



Muine Bheag Vocational School

Post-Primary Prospectus



etb

Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna
Chill Chainnigh agus Chearbairligh
Éireann agus Cartha
Education and Training Board

A Word of Welcome

Selecting a school for your child is a very big decision. I wish to present Muine Bheag Vocational School as a potential Post Primary school for your child.

In this guide we have set out the facilities, courses and supports which we offer in the school. We are committed to offering a professional service within a safe and happy atmosphere. We endeavour to educate our students for life. Our modern lifestyle challenges our young people like never before. In partnership with you, teachers and the wider community, we try to equip our students with the skills, knowledge and wisdom to take on the challenges of the 21st century. We aim to instil in them self-discipline and self-belief so they can be true to themselves and become the best people they can be. We offer a wide range of subjects, which we hope will cater for your child's needs. The friendly, supportive and welcoming atmosphere in Muine Bheag Vocational School will ensure that your child's time with us will be both enjoyable and fulfilling.

Muine Bheag Vocational School offers your child the opportunity to reach their full potential and obtain a qualification which will be the first step to a challenging, yet rewarding career.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school.

James Dermody
Acting Principal



Mission Statement

Muine Bheag Vocational School endeavours to cater for the personal, social and educational development of its students.

Thus we seek:

- To develop the full potential of each student
- To nurture respect for themselves, their peers and the community as a whole.
- To encourage self-reliance, initiative and individuality.
- To facilitate the moral, social academic and emotional development of each student by closely monitoring their progress and providing appropriate support when necessary.



Niamh Hickey
Acting Deputy Principal

Tel: 059 972 1335
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Junior Certificate Programme

Boys and girls begin a three-year course of studies, which prepares them for the Junior Certificate in Education.



Subjects Offered

Irish	CSPE
Mathematics	SPHE
Science	Physical Education
French	English
Business Studies	Geography
Materials Technology (Wood)	Art
Materials Technology (Metal)	Home Economics
Computer Technology	Careers



Transition Year Programme

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. Guest speakers and trips are also important learning opportunities. Work Experience also forms an important part of our Transition Year Programme in the school. Students must undertake work experience for one day per week.



CORE SUBJECTS		EXTRA ACTIVITIES	
Irish	Art	Orienteering	Hill Walking
Mathematics	Geography	Mindfulness	Self Defence
French	DCG	Pitch & Putt	Guest Speakers
English	Work Experience	Soccer Coaching	GAA Coaching
Biology	Mini Company	Outings / Tours	
Woodwork	Home Economics	Outdoor Pursuits	

Leaving Cert Applied

The Leaving Cert Applied is a distinct self-contained Leaving Cert programme. It is designed for those who do not wish to proceed directly to third level education or for those whose needs, aspirations and aptitudes are not adequately catered for by the other Leaving Cert programmes. It is a course of study with emphasis on training for the work place. Regular work experience is an integral part of the course.

The Leaving Certificate Applied challenges young people by setting them major tasks. These tasks demand that students make links across the various courses they have taken.

Credits are awarded to the student upon completion of each task. The Leaving Certificate Applied promotes interpersonal communication skills, self-initiative, teamwork and high achievement.

Assessment

General Education Continuous assessment over the two years on specific student tasks, along with terminal exams, form the final examination results. Assessment takes place on the completion of modules, and there is also a final examination in each of the following areas:

- English and Communication
- Two Vocational Specialisms
- Mathematical Applications
- Language
- Social Education

Leaving Certificate Programme

The following subjects are offered to students. Every assistance is given by our teachers to help students match their subject choice with their particular talents.



SUBJECTS OFFERED	
Irish	English
Mathematics	Geography
Biology	Art
French	Home Economics
Business	Engineering
Construction Studies	Religious Education
Design Communications Graphics	Physical Education
Careers	

The School Environment

School Hours

8.50am – Class assembly with teachers.

Classes begin at 8.55am and finish at 3.40pm

Monday to Thursday

Lunchtime is from 1.15pm to 1.50pm Monday to Thursday

School finishes at 1.15pm on Friday

School Uniform

Boys wear grey trousers, blue shirt, navy jumper with the school crest and black shoes. Girls wear navy trousers/skirt, blue shirt, navy jumper with the school crest and black shoes.

School uniform jacket with the school crest is available in the school.

P.E. uniform consists of navy tracksuit bottoms, T-shirt, sweatshirt, both with the school crest. These are also available in the school.

Discipline

Our policy is to approach discipline as positively as possible. Each student and parent/guardian is required to sign a 'Contract of Learning and Behaviour'. Each student also receives a Personal Record Book and full details of their school record is kept in that book. This will keep parents/guardians informed on a daily basis of the progress of their child. Records of Merit can be earned by students for effort and hard work. A student may be suspended for repeated or serious breaches of the school rules.

Attendance & Punctuality

Under the Education Welfare Act, parents/guardians are legally obliged to ensure that their children attend school regularly until they are 16 years of age. If they are absent, a written explanation signed by parents/guardians, must be sent to the school. It is very important for their educational development that students attend school regularly and punctually. If a student does not attend assembly they will be marked absent and parents/guardians are contacted by phone.

Student Record Journal

Every student in the school must be in possession of a school record journal. The journal is designed to help organise homework on a daily basis and to ensure constant communication between school and home. Failure of students to comply with the study/ homework demands of relevant teachers will be noted in the journal. It is important that parents/ guardians examine the journal on a nightly basis to ensure that homework is being completed. The journal also contains the school's code of behaviour in the form of student rules and classroom rules. A copy of the school rules must be signed by parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year.

Bullying

Bullying behaviour is not acceptable in Muine Bheag Vocational School. Teachers make a special effort to ensure that all cases of bullying are taken seriously and are investigated by the school. We believe everyone has the right to grow in a positive environment. This right extends to all members of our school community.

Equality

Students are encouraged to pick the subjects for which they have the greatest aptitude. Consequently, boys have the option of studying Home Economics and girls have the option of studying Materials Technology Wood/Metal and Design & Communication Graphics. Personal Development classes are provided for students. All classes have representation on the Student Council.

Ancillary Services

Career Guidance

There is a Career Guidance Counsellor in the school available to all students. Up to date information on career options and entry qualifications to third level colleges is available. Students are monitored, interviewed and advised as to the direction their career choices should take. Furthermore, senior students undertake visits to many third level institutions to see for themselves the facilities/courses on offer. We pay particular attention to helping students complete application forms for their preferred college courses or career paths.

Student Council

The aim of the Student Council is to work in partnership with the staff and parents/guardians for the benefit of the whole school community. The Student Council seeks to provide a line of communication between students, staff and parents/guardians, representing the views of the student body on matters of concern to them.

Book Rental Scheme

Muine Bheag Vocational School runs a book rental scheme. This is available to all students.

Personal Accident Insurance

Cover for each student in Muine Bheag Vocational School is mandatory.

Pastoral Care

The school has a Pastoral Care Team that provides support and guidance for students. The team meet once a week to review progress of students and address individual student needs.

Board of Management

The role of the Board of Management is to govern and manage the school. There are two representatives from each of the following groups on the board: parents, teachers and County Council KCETB.

Learning Support Service

All students undergo an assessment test when entering the school. If students have difficulties with reading or experience problems in Mathematics, they are given one-to-one tuition or tuition in small groups, whichever is appropriate. This extra tuition is given by qualified teachers. Our learning support programme is designed to improve the student's confidence and self-esteem and has been most successful.

Adult Education

Night classes run in autumn and spring each year with a range of subjects on offer. Additional course can be arranged on request.

Muine Bheag Vocational School runs full-time Further Education courses from September to May each year which carry QQI accreditation. A Post Leaving Certificate Prospectus is available in the school.

Parents Council

Muine Bheag Vocational School has an active Parents Council that plays an important role in the life of the school. 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.

Home School Community Liaison

We have a Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator, whose job it is to encourage and develop the relationship between home, school and community agencies in promoting the educational interests of our students. The HSCL Co-ordinator works with parents and encourages them to become more involved in their children's learning. The HSCL Co-ordinator has established a Home School Committee which involves parents, teachers, students, as well as representatives from local communities. They work together on issues which affect the school community.

National Awards

For many years Muine Bheag Vocational School has been a Centre of Excellence in Engineering and Metalwork and the owners of many of the local engineering industries are past students of the school.



The Vocational School is the only post-primary school in Muine Bheag where students can study Metalwork and Engineering. Vocational School students have won many awards over the years at Regional and National level in these subjects including the highest marks in the country in Engineering, Technical Drawing / Design & Communication Graphics.



National Award Achievements

1990	Michael Spruhan	2nd overall in all-Ireland "Young Engineer" Competition.
1991	Brian Hayes	1st overall in all-Ireland "Young Engineer" Competition.
1992	Ger Monaghan	2nd overall in all-Ireland "Young Engineer" Competition.
1994	Declan Monaghan	1st overall in all-Ireland "Young Engineer" Competition.
1995	Kevin Rossiter	National Finalist in all-Ireland "Young Engineer" Competition.
1999	Joe Minchin	National Finalist in all-Ireland "Young Engineer" Competition.
2004	Ultan McNally	Highest Overall Marks in Leaving Cert Engineering
2005	Kevin Lyons	1st overall in all-Ireland "Young Engineer" Competition.
2006	Stephen McAssey	Highest Overall Marks in Leaving Cert Technical Drawing
2007	David McNally	Highest Overall Marks in Leaving Cert Engineering
2007	David McNally	2nd overall in all-Ireland "Young Engineer" Competition.
2007	James Thompson	Top 10 Highest Marks in Junior Cert Metalwork.
2009	Nurney Speed Demons	National Award Winners and 5th overall in F1 in Schools Competition.
2010	Tech Racers	National Award Winners and 8th overall in F1 in Schools Competition.
2011	Patrick Doran	2nd Highest Overall Marks in DCG.
2014	F1 Finalists	2nd place in Fastest Car
2015	Cian O'Sullivan, Conor O'Brien, Dominic Ryder	Best Materials Technology Wood Project 2015

School Facilities

The facilities offered by Muine Bheag Vocational School are second to none. Over the years many building projects and refurbishments have transformed the school into a modern, spacious school with state of the art facilities and equipment. New modern classrooms are comfortable and conducive to study and learning.

Other facilities include:

Fully equipped gym and Sports Hall	Full disability access
School Library	Breakfast Club
Fully equipped art room	Lunch Club
Career Guidance room	Computer Suites
Fully equipped Science laboratory	Engineering room with state of the art equipment.
Active Parents Association	School Completion Project Worker
Modern DCG room with state of the art CAD facilities	Fully equipped Woodwork and Construction Studies room
Newly refurbished Home Economics room	Gaeltacht and French Scholarships
Parents' Room	School Bus
Evening Study	Student Lockers
Book Rental for all Students	Book Rental for all Students
ICT – Data projectors and internet in every classroom	School Completion Project Worker



School App & Sky Sports Initiative



Our school app is an ETBI project developed in conjunction with iSchoolApp. This is a school mobile app that communicates directly with iPhone and Android devices. It provides the school with an easy way to tell parents/guardians everything they need to know, and it provides them with the most convenient way to receive school notifications and communicate with their school. School news/events are updated regularly on this app.



Muine Bheag Vocational School is part of a Sky Sports initiative for 11-16 year olds. Sky Sports Living for Sport uses sport stars and sport skills to improve young people's lives. The programme is designed to inspire and support every participant in areas relevant to them whether it's improving confidence, attainment at school or leading a healthier lifestyle. Our current mentor is Darren O'Neill, Olympic Boxer.

Activities & Sport

Students are encouraged to take part in a variety of sporting activities, such as Gaelic Football, Soccer, Basketball and Handball. Self-confidence and creative talents are developed by participation in activities such as Classroom Drama and Public Speaking.



School Information

Parental Involvement

The school welcomes the interest and support of parents/guardians at all times. They are encouraged to contact the Principal/Deputy Principal or Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator if they have any questions about the progress and welfare of their children.

Healthy Eating

We encourage healthy eating within our school. All food on offer in our lunches are healthy options. We encourage our students to use these facilities and ask parents/guardians to support our efforts. The school also runs a breakfast and lunch club for all students.

Scholarships

Each year the school awards scholarships to students. These scholarships enable students to avail of extra tuition during the summer months to improve their proficiency in French and Irish.

Feedback to Parents / Guardians

Regular feedback is given to parents/guardians throughout the school year. This comes in the form of Parent/Guardian/Teacher Meetings and house examination reports. We have also introduced a student profile assessment, which is sent to parents/guardians at least twice a year. This is an assessment carried out by the student subject teachers under the following headings: social skills, homework, punctuality, behaviour, attendance and classwork.

Feedback is a two-way process and we invite parents/guardians to come to the school to discuss any issues or concerns they may have regarding their child. To ensure staff can give the attention and time required to meet with you, please phone for an appointment.

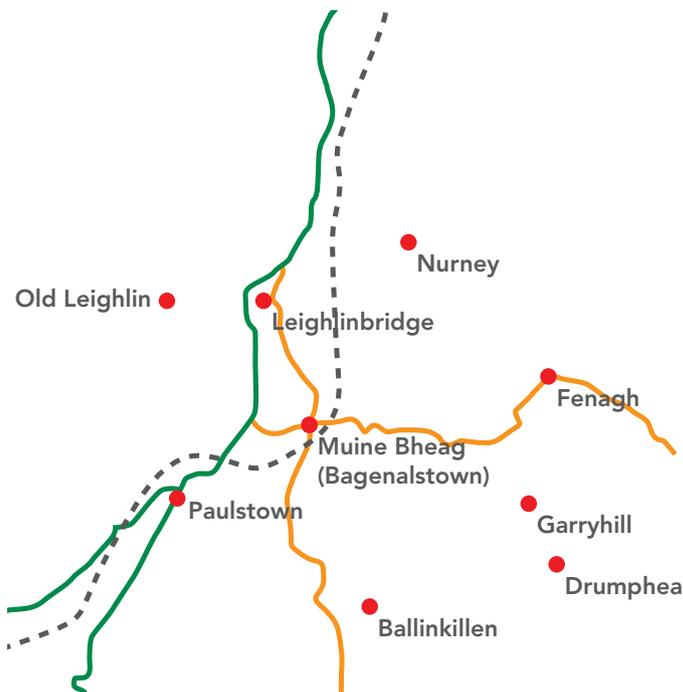
School Transport

Muine Bheag Vocational School is covered by the schools transport services which is provided by the Department of Education and Skills through Kilkenny and Carlow Education and Training Board.

Our Catchment Areas Include:

Bagenalstown, Paulstown, Fenagh, Leighlinbridge, Old Leighlin, Nurney, Newtown, Ballinkillen, Drumpeha and Garryhill.

Application forms for this service can be obtained from C.I.E., Plunkett Station, Waterford.



Life After Muine Bheag Vocational School



Eleanor Tracey
Carlow Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Business



Philip Rothwell
Kildalton Agricultural College



Michaela Brennan
Carlow Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Art (Hons.) in Early
Childhood Education and Care



Lisa Clarke
St. Patrick's College, Carlow.
Social Care



Jennifer Rothwell
Waterford Institute of Technology
Retail Management



Ashley Byrne
Letterkenny Institute of Technology
Bachelor of Arts in Law

"I was always encouraged to fulfil my personal ambitions in Muine Bheag Vocational School I really enjoyed my time in the school where I made lifelong friends." Eleanor Tracey



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