

ETSS 2024-25

WICKLOW

School Prospectus



OUR SCHOOL STATEMENT:

*'We are a school where students grow with **diversity** and **democracy**, as independent **thinkers** and lifelong **learners**, as citizens promoting **dignity** and **fairness** for all'*



Equality-based



Co-educational



Learner-centred



Democratically-run

Message FROM Principal

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We hope this prospectus will give you some insight into the values of Educate Together Secondary School Wicklow and the work of our school community in developing a diverse, inclusive, democratic and student-centred model of education for Wicklow.

Here at ETSS Wicklow, our goal is to build a school community where all students can engage with learning and reach their potential. Students are encouraged to develop their creativity, critical thinking and collaboration skills through a wide range of subjects and co-curricular activities. Our dynamic teaching team are committed to providing the highest level of instruction using interactive methodologies that include a blended learning approach, group work and project-based research as part of a collaborative approach to education. We aim to deliver the curriculum to not only prepare students for examinations but to also equip them with the key skills needed for further education and the future challenges of the 21st-century workplace.

As a democratic school, students have the real opportunity and influence to be part of the decision-making process and to bring about positive change through our active Student Council and Student Advisory Board of Studies. This democratic approach is also extended to parents and guardians whose support is essential to our aim of developing an inclusive and welcoming school.

Additionally, we offer a diverse range of student-centred extra-curricular clubs and activities at our school. This is because research shows that students who participate in activities outside of their studies have higher grades, better mental health and in general a more positive educational experience.

Our aim is that your child finds their place in our learner-centred school community, which is based on equality, inclusion, respect and democracy.



Educate
Together

HISTORY OF ETSSW

ETSS Wicklow opened its doors on the 1st of September 2019 under the principalship of the late Colm Kehoe. After starting in temporary accommodation in Rathnew, our first students settled into the school's first site in Crinion Park before Covid-19 hit in late 2019. The school overcame its first challenge by successfully moving learning online and keeping all students engaged through live Zoom classes. In 2020, we moved to our current spacious site at the Glebe in Wicklow town. As we await our new modern school building, our goal continues to be the provider of the best possible education to prepare students for the challenges and possibilities ahead, because a first-class education is a profoundly important step in developing the ability to shape their own bright future.

STUDENT VOICE

- At ETSS Wicklow Student Voice is supported and promoted through:
- Individual feedback sessions during classroom and at tutorial time.
- School wide consultation sessions.
- Consultation on specific issues -. extra-curricular activities, dress code and policy development.
- Student Council
- Student nominees sit on the Board of Management.
- Student nominees sit on the Academic Advisory Board of Studies.

SCHOOL CURRICULUM

ETSS Wicklow's temporary accommodation at The Glebe is spacious and features state-of-the-art classrooms designed to foster an engaging and dynamic learning experience. We are continuously expanding and improving our facilities, with two brand-new, state-of-the-art prefabs added to our campus.

Our school is well-equipped to support a diverse range of subjects, with two fully equipped science laboratories, a bright Art room, a guidance suite, a Technology room, a large PE hall, a fully fitted Home Economics room, a Woodwork/Construction Studies room, and a soundproofed recording studio. These specialised spaces ensure that students receive hands-on, high-quality instruction in their chosen subjects.

Every general classroom is equipped with a Whiteboard, Apple TV, and internet access, allowing for seamless integration of digital learning tools. Additionally, we offer excellent outdoor spaces for extra-curricular activities and breaktime recreation, providing students with opportunities to unwind and stay active throughout the school day.

Our teachers ensure that ETSS Wicklow provides a warm, comfortable, clean, and resourceful learning environment, where students can thrive academically and personally.

JUNIOR CYCLE

We offer a broad range of choices at Junior Cycle. All students study the following core subjects: Irish, English, Maths, Science, History, French or Spanish, Ethics, and Wellbeing (SPHE, CSPE, PE). All students are required to choose 2 more options from: Business, Art, Music, Home Ec, Geography, Woodwork, Technology and our short courses: Artistic Performance, Philosophy, Debating, Digital Media Literacy, Coding and Horticulture. At ETSS Wicklow our students are assessed on an ongoing basis and, in addition, parents receive three formal reports per year which include individualised, targeted feedback for their son or daughter.

Transition Year is a period of exploration, self-discovery and skill enhancement, offering a diverse array of academic and non-academic experiences. At ETSS Wicklow our goal is to empower students to become independent learners, critical thinkers, and active contributors to society. Through a comprehensive curriculum, we offer opportunities to nurture vital life skills, including teamwork, problem-solving, communication and leadership. We encourage every student to embrace new challenges, stretch their limits, and uncover their passions. The program opens doors to a multitude of opportunities for personal and social development, whether through community projects, work experiences, or engaging extracurricular pursuits.

TRANSITION YEAR

SENIOR CYCLE

The Leaving Certificate Course is a two year programme culminating in a final examination. Students will study seven subjects to Leaving Certificate: Irish, English, Maths, together with four subjects: History, Geography, French, Spanish, Home Ec, Business, Accounting, Art, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Politics & Society, Construction Studies, Computer Science, Music, and Design Communications and Graphics. The non-examination subjects Ethics, Career Guidance and PE are also taken by students.

The Advisory Board of Studies maintains high academic standards within the school through the promotion of innovative teaching and learning strategies. Over the last few years, the focus has been on literacy and numeracy. This focus can be seen in various initiatives such as DEAR (Drop Everything and Read), the establishment of book clubs and library visits. Future initiatives will include the use of a keyword notebook and a self correction wheel to aid students in revision and reflection on their own learning. More Peer Observation Weeks (POW) are scheduled, where teachers take the opportunity to visit each other's classes and share insights on teaching methodologies.

ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD OF STUDIES

STEM IN ETSS WICKLOW

At ETSS Wicklow, **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)** is a core focus of our curriculum, equipping students with **critical thinking, problem-solving, and innovation skills**. Through hands-on learning, cutting-edge technology, and participation in national and international competitions, we foster a culture of curiosity and creativity. Our students engage in projects that develop real-world skills, preparing them for careers in **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics**.

Astro Pi – Programming in Space

One of our most successful STEM initiatives is the **Astro Pi Mission Space Lab**, an international competition run by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Raspberry Pi Foundation. For the past two years, ETSS Wicklow students have designed and coded experiments that have run on the **International Space Station (ISS)**. These projects have explored topics such as measuring **deforestation levels** and calculating the **speed of the ISS** using advanced coding techniques. Participation in Astro Pi allows students to apply their programming skills in a real-world setting, demonstrating the power of STEM education in addressing global challenges.

SciFest – Showcasing Scientific Talent

SciFest is an annual event at ETSS Wicklow where students **develop and present their own scientific projects**, applying the **scientific method** to real-world challenges. Covering topics in **biology, physics, chemistry, environmental science, and technology**, students conduct experiments, analyze data, and showcase their findings.

A key highlight is the judging process, where **scientists, engineers, and STEM professionals** assess projects based on creativity, methodology, and impact. SciFest fosters **critical thinking, problem-solving, and communication skills**, inspiring students to pursue further studies and careers in STEM fields.



ETSS Wicklow students have won national competitions in maths, coding, and geography, showcasing their excellence across disciplines. Two of our students proudly represented Ireland at the International Geography Olympiad, highlighting our global reach. These achievements reflect the school's commitment to fostering talent and ambition.

Cutting-Edge Technology at ETSS Wicklow

Our **technology room** is a hub of innovation, equipped with **state-of-the-art tools and industry-leading equipment** that provide students with hands-on experience in modern design and manufacturing. From **3D printing and laser cutting** to **CNC machining and virtual reality (VR) simulations**, students have access to the same advanced technology used by professionals in **engineering, product design, and digital fabrication**.

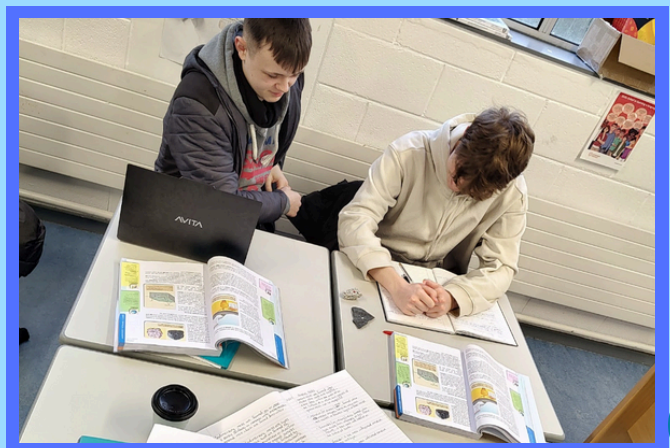
This high-tech environment allows students to **bring their ideas to life**, whether designing prototypes, exploring digital manufacturing, or engaging in immersive learning experiences. By working with **real-world industry tools**, students gain valuable skills in **precision engineering, computer-aided design (CAD), and advanced problem-solving**, preparing them for careers in STEM and beyond.

Mathematics – Building Strong Foundations

Mathematics at ETSS Wicklow goes beyond the classroom, with students engaging in innovative programmes and competitions that develop problem-solving, logical reasoning, and analytical skills. We have participated in spatial thinking programmes, which enhance students' ability to visualise and manipulate shapes—an essential skill for fields such as engineering, architecture, and computer science. Our students also take part in maths challenges, problem-solving workshops, and hands-on activities, making learning dynamic and engaging. Through these initiatives, we encourage a deep understanding of mathematical concepts, preparing students for further studies and careers that rely on strong numerical and analytical abilities.

ETSS Wicklow is also at the forefront of mathematics education through our partnership with University College Dublin (UCD) in a pioneering Lesson Study Initiative. Lessons taught in our classrooms are used to inform and shape how third-level educators train future teachers in mathematics instruction. By participating in this initiative, we are not only enhancing our students' learning experiences but also contributing to the development of the next generation of mathematics educators, ensuring high-quality teaching methods for years to come.

Additionally, our Mathematics Department Plan has been recognised for its excellence and is used as a model plan by OIDE, the national support service for teachers in Ireland. This recognition highlights our commitment to best practices in teaching and learning, reinforcing our role as a leader in mathematics education.



OUR CARE TEAM

Our Care teams play a pivotal role in the life of our students. Each class group has a tutor who monitors their progress as well as getting to know them individually. The Class tutor is directly responsible to the Student Support Coordinator who is in turn responsible to the Deputy Principal and the Principal. Our students are encouraged to keep paths of communication open though this model of support so that any area of school life; academic, pastoral or social can be addressed by our solution orientated approach.

HOME SCHOOL LINK

We are very fortunate to have the Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) scheme here in our school. The aim of the scheme is to promote partnership between home, school and the community and to ensure that every child participates fully in school. Our HSCL Ceire Hatton runs parent coffee mornings, puts on interesting parent classes and events, helps with school transitions, makes home visits to assist with school applications or forms, and lots more! Contact: ceire.hatton@etsswicklow.ie/ 083-0655022



RESTORATIVE PRACTICE

Restorative practice focuses on building relationships between all members of our school community. It also supports an inclusive and respectful school environment. We have a restorative team in the school, made up of staff who are all committed to embedding restorative practice throughout our community. The team promotes positive relationships by organising fun activities that are conducive to relationship building between staff and students. Members of the team also lead and facilitate restorative conversations between students when there is conflict and harm has been caused. Students are supported by the team to communicate how they were harmed and what now needs to happen to repair the relationship. Moving away from blame and shame, students are supported by the team to be accountable for their actions and take responsibility, to repair the relationship. We have found restorative practice to be very effective at resolving conflict among students and in creating an inclusive and respectful school environment where positive relationships can flourish.

GUIDANCE PROVISION

Currently, our Junior Cycle students receive educational guidance on a modular basis of 11 weeks where they examine identification of aptitudes, abilities and interests in a way that they can apply self-awareness and self-efficacy to their curricular subjects. Senior cycle students receive guidance for one hour a week covering personal reflection, aptitude testing, skills-based analysis and career investigation.

Guidance offers students a safe-space to explore their sense of self with links to the community and knowledge of their goals, present and future, and most importantly - how to get there! The Guidance Teacher, James Hayden, is a member of the school's Care Team which plays a pivotal role in understanding students' needs and supporting them the best way possible.

EXTRA CURRICULAR

MATHS SUPPORT CENTRE

Our Maths Support Centre runs every Wednesday from 1:15–2:15 p.m. This initiative is designed to provide free assistance to all students seeking to enhance their mathematical skills and abilities.

The Centre is linked with the UCD School of Mathematics and Statistics and is staffed by Maths teachers and enthusiastic TY students who are eager to help learners navigate through challenging maths problems. Whether you're struggling with algebra, geometry, or calculus, or are a gifted mathematician looking for new challenges, these weekly sessions serve as a welcoming space for students of all levels.



CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR

CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR

We have a wide range of activities, sports, and clubs on offer for students to suit everyone's interests. At lunchtime, staff put on exciting clubs for students (for free) such as Creative Writing, Debating, Board Games, Girls' Basketball, Boys' Basketball, and LGBTQ+ and Allies, to name but a few.

After school, we have even more clubs available, including the Maths Support Centre, Volleyball (coached by the National Volleyball Coach for Ireland – PE teacher Andrei), girls' GAA, girls' Rugby, football, and self-defense classes.

We also have a range of committees in the school, providing great leadership opportunities for students, including the Green Schools, Student Council, Diversity Committee, and the Student Advisory Board of Studies.

If none of these clubs sound appealing, we encourage and welcome students to use their voice and suggest a club for us to run. This has led to the establishment of clubs like the Lego Club, Origami Club, and Dance Club this year! Make sure to get involved in some clubs or activities to enhance your experience of student life here at ETSS Wicklow!

EVENING STUDY AND HOMEWORK CLUB

Students who regularly complete homework will perform better academically. Our evening study sessions offer students a quiet and structured environment to complete homework and develop good study habits under the supervision of a teacher.

We strongly encourage all our students, but especially our 3rd, 5th, and 6th Year students, to take advantage of this fantastic resource. Our supervised evening study runs in the school every Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

In addition to evening study, we also offer a free Homework Club where students can complete their assignments in a supportive environment. This is a great opportunity for students to stay on top of their workload and get extra help if needed.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Model United Nations (MUN) is an internationally recognised debating format that allows students to take part in simulations of the United Nations by representing different countries and NGOs/IGOs in various committees. These committees debate a wide range of global issues, helping students develop critical thinking, public speaking, negotiation, and diplomacy skills. At ETSS Wicklow, we regularly attend conferences alongside other high-performing schools such as St. Andrew's and Blackrock College, providing our students with the opportunity to engage in high-level debates and discussions on pressing international topics.

WHY JOIN MUN?

Joining MUN gives students the unique opportunity to:

- ✓ improve public speaking and debating skills
- ✓ enhance research and writing abilities
- ✓ develop teamwork, leadership, and diplomacy
- ✓ engage in discussions about real-world issues
- ✓ meet and collaborate with students from other schools and countries

MUN AT ETSS WICKLOW

At ETSS Wicklow, our MUN Club is run by a dedicated team of teachers: Ceire, Ali, James, and Tony. Students of all experience levels are welcome to join, whether they are new to MUN or experienced debaters.

Our MUN students regularly attend conferences hosted by schools and universities across Ireland, where they get the chance to represent different nations, negotiate resolutions, and compete against other student delegates.

WICKMUN - OUR ANNUAL MUN CONFERENCE

ETSS Wicklow hosts its own annual MUN conference, WICKMUN, which brings together students from schools across the country for a day of debating, diplomacy, and networking. Schools such as St. Andrew's, Wesley College, and Blackrock College regularly attend, making it a highly regarded event in the MUN circuit. Last year's conference saw over 150 students in attendance and featured guest speakers from the Irish political system. This year's event is set to be our largest yet, with over 270 students from schools across the country expected to take part, further cementing WICKMUN as a key fixture in the national MUN calendar.

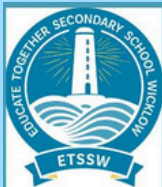


MODEL UNITED NATIONS

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Joining MUN is an exciting opportunity to develop valuable life skills and gain insight into international affairs. Whether you're interested in politics, law, public speaking, or global issues, MUN provides an excellent platform to learn, grow, and make new friends.

If you'd like to be part of MUN at ETSS Wicklow, come along to our meetings on Fridays at lunchtime or speak to Ceire, Ali, James, or Tony for more information!



WICKMUN 2024 SCHEDULE

19
APRIL

5.00-5.15 PM - REGISTRATION
5.05-5.15 PM - CHAIR MEETING
5.15-6.00 PM - OPENING CEREMONY
6.00-7.30 PM - STAGGERED DINNER
6.00-6.45 PM - GROUP A: ECOSOC/DISEC/SPECPOL
6.45-7.30 PM - GROUP B: E & E/H & Y/HISTORICAL
7.30-8.45 PM - COMMITTEE IN SESSION
8.45-9.00 PM - SOCIAL EVENT

GUEST SPEAKER - ANNA WAITHIRA BURKE - LABOUR AREA
REP OF GREYSTONES - MD LABOUR EQUALITY CHAIRPERSON

20
APRIL

8.45-9.00 AM - WELCOME & BEVERAGES
9.00-10.45 AM - COMMITTEE IN SESSION
10.45-11.00 AM - BREAK
11.00-12.15 PM - COMMITTEE IN SESSION
12.15-1.30 PM - STAGGERED LUNCH
15-12.45 PM - GROUP B: E & E/H & Y/HISTORICAL
12.45-1.30 PM - GROUP A: ECOSOC/DISEC/SPECPOL
1.30-2.00 PM - GUEST SPEAKER
2.00-5.00 PM - GENERAL ASSEMBLY
5.00-5.15 PM - BREAK
5.15-6.00 PM - CLOSING CEREMONY

GUEST SPEAKER - STEPHEN MATTHEWS - GREEN PARTY
TD FOR WICKLOW

ETSS Wicklow
The Glebe, Wicklow,
A67 N797/ 040433060



SPORTS AT ETSS WICKLOW

At ETSS Wicklow, we believe in the power of sports to develop teamwork, resilience, and a sense of community among our students. Our diverse range of sports activities provides opportunities for students of all skill levels to participate, compete, and excel. Whether students are looking to join a team, improve their fitness, or simply enjoy an active lifestyle, there is something for everyone.

Basketball is a popular sport at ETSS Wicklow, with both boys' and girls' teams competing in school leagues. The teams are led by Lucy and David, who create an inclusive and energetic environment for players of all levels. Training sessions focus on skill development, strategy, and teamwork, ensuring that students grow both on and off the court.



Football is a key sport in our school, with both boys' and girls' teams taking to the pitch. The boys' football team, led by Francisco, made school history by reaching the first-ever final in the school's history this year. With a strong training program and a commitment to development, the football teams provide students with opportunities to improve their skills and compete at a high level.

SPORTS AT ETSS WICKLOW

Volleyball is a thriving sport at ETSS Wicklow, with both boys' and girls' teams training and competing at various levels. The teams benefit from expert coaching by Andrei, the head coach of the Ireland Men's Volleyball Team, ensuring students receive top-tier training. Volleyball is open to students of all experience levels, providing an exciting opportunity to engage in a fast-paced and team-oriented sport.



Our Girls' GAA team, coached by Caitlin and Clare, offers students the chance to develop skills in Gaelic football while embracing Ireland's sporting heritage. The team welcomes players of all levels, from beginners to experienced athletes, and fosters a strong team spirit both on and off the field. In the coming year, the team will be embarking on an exciting bonding trip to Wales, providing a fantastic opportunity for players to strengthen their connections and develop teamwork,

Beyond competitive teams, ETSS Wicklow provides students with a range of recreational sports and fitness activities, including:

- Lunchtime & after-school sports – A mix of casual and competitive games open to all.
- Self-defense club - A great way to build confidence and learn new skills.

At ETSS Wicklow, we encourage all students to explore their sporting interests. Whether you're looking to compete, train, or simply enjoy an active lifestyle, there's a place for you in our sports community. Keep an eye out for training schedules, sign-ups, and upcoming events!

STAY CONNECTED WITH ETSS WICKLOW!

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook
for the latest updates, students
achievements, and school events

Or check out the news section of our
website - www.etsswicklow.ie - to
find out more about life at ETSS
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