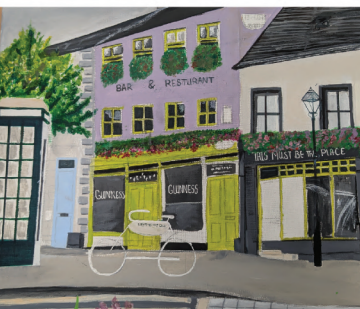
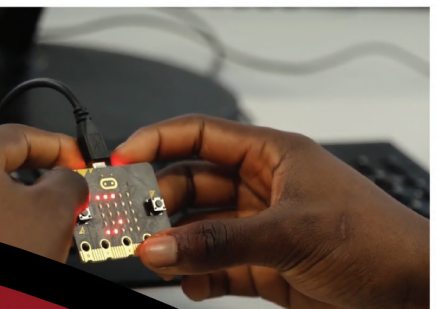


Ballyhaunis

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



"Inspiring Learning, Valuing Diversity"

Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo | T: 094 9630235 | www.ballyhuniscs.ie

Word from the Principal

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians,

I would like to warmly welcome you to Ballyhaunis Community School's prospectus, which I hope will give you a flavour of our school and the various programmes and courses we offer. Ballyhaunis Community School is a modern, innovative, and progressive co-educational, multi-denominational school fully committed to preparing our students for the demands of the 21st Century. Our school is a vibrant community where academic achievement is nurtured, talents are celebrated, and diversity is embraced.

As a DEIS (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools) school, we focus on providing targeted supports to ensure every student can access quality education and feel valued as part of our school community. We offer the traditional **Junior and Leaving Certificate programmes, Transition Year (TY), Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP), Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA), Autism Class & Additional Needs Support.** Our dedicated pastoral care structures ensure students are cared for and nurtured in a kind and supportive environment.

Our core mission is to provide a holistic learning environment that offers a wide range of opportunities for personal and academic growth, both inside and outside the classroom. This prospectus will give you an overview of our broad and varied curriculum, as well as the many extra- and co-curricular activities available to our students.

Ballyhaunis Community School has served the community for almost 50 years, with many past pupils achieving national and international success. We are proud of the respectful and inclusive atmosphere that exists between staff and students, and the many opportunities for growth and achievement.

I invite you to read on, learn about our school, and discover the spirit that makes Ballyhaunis Community School such a special place.

Warm regards,

David McDonagh

Principal

Leadership Team

At Ballyhaunis Community School, strong and collaborative leadership is at the heart of everything we do. Our dedicated leadership team, led by Mr. David McDonagh, Principal together with Deputy Principals Ms. Orla Macken and Mr. Patrick McGarry, work in partnership to create a supportive, innovative, and inclusive learning environment for every student.



Principal

David McDonagh



Deputy Principal

Orla Macken



Deputy Principal

Patrick McGarry

"We are passionate about developing and enhancing the curriculum and learning opportunities at BCS. We are committed to fostering student well-being, engagement, and creating a vibrant school community where every learner is supported and inspired to achieve their full potential".

Together with staff and parents, the leadership team is dedicated to guiding Ballyhaunis Community School with vision, integrity, and care, ensuring all students thrive both academically and personally.

"A key strength of the school is its committed and hardworking staff, who demonstrate high levels of collegiality and goodwill"

Academic Excellence | Inclusive Community | Lifelong Learning



Our School at a Glance

Ballyhaunis Community School is a co-educational, multi-denominational post-primary school located in the heart of east Mayo. Established in 1977, the school has grown into a modern learning environment, with over 700 students from a wide range of cultural backgrounds.

We offer a broad curriculum that includes Junior Cycle, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate, LCA and LCVP, Autism Class, Additional Needs Support and we support every student to achieve their personal best. Our highly dedicated teaching and support staff ensure that each student feels valued, safe, and supported throughout their school journey.

We believe in strong partnerships with families, a positive school spirit, and preparing students for life after school - whether that path leads to college, apprenticeships, or employment.

Quick Facts:

- 700+ students | 65+ staff
- 40+ nationalities represented
- Junior & Senior Cycle, TY, LCVP, LCA
- Learning support, ASD provision, Wellbeing programme
- State-of-the-art facilities, well equipped classrooms, sports hall, canteen
- DEIS School (Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools)

Student Voice

"There's always someone to talk to.
Teachers really care about how you're doing, not just your exam results."
- 3rd Year Student

Staff Perspective

"Wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. We want every student to feel seen, supported, and valued each day."
- Year Head

Ethos, Spirit & Wellbeing

Ballyhaunis CS is built on respect, care and inclusion. As a multi-denominational school, we welcome students of all faiths and none. We celebrate the diversity of our community through events, assemblies, and shared learning experiences.

We place great emphasis on student wellbeing. Each year group is supported by a Year Head and a dedicated pastoral team. Our Guidance counsellors, Chaplain, Teachers, SEN team, Home School Community Liaison Officer and SNA staff work closely to ensure every student has the tools they need to thrive.

Our Mission Statement

"We in Ballyhaunis Community School are committed to fostering the holistic development of each individual. We aim to promote equality for all and respect for one another and our environment and to give each person the opportunity to reach his/her full potential. While valuing our traditions we encourage innovative curricula to achieve these aims in a safe, caring and ordered manner in partnership within the school, with parents and with the broader community."



Year-by-Year Guidance & Support

Our care for students doesn't stop at the classroom door. Ballyhaunis CS offers structured academic and wellbeing guidance tailored to each stage of the student journey.

1st Year:

- Buddy system, transition programme, settling-in support.

2nd & 3rd Year:

- Subject choice guidance, study skills, learning support.

Transition Year:

- Career talks, CV and interview workshops, TY work experience.

5th & 6th Year:

- One-to-one career counselling.
- CAO, apprenticeships, and job application support.
- Mental health and study skills workshops.



Transition and Induction

We understand that starting secondary school is an important milestone for students and their families. To make this transition as smooth and positive as possible, Ballyhaunis Community School offers a comprehensive induction programme. This includes visits to primary schools, open afternoon, and information evenings for parents and guardians.

Students also benefit from dedicated 'meet and greet' sessions, allowing them to become familiar with the school environment and staff before term begins.

Our goal is to ensure every new student feels confident, supported, and ready to thrive from day one.

"The teachers really care. They help you figure out who you are and what path to take"





Academic Pathways

"Our curriculum is designed to challenge, engage, and inspire students to reach their full potential."

Junior Cycle

Students follow the Junior Cycle Programme in their first three years, studying a broad range of subjects designed to build core skills and knowledge.

Core Subjects

- Irish* (*unless officially exempt*)
- English
- Maths
- Science
- Geography
- History
- Religious Education

Optional Subjects

- French
- Home Economics
- Business Studies
- Visual Art
- Music
- Wood Technology
- Engineering
- Graphics

Assessment

Assessment combines classroom-based projects and final exams, culminating in the Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement at the end of 3rd year.

Wellbeing is a key focus, with Physical Education, Guidance, SPHE, CSPE, and ICT integrated into the curriculum.





TY - Transition Year Programme

Transition Year Programme offers a unique, one-year programme encouraging personal, social, educational, and vocational growth. It promotes student responsibility and prepares learners for senior cycle and beyond.



In addition to the core subjects: English, Irish, Maths, Languages and STEM subjects, students experience a diverse range of modules including:

- ICT & Coding
- Mini Company & Enterprise Education
- Senior Cycle Subject Sampling
- Erasmus & Tours
- TV / Radio Production / Digital Media
- Life Skills & Mental Health Awareness
- First Aid / CPR & Driving Instruction
- Charity Fundraising & Creative Workshops
- Community Care & Work Experience
- TEFL / Junk Kouture / JP2 Awards

Students are encouraged to take a greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making. Transition Year Programme enables students to make the transition from the more dependent type of learning associated with Junior Cycle to the more independent learning environment associated with Senior Cycle and equips them with the skills necessary to achieve their full potential in the Leaving Cert exam.

Through work experience, students are prepared for the world of work and develop their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society. The school recognises that assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning process - assessments and certification within Transition Year is school-based.





Leaving Certificate Programmes

The Leaving Certificate Programme combines core subjects with a wide choice of options, allowing students to tailor their studies to their interests and career goals.

Core Subjects

- Irish
- English
- Maths
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- IT

Optional Subjects

- Computer Science
- LC Physical Education
- Chemistry
- Phy-Chem
- Biology
- Agricultural Science
- Art
- Accounting
- Business
- Construction Studies
- Engineering
- Music
- French
- DCG - Design & Communication Graphics
- History
- Geography
- Home Economics
- LCVP

Leaving Cert Vocational Programme (LCVP)

LCVP adds a vocational dimension, combining traditional Leaving Certificate subjects with Link Modules focusing on enterprise, work experience and community. It provides practical skills and qualifications recognised by higher education institutes.

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

LCA is a two-year programme aimed at preparing students for adult life and employment. It includes:

1. Vocational Preparation

Focusing on preparation for work and work experience.

2. General Education

Giving students general life skills.

3. Social Education

Explore topics related to self-awareness, interpersonal relationships, health care and contemporary social, economic, political and cultural issues.

Graduates receive a Leaving Certificate at Pass, Merit, or Distinction level and can progress to further education or apprenticeships.





Student Life

A BCS student's day is full of opportunity, laughter, and connection. From extra-curricular activities to lunchtime clubs, there is always something happening on campus.

- Peer Mentoring Programme
- Green Schools
- Student Council
- School of Sanctuary
- School Tours and Trips
- Book Club & Creative Writers' Group
- Themed Weeks: Maths Week, Culture Week, Show Racism the red card, Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Lunchtime Activities: Chess, Music, Table Tennis, Art Room, Games Club, Anime, Lego Club

THE SCHOOL DAY

1st, 3rd, 6th Years and LCA2 Students

9.00am – 11.00am	Three 40-minute classes
11.00am – 11.20am	Morning Break
11.20am – 1.20pm	Three 40-minute classes
1.20pm - 2.00pm	Lunch Break
2.00pm - 4.00pm	Three 40-minute classes

2nd, 5th Years, LCA1 and TY students

9.00am – 10.20am	Two 40-minute classes
10.20am – 10.40am	Morning Break
10.40am – 12.40pm	Three 40-minute classes
12.40pm – 1.20pm	Lunch Break
1.20pm – 4.00pm	Four 40-minute classes

Our uniform promotes pride and equality within the school community:

School Uniform

Junior Boys: Maroon jumper with crest, mid-grey trousers, grey shirt and plain black shoes.

Junior Girls: Maroon jumper with crest, plaid skirt or navy trousers, cream blouse and black shoes.

Senior Boys, Transition Year /LCA Boys: Navy blue jumper with crest, mid grey trousers, grey shirt and black shoes.

Senior Girls, Transition Year /LCA Girls: Navy blue jumper with crest, plaid skirt or navy trousers, cream blouse, black tights or navy socks and black shoes.

Uniforms are available from local stockists to ensure easy access for all families.





Extra-Curricular Activities

"Education is more than academics. We empower students to grow through sport, music, drama, and leadership - preparing them to lead and inspire."

Sports:

- GAA Football
- Soccer
- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Camogie
- Hurling
- Golf
- Equestrian
- Swimming

Creative:

- School Musical
- Art Club
- Book Club
- Creative Writers Group
- Lego Club
- Games Club
- Trad & Folk Choir

Charity & Outreach:

- TY Community Care
- Christmas Food Appeal
- Darkness Into Light Walk
- Fundraisers

Leadership:

- Student Council
- Class Reps
- Student Voice
- School of Sanctuary Team
- Senior Mentors

Parent and Community Involvement



At Ballyhaunis Community School, strong links between home and school are vital to student success. Our Home School Community Liaison officer organises welcoming events like coffee mornings and language classes to bring families together.

Our active Parents Association works closely with school management on projects that enhance the school and support student wellbeing. Together, we build a supportive and inclusive community where every family feels valued.



CONGRATULATIONS!

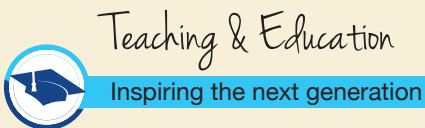


CONNACHT CHAMPIONS



Alumni & Outcomes - "Prepared for Success, Wherever Life Leads"

At Ballyhaunis Community School, we are proud of our past pupils who have gone on to make a positive impact in every field - from education and healthcare to business, science, and the arts. Our graduates are confident, compassionate, and ready to take their place in the world.



Teaching & Education

Inspiring the next generation

Graduate Pathways



Engineering & Technology

Solving real-world challenges



Healthcare & Social Care

Caring for people and communities



Creative Industries

Bringing imagination to life



Apprenticeships & Skilled Trades

Building successful careers



Business & Entrepreneurship

Leading with innovation and integrity

"Choosing an apprenticeship was the best decision for me. Ballyhaunis CS helped me see that success comes in many forms — this path really suits my skills."

"The support from teachers helped me discover my passion for engineering. Now I'm working in a field I love."

"Ballyhaunis CS gave me the confidence to pursue Pharmacy at the University of Galway."

"Drama and music at BCS sparked my creativity — those experiences shaped my career in the arts."

Testimonials - Voices from Our School Community

Parents

"Since joining Ballyhaunis Community School, my child has grown more confident, independent, and motivated to succeed."

Senior Student

"The school gave me the confidence to aim high. I'm proud of what I achieved here."

1st Year Student

"It was a big change from primary, but I felt welcomed straight away."

TY Student

"Transition Year helped me discover new interests and build confidence for the future."



Facilities & School Environment

Our school offers modern, student-friendly facilities designed to support every learner.

STEM & Technology

- Four fully equipped science labs
- Computer suites and digital learning tools
- Woodwork and Engineering rooms
- Hybrid room
- Fully equipped Design and Graphics Classroom

Sports & Wellbeing

- PE hall
- GAA pitch
- Fitness area
- Astro pitch
- Recently developed soccer pitch

Creative Arts

- Art rooms with Gallery space
- Two Home Economics kitchens

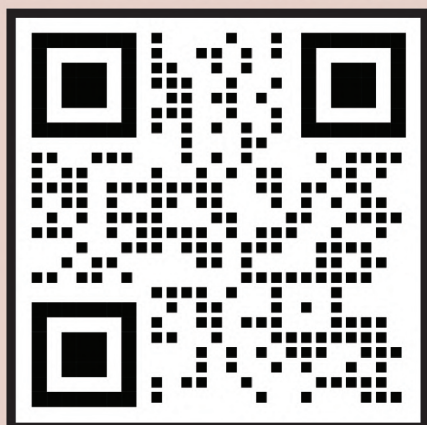
"Our facilities continue to evolve to meet the needs of 21st-century learners."

Student Support Spaces

- Library and Study Hall
- ASD Hub
- Sensory Room
- Prayer space
- Student canteen with healthy lunch options

*Keep up to date
& keep in touch*

**Scan the QR Code
to watch our Virtual Tour.**



Contact Us:



(094) 963 0235



www.ballyhauniscs.ie



info@ballyhauniscs.ie



**Knock Rd, Ballyhaunis
Co. Mayo**



**School Communication
App-VS Ware**

Follow us on



"Pastoral care, the wide curriculum, and the range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities organised for students are particular strengths of the school"



**Ballyhaunis Community School,
Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.
094 9630235
www.ballyhauniscs.ie**