



Philosophy of Education and Characteristic Spirit

St. Seton's Secondary School Ballyfermot

Mission Statement

Saint Seton's Secondary School is a welcoming Catholic School at the heart of the Ballyfermot community. We celebrate each student and endeavour to nurture their spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical growth in a safe, supportive and respectful environment. We are committed to providing quality teaching and learning inspired by the Gospel values of love, hope, truth and justice

St Seton's is a Catholic coeducational voluntary secondary school with a Catholic Ethos under the trusteeship of Le Chéile Schools Trust and CEIST (Catholic Education Irish Schools Trust).

The school is an amalgamation of three schools in Ballyfermot, Caritas College and St. John's College and St. Dominic's College.

The school draws on the richness of the religious and cultural heritage of the past and the charism of the founders of the schools in Ballyfermot;

St Vincent de Paul and St Louise de Marillac of the Daughters of Charity - Caritas College

St. Dominic of the Dominican Sisters – St. Dominic's College

St John Baptiste De La Salle of the Lasallian Order - St. John's College

The purpose of our school is to provide an education that acknowledges and affirms the dignity and uniqueness of every human being as a child of God. It embraces the intellectual, physical, cultural, emotional, social, moral and spiritual growth of each student.

Our school seeks to build a learning community that welcomes, and gives witness to the Gospel values of Jesus Christ, expressed through the lens of the Le Chéile Charter and the CEIST Charter.

The general objectives of our school as expressed in the Le Chéile charter are to provide:-

1. **A Welcome** which recognises the unique dignity and worth of each person.
2. **A Wisdom** which enables the pursuit of a greater understanding and appreciation of the world.
3. **A Witness** which comes from the expression of Gospel values, in everyday life, and recognises that every person is made in the image and likeness of God.

These objectives can be seen to be encapsulated daily in our core values, expressed below as in the CEIST Charter and which are intended to support and nourish the lives of the people who are at the heart of our schools.

- **Promoting Spiritual and Human Development**
- **Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning**
- **Showing Respect for Every Person**
- **Creating Community**
- **Being Just and Responsible**

Our school is committed to creating a place of inclusivity, equality and openness, where people can live with and be taught by one another, however diverse our experiences might be. It does not discriminate on religious grounds and is open to students from diverse backgrounds. It offers educational opportunities which promote excellence so that students can respond responsibly to their own lives, the lives of others and the earth, which is our home.

Our school as a Catholic school as an inclusive community is guided by the interaction and collaboration of its various components: students, parents, teachers, non-teaching staff and members of the Board of Management. Catholic schools are also outward looking. They are connected to their local parish and Diocese and other local organisations which enrich the life of the school. Our school draws on the rich resources of the local community and, in turn, contributes to the life of the local community.

As a Catholic school, Religious Education is central to our curriculum. Alongside Religious Education, the school supports the formation in faith of our students through many school-based experiences of prayer and ritual. All students' spiritual growth is further enhanced through such areas as sport, language, nature, art, poetry and music.

In welcoming all, our focus is on educational excellence delivered in a safe and caring environment. Mutual respect, responsibility and belonging permeate all that we do enabling the holistic development of our students.