



Sligo Grammar School, The Mall, Sligo, Ireland

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Mission Statement

Sligo Grammar School aims to promote excellence in an inclusive and supportive community that reflects Christian values, where each member is enabled to achieve his/her full potential in life and in learning.

History and Ethos Statement

History of the school

The school has existed in various forms for over 400 years and is an amalgam of a number of strands. The school is now a limited company whose patron body is the Church of Ireland's Incorporated Society. It is the only Protestant run school west of the River Shannon.

The present school incorporates part of the Charter School which was set up in 1752 under the Royal Charter. This school closed in 1843.

The oldest thread of the school is the Diocesan School in Elphin which was founded during the reign of Elizabeth 1 in 1570. The Elphin Diocesan School was moved to Charter School buildings in Sligo in 1862. In 1907, the school buildings were conveyed to the Incorporated Society who closed their boarding school at Primrose Grange under Knocknarea.

In 1947 Sligo Grammar School became co-educational when it was merged with Sligo High School. The High School was founded as a girls' school by Dean Ardill in 1911.

In August 1976, the school was leased by the Incorporated Society to Sligo Grammar School Limited, which runs the school through a local Protestant board. The Church of Ireland Bishop of Elphin and Ardagh is a member of the Board of Directors. Other members are local, interested members from within the local Protestant community and are appointed by the existing board. The school has a long and close association with Calry Parish Church whose Rector is Chaplain to the school.

The school brings together and welcomes pupils from various religious traditions and nationalities.

Ethos

The ethos of the school reflects its Church of Ireland background. The Church of Ireland is part of the Anglican tradition. Like any school Sligo Grammar School values the qualities of learning, justice, individual achievement and wholeness. But its Church of Ireland ethos means that it first of all is a Christian School which operates within and encourages Christian values and faith. The experience of sharing in the life of this community is itself an important part of the Christian education quite apart from the formal content learned in the classroom.

Worship is part of the school life and the school has an assembly every morning which includes an act of worship. Integral to the school calendar are a Prize Day Service and a Carol Service and a final Valedictory Service for Form 6.

The Christian message is taught in RE programs with opportunities given for discussion of moral and spiritual issues and values. Understanding and tolerance of

the sincerely held beliefs of those of other traditions is also taught. The aim is to equip the pupils to make informed choices about personal faith for their individual lives.

In keeping with its Anglican background:

1. The school values unity in diversity. The school encourages tolerance and acceptance. It promotes an ethic of care and respect for others. Our identity together is not because we think alike but because we act together and because each individual is valued.
2. The school encourages the use of informed reason. It values academic rigor and diligence whilst remaining open to and encouraging of ideas and debate.
3. The school has a long tradition both as a faith based school and as a community. It values its religious and social heritage.
4. Anglicanism promotes social responsibility in its service ethic and consequently the school prides itself on its involvement in and contribution to the local community. The pursuit of justice is valued both within the school and the wider world.
5. The school expects an acceptance of personal responsibility. Self discipline and an acceptance of personal responsibility for decisions and actions is cultivated.

We recognize that these values while essentially Anglican are not unique to Anglicanism.