

**St. Mary's N.S.,
Church St., Templemore, Co. Tipperary. E41 F596**

Ethos Statement

St. Mary's N.S. is a community where all pupils are equally valued and respected – irrespective of sex, social background, family circumstances, educational achievement, physical characteristic or intellectual functioning. Pupils experience a sense of caring and belonging, they are treated fairly and their spiritual, moral and religious development is encouraged, as is their intellectual, social and academic development.

It is a community where moral values such as honesty, justice, fairness, sensitivity to others, and civic responsibility are nurtured and protected. The justification of these qualities is based on Biblical teaching interpreted by the Church.

St. Mary's N.S. is part of the local church community and has strong links with the parish. This, for example, is shown by the fact that pupils attend services in the local church and the Rector visits the school on a regular basis.

We are under the Patronage of the Church of Ireland Bishop of the Diocese of Cashel, Lismore and Waterford. Over the years, conscious of the community we have served, we aspire to at least 60% of the pupils on roll being members of the Church of Ireland.

We recognise the unique place of parents and guardians and we share in a special relationship with them as partners in schooling.

The work of the school is conducted in an atmosphere of tolerance and respect for religious differences.

Religious Education occupies a central position in the school curriculum and is regarded as a core subject; generally speaking all pupils in the school attend classes in Religious Education. The teaching of religious doctrine is restricted to specified times on the school timetable.

St. Mary's N.S. is one where the traditions and teaching of the Church of Ireland inform the position taken in regard to moral issues which arise in the teaching of secular subjects.

The school nurtures freedom of thought and a personal relationship with God. This is most evident in the teaching of Religious Education, and in the prayer life of the school community.