the year. A new drama club has started in the St Oliver Post Primary in recent years. The school also participates in the LMETB Musical Extravaganza which is held each year.



### Christmas Show:

The school musical has become a favourite event within the school calendar with capacity crowds attending our production of 'Greased'. Students are busy preparing our next school musical 'Rock of Ages'.



### Debating Competitions:

St. Oliver Post Primary recognises the ability to speak in public as an important skill. All students in the school are given the opportunity to participate in debating and public speaking activities. Our senior debating team is currently involved in Concern's national competition.

### School Trips:

#### (1) Skiing Tours

The school regularly organises skiing tours for senior students. These tours have travelled to diverse locations such as the Swiss Alps, the Pyrenees and most recently, to New Hampshire in the U.S.A. These tours have proven to be one of the highlights of students' experiences in the school.



#### (2) 1<sup>st</sup> Year Premiership Trip

For 1<sup>st</sup> year students an overnight trip to a Manchester Utd Premiership match is organised. This trip is extremely popular with the majority of students going in February.



#### (3) 2nd Year Delphi Trip:

Second Year students travel as a group to Delphi Outdoor Education Centre. They participate in numerous outdoor activities such as canoeing, rock climbing and archery. This overnight trip lives long in the memory of students.

#### (4) Ploughing Championship Trip :

An established event in the school calendar is the 3rd year trip to the National Ploughing Championships. Livestock and Machinery exhibits, Trade and Food villages, Shopping Malls, Fashion Shows, Amusements, TV & Radio Shows are just some of the attractions for visitors.

### Student Enterprise Awards:

St. Oliver Post Primary School has a proud tradition of participation in Student Enterprise competitions. The school has represented Co. Meath in the National Finals on numerous occasions. 2013-2014 seen our school emerge as National Winners in two categories for the excellent 'Sheep Watch' project.

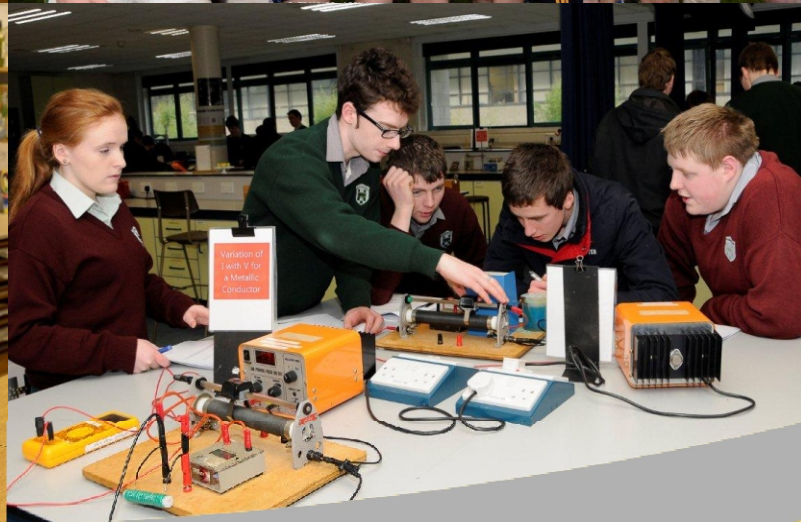


### 'Helping those in Need'

We firmly believe in civic responsibility and supporting those less fortunate than ourselves. As such, our school engages in numerous fundraising activities, some of which include:

- The Concern Fast
- The Operation Christmas Child Appeal
- Mobile Phone Appeals
- Cheerio's Breakfast morning





## St. Oliver Post Primary

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**lmetb**

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Oiliaina Lú agus na Mí  
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Principal: Mr. M. O'Reilly | Deputy Principal: Mr. B. Corcoran