



# Coláiste Pobail Acla

Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí



Polranny, Achill, Co Mayo.

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## *Principal's Welcome*

Welcome to Coláiste Pobail Acla. In this prospectus there is information relating to various aspects of school life, including academic and extra-curricular activities.

We are very proud of the improvements that have taken place in Coláiste Pobail Acla over the past few years. It is a source of great pride to see our students performing so well academically, in extra-curricular activities, socially, and in the working environment outside of school.

Thanks must be given to all the staff of Coláiste Pobail Acla, the Teachers, Special Needs Assistants (SNA's) our Librarian, Secretary and Caretaker for the amount of work they put in day after day to improve standards in Coláiste Pobail Acla for our students.

Coláiste Pobail Acla provides a high standard of education to all students. We provide an environment which encourages academic and also practical skills, as well as encouraging students socially. We have a diligent team in Coláiste Pobail Acla who are full of energy and inspiration. Every teacher helps students both inside and outside of the classroom.

Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine.

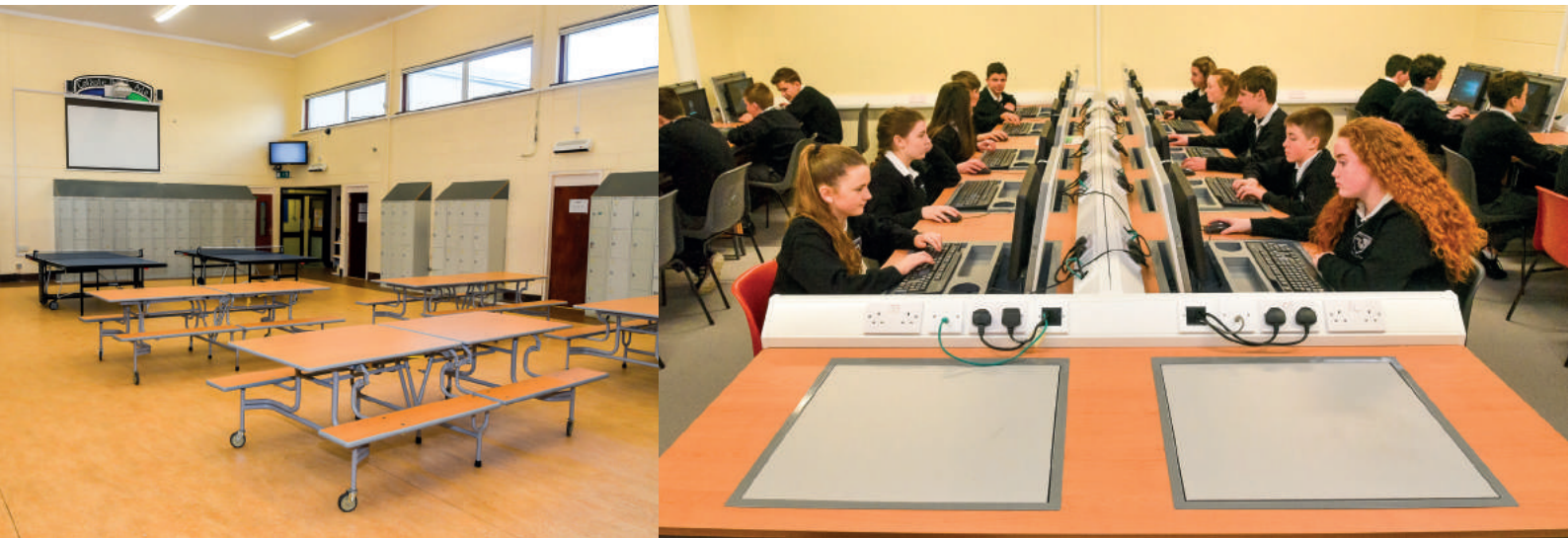
**Paul Fahy**  
*Principal (Acting)*

# Coláiste Pobail Acla

Coláiste Pobail Acla is situated in Polranny, Achill, Co. Mayo. It is in the heart of the Achill Gaeltacht. It was founded in 2011 after an amalgamation between Scoil Damhnait and McHale College. It is under the management of Mayo Sligo Leitrim Education and Training Board. (MSLETB)

## The Board of Management - **An Bord Bainistíochta**

Coláiste Pobail Acla is a Community school under the auspices of MSLETB. The school is managed by the Board of Management which consists of representatives from teaching staff, parents, trustees, members of MSLETB and the school principal.



## Why choose Coláiste Pobail Acla? - **Cén fath Coláiste Pobail Acla?**

- Coláiste Pobail Acla gets excellent academic results.
- Coláiste Pobail Acla has a young, enthusiastic and dedicated staff.
- Small student teacher ratio and excellent facilities in Coláiste Pobail Acla.
- A holistic education is provided in Coláiste Pobail Acla.
- A wide range of extra-curricular activities are catered for.
- Coláiste Pobail Acla has excellent in-school supports such as: Chaplain, Career Guidance, HSCL (Home School Community Liaison) and Pastoral Care Team.
- As a DEIS school Coláiste Pobail Acla avails of many of its supports including School Meals, smaller Student:Teacher Ratio, access to HEAR (Higher Education Access Route) and School Completion Programme (SCP).

**“Eochair feasa foghlaim”**

# Mission Statement - **Ráiteas Misin**

We strive to motivate our school community to realise its full potential academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally in a safe, supportive environment.

Coláiste Pobail Acla is a centre of learning, a place where everyone is treated as an individual. Staff and students work together in the pursuit of excellence in student learning, in a safe and friendly environment. Coláiste Pobail Acla puts mutual respect and teamwork between staff and students to the fore.

Coláiste Pobail Acla encourages creativity and embraces diversity in a positive learning environment. We support and encourage all students to become responsible citizens that excel in their personal and academic careers.

In Coláiste Pobail Acla we are constantly trying to improve the high standard of education all students receive. We are a Community College and the Community is at the heart of the school.

**“Ní neart go cur le cheile”**





## First Year Induction - **Ionduchtú na Chéad Bhliana**

Coláiste Pobail Acla takes special care to enable first year students make the transition from primary school to secondary school. Our open day/night gives Parents/Guardians and students an opportunity to come to our school and see our facilities and ask any questions necessary. We then hold an induction day for all first year students where students will meet their teachers, familiarise themselves with the layout of the school and go through timetabling etc.

## School Uniform - **Éide scoile**

Coláiste Pobail Acla school uniform consists of: Crested School Jumper, Grey Trouser, and White Shirt. In Transition Year the uniform changes slightly it is a: School Crested Hoodie and Grey Trouser. The uniform is compulsory for all students and must be worn at all times. School crested sports jackets are to be worn at sports events only.

## Student Council - **Comhairle na nDaltaí**

Coláiste Pobail Acla has a very active Students Council comprising of two democratically elected representatives from each year group. It is the official voice of the students. The council holds monthly meetings during which the students have the opportunity to raise issues that concern them. A designated teacher attends the meetings and the Principal also attends at various stages throughout the year. Student council elections are held every September.

## Pastoral Care - **Cúram Tréadach**

Pastoral Care is the care and concern for the spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical wellbeing of the entire school community. This care permeates the whole life of the school including the curriculum. It is promoted through the code of behaviour rooted in a deep concern and respect for the uniqueness of each individual in our school. The school has a full time chaplain and access to other services that are involved in the Pastoral Care team.

**“Molann an obair an duine”**



# Subject Choice - **Ábhair Scoile**

## Junior Cycle

### *Teastas Sóisearach*

- Gaeilge
- English
- Mathematics
- French
- History
- Geography
- Science
- Business Studies
- Materials Technology (Wood)
- Materials Technology (Metal)
- Technical Graphics
- Home Economics
- Art, Craft & Design
- Music
- C.S.P.E.-Civic, Social & Political Education
- S.P.H.E.-Social, Personal & Health Education
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

## Transition Year *Idirbhliain*

Transition Year is available to students who wish to take time before moving into fifth year. Transition Year in Coláiste Pobail Acla strives to provide a learning programme which promotes maturity, builds self-confidence, and encourages students to gain competence in the core academic subjects and to develop personal skills. The Transition Year programme aims to strike a good balance between the academic and the practical dimensions.

## Leaving Certificate

### *Ardteistiméireacht*

Each student studies **seven subjects** for Leaving Cert the core subjects are:

- English
- Gaeilge
- Mathematics

**and four other subjects.**

*We offer a choice from the following subjects:*

- French
- Geography
- History
- Construction Studies
- Design & Communication Graphics
- Business
- Accountancy
- Biology
- Physics & Chemistry
- Agricultural Science
- Art
- Home Economics
- Engineering
- Music
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

**Non examination subjects for Leaving Certificate:**

- Physical Education
- Career Guidance
- Relationships & Sexuality Education

## Extra-Curricular Activities - **Imeachtaí Eischuraclam**

Gaelic Football, Basketball, Soccer, Table Tennis, Pool, Cross Country, Athletics, School Choir, Traditional Music, Drama, Debating, Film Production, Trath na gCeist, Young Scientist, Educational Tours, International Project Work.

**“An té nach gcuireann san earrach ní bhaineann sé san fhómhar”**

# Testimonials - Teistiméireachtaí



**Leah McNamara**  
1st Year

I have really enjoyed my first year in Coláiste Pobail Acla. I have made lots of new friends and have got the opportunity to try out many new subjects. My favourite subject is music and I find the teachers very helpful.



**Tristan O'Malley**  
1st Year

At first, I found adjusting to second level quite difficult, but it didn't take long to settle in. I enjoyed meeting new people, both students and staff. I love to play sport and enjoy using the basketball court and AstroTurf pitch. I enjoyed taking up new subjects like Woodwork, Metalwork, Technical Graphics and P.E.



**Sarah McNamara**  
2nd Year

Secondary school in Coláiste Pobail Acla has been an enjoyable experience for me so far. I've had many opportunities to take on new subjects and try out new things. I've always had an interest in sport but since coming to Coláiste Pobail Acla that interest has grown. I find the teachers very helpful and always encourage us to do our best. There is something for everyone in our school.



**Cian McCarthy**  
2nd Year

Tá mé ag baint sult as Coláiste Pobail Acla ón am a thosaigh mé anseo sa chéad bhliain. Tá foireann na scoile an-chabhrach agus tuisceanach. Tá deis agam staidéar a dhéanamh ar réimse mór ábhar ar nós Francise, Míotalóireachta agus Adhmadóireachta. Is maith liom ag imirt spóirt sa scoil agus bhí go leor ratha againn lenár bhfoireann peile le tamall beag anuas.



**Sarah English**  
3rd Year

When I started in Coláiste Pobail Acla, I found that it took me a while to adjust to my new surroundings; larger building, timetables, etc. There are lots of subjects to choose from and many other areas outside the classroom to get involved in, e.g. school choir, GAA, athletics, Student Council, Green Schools Committee, Coiste Gaeilge, Table Tennis, Debating, Poetry, etc. I have made lots of new friends and I've had the chance to grow closer to my older ones.



**Emma McNulty**  
Transition Year

As a Transition Year student, I have had many opportunities to develop various skills in Coláiste Pobail Acla. We get the chance to complete many projects, such as; MiniCompany and BT Young Scientist. Transition Year has many great courses throughout, e.g. work experience, first aid, GAA training course and music workshops, to name only a few. I really enjoy surfing and sailing which we may not normally get the chance to try. Overall, I'm really enjoying my time in Coláiste Pobail Acla.

**“Tús maith leath na hoibre”**



## Coláiste Pobail Acla:

- ✓ Provides students with excellent facilities.
- ✓ Encourages students to take part in extra-curricular activities.
- ✓ Encourages students to pursue both personal and community targets.
- ✓ Helps students to get the maximum benefit from their school life.
- ✓ Encourages creativity and embraces diversity in a positive learning environment.
- ✓ Provides a broadly based curriculum that responds both to the individual student and society.
- ✓ Provides a holistic education for all students.

Our schools central purpose is the intellectual, moral, physical and social development of each student.



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