

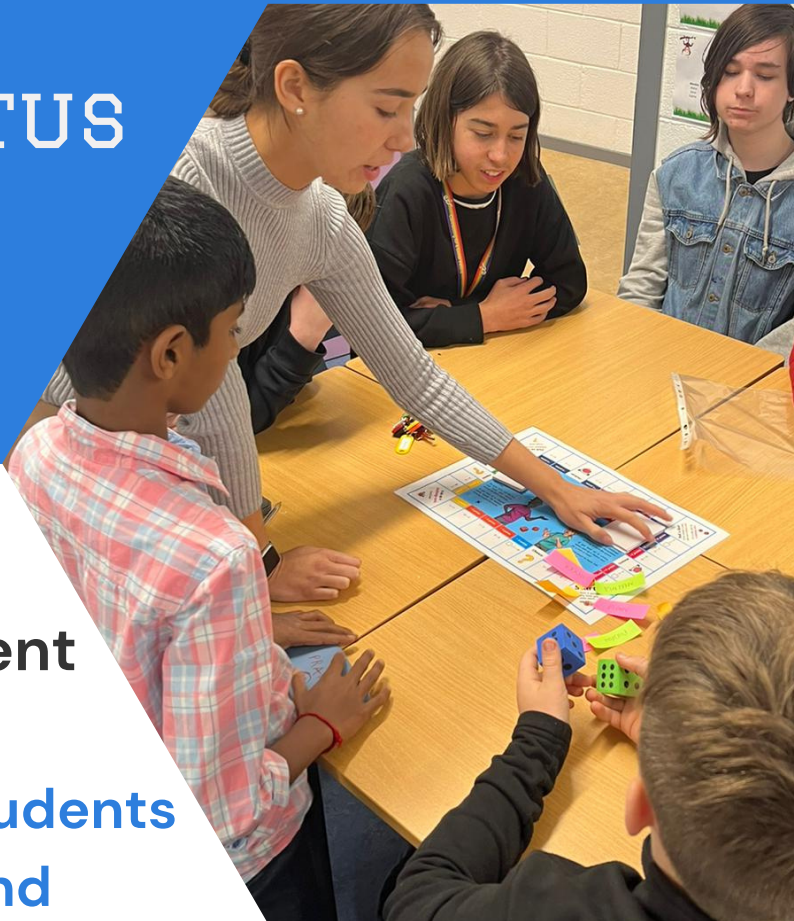
ETSS WICKLOW



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2023-2024

Our Mission 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

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,

John Maddock
Principal



THE HISTORY OF ETSS WICKLOW

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.

STUDENT CURRICULUM

ETSS Wicklow has developed a broad and balanced curriculum which offers a wide range of subjects. Teaching is student-centred and aims to challenge and support all students thus enabling each student to achieve his/her academic potential. Students are prepared for the following courses; Junior Cycle, Transition Year, and Senior Cycle. Within this curriculum, a holistic approach is adopted to support the personal development of your son/daughter and their overall wellbeing.

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.

SENIOR CYCLE

The Leaving Certificate Course is a two year programme culminating in a final examination. Students will study seven subjects to Leaving Certificate:

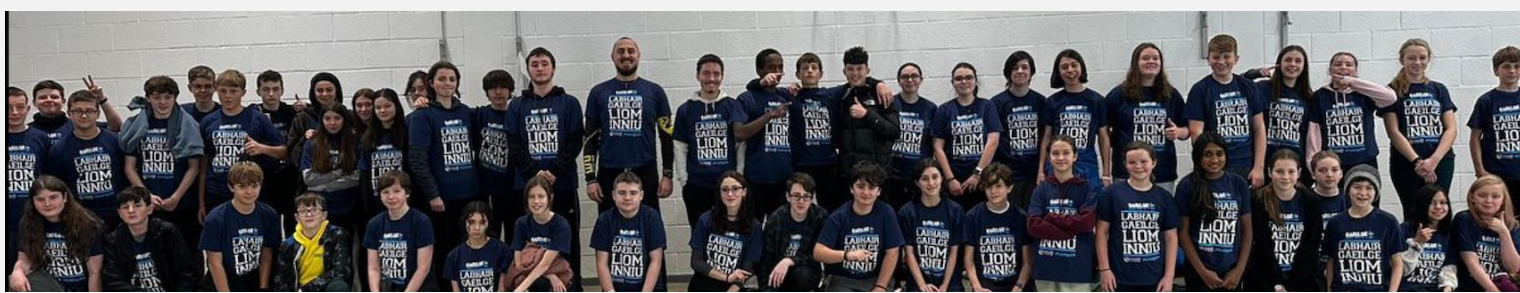
- Irish, English, Maths, together with four subjects: History, Geography, French, Spanish, Home Ec, Business, Accounting, Art, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Politics & Society, Construction Studies, Computer Science, Music, and Design Communications and Graphics.
- The non-examination subjects Ethics, Career Guidance and PE are also taken by students.

TRANSITION YEAR

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.

ACADEMIC ADVISORY BOARD OF STUDIES

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.



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.



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 LINKS

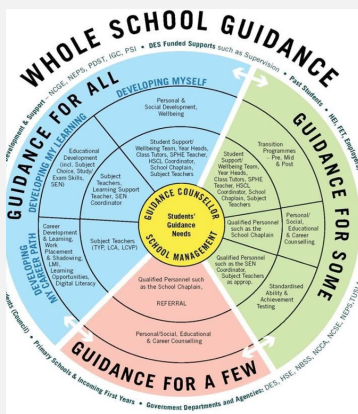
We are very fortunate to have the Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) scheme here in our school. The aim of the scheme is to promote partnership between home, school and the community and to ensure that every child participates fully in school. Our HSCL Ceire Hatton runs parent coffee mornings, puts 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



GUIDANCE PROVISION

Guidance Counselling is provided for all students in an educational setting, some students in a vocational setting and, for some students in a personal setting. 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 connections, relationship and sexuality education, 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 Counsellor Stacey Finn 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.



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

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 more clubs on offer such as the Maths Support Centre, Volleyball (coached by the National Volleyball Coach for Ireland- PE teacher Andrei), girls GAA, girls Rugby, football and Self-defence classes. We have a range of committees in the school with great leadership opportunities for students such as Model United Nations, Green Schools, Student Council, Diversity Committee and the Student Advisory Board of Studies.

If none of these clubs sound appealing, we encourage and welcome you to use your voice and suggest a club for us to run. This has led us to establish clubs like 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!

MODEL UNITED NATIONS SCHOOL

Model United Nations (MUN) is an international format of debate, which allows students to take part in simulations of the United Nations by representing different countries and NGOs/IGOS in different committees that debate a range of topical issues. It develops strong organisational, negotiating and research skills. MUN also develops communication and group work skills. A MUN club is run in the school by Ceire and James on Friday at lunchtime. MUN students are supported to attend various MUN in schools across Ireland where they have the opportunity to work alongside students from other schools. Furthermore, we host an annual WICKMUN event, with invited guest speakers from the Irish political system. Last year's WICKMUN for example saw over 150 students from other schools attend. All students are welcome to join MUN and develop key life skills which aid them in their life after school.

EVENING STUDY



Students who regularly complete homework will perform better academically. Our evening study sessions offer students a quiet and structured environment to be able to complete homework and develop good study habits under the supervision of a teacher. We strongly encourage all of our students but especially our 3rd, 5th and 6th Year students to take advantage of this fantastic resource. Our supervised evening study sessions run in the school every Tuesday and Thursday

from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

SCHOOL FACILITIES

ETSS Wicklow's temporary accommodation at The Glebe is spacious and has state-of-the-art classrooms. Our teachers ensure a warm, comfortable, clean and resourceful learning environment. Currently our school has two 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 rooms ensure teaching and learning take place in an optimal setting that affords the student the best experience in their chosen subjects. Our general classrooms are equipped with a Whiteboard, Apple TV and internet access.

We also have a great outdoor space for students to use for extra-curricular and breaktime activities.



STUDENT COUNCIL

We are very proud of our Student Council in ETSS Wicklow. The Student Council helps promote an environment that is supportive of our school's aim of promoting a positive learning environment. Students are elected democratically to the Council each year. This Council is a formal avenue for students to become involved in effective planning, to be given the responsibility of being partners with staff and parents and to be listened to. It creates opportunities for the development of leadership, responsibility and improved communication between staff and students. Student council nominees also sit on the school's Board of Management.

SCHOOL CANTEEN

The school canteen serves free breakfast to all students every morning from 8 am, while all students can avail of free healthy snacks during 10:45 break times. Students can also purchase a subsidised hot lunch from the school canteen for €2.20 every lunchtime.



SCHOOL DAY

Monday: 8:30am – 3:45pm

Tuesday: 8:30am – 3:45pm

Wednesday: 8:30am – 1:00pm

Thursday: 8:30am – 3:45pm

Friday: 8:30am – 3:45pm

- Each class period is 1 hour in duration.

Morning Break 10:45 – 11:00am

Lunch Break: 1.00 – 1:45pm

- TY & Senior Cycle students are allowed to leave the school for Lunch break.

UNIFORM

No uniform is required but students must adhere to the dress code policy.

FURTHER INFORMATION

visit our website www.etsswicklow.ie

Contact: reception@etsswicklow.ie / 0404-33060

ETSS Wicklow, The Glebe, Wicklow Town, A67 N797

ETSS WICKLOW
TEACHERS, SNAS AND
SCHOOL STAFF



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