



DOMINICAN COLLEGE MUCKROSS PARK

ARTS POLICY

(Ratified and adopted by the Board of Management 3rd May 2022)

Our Vision

To create a progressive learning environment of the highest quality where our students grow to become independent, respectful and caring women of integrity who live by Christian values and Dominican principles.

Our Mission

To provide our students with an education that in the spirit of St Dominic:

- recognises and responds to the unique needs and abilities of each individual student
- encourages the development of positive, respectful and inclusive relationships
- challenges each student to speak and act with honesty and integrity.

Introduction

Dominican College Muckross Park aims to be an Arts-rich and creative school, promoting inclusive practice, excellence in the Arts and creativity for all.

The Arts in Education charter sets out the significance of creativity and the Arts in the changing landscape of education and society.

'We believe creativity must be placed at the heart of our future as a society and a country. The arts are our first encounter with that rich world of creativity, and we believe in placing the arts, alongside other subjects, at the core of our education system.'

Arts in Education Charter DES DAHG 2012

In Dominican College Muckross Park we endeavour to support all learners to develop their emotional, communicative, expressive and imaginative capacities through engagement with Arts-rich experiences. We value excellence in the Arts and participation in the Arts to develop resilience, risk-taking, innovation and personal agency.

Creativity 'is not a purely intellectual process. It is enriched by other capacities and in particular by feelings, intuition and by a playful imagination. [It is not a] single aspect of intelligence [but] a dynamic process that draws on many different areas of a person's experience and intelligence.'
Ken Robinson: Out of Our Minds: Learning to Be Creative. (New updated version 2011)

The Arts are central to life in Dominican College Muckross Park. This document sets out a rationale for Arts practice within the school and a framework for progressive and sustainable development.

Definition of the Arts

The Arts in Dominican College Muckross Park are defined as but are not limited to the Visual Arts, Music, Performance, Drama, Debating, Film and Digital Media and Creative Writing.

Provision of Arts activities will take place through:

- Timetabled subjects as part of the Junior and Senior Cycle Curriculum
- The extra-curricular and co-curricular programme
- Transition Year programme

Statement on the Arts

Dominican College Muckcross Park will develop an Arts-rich and Creative School by:

- Encouraging collaboration and participative practices throughout the school.
- Being open to new opportunities and planning for flexibility.
- Listening to the student voice.
- Inviting Arts practitioners to collaborate in our school, for example through visiting artist programmes, Creative Schools Programme, Creative Engagement.
- Maximizing opportunities for Arts provision in the National Curriculum.
- Supporting student Arts culture in the school.
- Promoting access to and awareness of Arts activities within the school.

Links to Mission Statement and Ethos

Dominican College Muckcross Park is a Christian school in the Roman Catholic tradition. The motto 'Veritas' inspires the school's Dominican ethos which is enshrined in the booklet *In Search of Truth (The Dominican Way in Education)*.

Dominican education is concerned with the education of the whole person. Within the school community, we share our search for truth about God, the world, ourselves and our eternal destiny. We work in partnership with parents to instruct and educate the young people in our school. We encourage respect, responsibility, initiative, personal growth and leadership. Our school community is based on a sense of trust.

The Arts in Dominican College Muckcross Park aim to develop independent, culturally competent learners with a strong sense of personal values and a sense of their own efficacy.

Aims and Objectives

Aim: To ensure all learners experience the richness of a broad arts curriculum.

Objectives:

- Provide a minimum of 2 Arts option subject choices to Leaving Certificate Level, currently Visual Arts and Music.
- Provide Art for all through Transition Year module subjects in Visual Art, Crafts, Music, Drama and Performance.
- Provide extra-curricular arts opportunities such as Art Club, Portfolio Club, Debating Club, Junior and Senior Choirs, and Orchestra which are open to all students.
- Stage a dynamic musical production in Transition Year, which is inclusive of all and is an integral part of the promotion of wellbeing. This includes elements of set design, creation of props, adapting the script, developing the choreography and immersing themselves in the performing arts with an emphasis on developing cooperation and teamwork. The students are entrusted with responsibilities such as creating artwork and other promotional materials including social media for the production.

Aim: To provide every learner with the opportunity to be inspired by the arts and achieve success through the arts.

Objectives:

- Students will have the opportunity to visit museums and galleries, and attend concerts, films and performances.

- All students will have access to Arts performance through student exhibitions of work.
- Students will be provided with opportunities to participate in in-house and inter-school competitions at local and national level in a variety of Arts disciplines.
- Visiting artists will be invited through the support of agencies such as Creative Engagement and Creative Schools, Poetry Ireland and Music Master Classes.
- Innovative ways will be explored for all students to express their ideas using digital media appropriate to the subject area.
- Our Arts facilities will be maintained to the highest standards and accessible to all students.
- Access to CPD will be ensured for specialist teachers, including but not limited to Art Teachers and Music Teachers
- Arts targets will be included in our school improvement plan and will be monitored and reviewed in line with all subjects.

Aim: To support learners to develop an understanding of the role of the arts in society, including as a career, and also to promote social awareness and change through developing an appreciation of diversity and awareness of different cultures and beliefs.

Objectives:

- To use Arts-based activities, including debating, to enhance learning in Global Citizenship Education.
- To investigate the Arts and Activism as agents for social change in line with our Le Chéile and Dominican Ethos
- To expose students to the Arts from different cultures and beliefs, both through classroom practice and by inviting different practitioners as visiting artists to our schools.
- To keep our students advised of career opportunities in the Arts and related fields, Further Education opportunities, and access schemes where appropriate.

Aim: To strengthen and build new partnerships which make the Arts sustainable and bring benefit to learners and the wider community.

Objectives: To use the Arts to develop learning opportunities across subject disciplines.

- To actively seek and investigate new Arts opportunities for collaborative projects within the school community and with external agencies.
- Provide for the wider community, staff, parents, local schools, community and Arts partners to have access to our Arts programme through exhibitions, performances, and online dissemination of work.

Aim: To nurture artistic talent and develop young people's transferable life skills that arise from successful Arts education, including the creative use of imagination and considered risk-taking, cooperation, tenacity, flexibility and responsibility, as well as leadership and entrepreneurial skills.

Objectives:

- To plan for all stated objectives.
- To provide the opportunity for our students to influence and collaborate in Arts provision in the school through Arts prefects.
- To provide opportunities for our students to celebrate success through Arts Awards.

Policy review

This policy will be reviewed as necessary and particularly to comply with any relevant legislative changes.

This policy was ratified and adopted by the Board of Management on 3rd May 2022

Signed: *Mary White*
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: *Anne Marie Wheeler*
Principal

Date: *3RD May 2022*

Date: *3 / 5 / 2022*

Date of next review: May 2024