

# Drumshanbo Vocational School

Drumshanbo, Co Leitrim



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## PROSPECTUS



Principal



Deputy Principal

## Welcome

On behalf of the school community, we would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child as they embark on their journey through second level education.

Drumshanbo Vocational School (DVS) was established in 1964, under the auspices of Co. Leitrim VEC. now, under the trusteeship of Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim Education and Training Board, DVS is a co-educational, multi-denominational school underpinned by core values of excellence in education, care, equality, community, and respect.

DVS is renowned for inclusivity and an ability to educate the whole person, as per our mission statement. A focus on academic excellence is supported by an extensive curriculum, a well-established pastoral care system, strong links with the local community and a rich co-curricular programme. The broad range of sports and other extra-curricular activities available are a testament to the commitment and dedication of our staff.

Traditionally a small school and very much at the heart of the community in Drumshanbo, there are currently 470 students enrolled with similar numbers of boys and girls.

When you visit our school or attend our Open Evening, we are sure you will get a sense of our school spirit, the warm welcoming atmosphere, the energy, and the keen sense of community.

As Principal and Deputy Principal, we feel privileged to be leading the school forward, proud of our staff and the achievements of our past students and building on the legacy of those who have gone before us. Now we look forward to what we believe will be a very bright future for our school and all who pass through it.

## Our School Ethos is underpinned by the core values of

- Excellence in Education
- Care
- Equality
- Community and Respect

## Our Mission Statement

Drumshanbo Vocational School including students, teachers, parents and community, seek to provide for the intellectual/curricular, physical, social and personal education of the student.

The school aims to establish, develop and nurture attitudes, values and behaviour which will enable the whole school community to reach its full potential.

All students are encouraged to find their own strengths in order to grow into self-confident and responsible adults. Within a firmly established programme of pastoral care, we seek to enhance the spiritual aspects of our students' lives.





## School Facilities

Projectors and integrated sound systems are in all classrooms.

In addition, we have:

- Fully equipped, specialised Rooms including two Science Laboratories, Engineering Room, Construction Room, DCG Room, Home Economics Room, Art Room, Music / Drama Room
- Excellent ICT equipment including 1 high spec computer suite and 3 laptop trolleys, each with a class set of laptops
- Library
- Student Support Office
- Individual Student Lockers
- Nurture Room
- Use of the Mayflower facilities for Physical Education Classes and lunch breaks

The Department of Education has approved a significant extension for the school, and we expect work to commence shortly.



## Curriculum

The school offers five programmes: Junior Cycle, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) and Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA).

### Junior Cycle

Irish	History	Graphics	Business
English	Geography	Engineering	Wood Technology
Maths	Visual Art	Spanish	Science
Music	Home Economics	French	Wellbeing Modules*
SPHE*	Guidance*	CSPE*	Physical Education*
Religion*			

(Subjects marked with an \* are non-exam subjects)

Students get to study all subjects in First Year and make their choices at the end of the year. (Except for Modern European Language – students choose between French and Spanish from the beginning).

### Transition Year:

Students selecting to enrol in Transition Year embark on a one-year educational programme immediately following the Junior Cycle. Transition year offers students a unique opportunity to explore subject options prior to their Senior Cycle and investigate career choices through work experience placements. In addition, throughout this year there is an emphasis on personal development, social awareness and increased social competence.

The programme comprises of Core Subjects, Subject Sampling, Transition Year Specific Subjects and Work Experience.

### Our Transition Year Curriculum

Core Subjects		
Irish	English & Communication	Maths
Guidance	Physical Education	Spanish / French

The sampling layer will vary yearly depending on the cohort of students' preferences. In 2024 /2025 the sampling subjects comprised of:

Sampling Layer		
Applied Ecology	Food Preparation	Legal Studies
Biology	Enterprise	Chinese Studies
Public Speaking	Heritage Studies	Computer Applications
Performing Arts	Business Management	Art, Craft, Design
European Studies	Agriculture / Horticulture	Accountancy
Geography	Classical Studies	Music Performance
DCG	Physics & Chemistry	Engineering Science
Food & Preparation	Outdoor Pursuits	Basic German
Wood Technology	Junk Kouture	YSI

Full details are available from the school or on our school website [www.dvs.ie](http://www.dvs.ie). Information evenings are held in the final term of Third Year.

## Leaving Certificate

Subjects currently available (all to Higher Level)

Irish	Biology	Construction Studies	Music
English	Agricultural Science	DCG	SPHE*
Maths	Physics and Chemistry	Engineering	Religion*
French	Chemistry (on request subject to demand)	Home Economics	Guidance*
Spanish	Geography	Art	
History	Business	Physical Education	

(Subjects marked with an \* are non-exam subjects)

## Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

The LCVP programme is designed to provide a strong vocational dimension to the Leaving Certificate. Students who choose this option study an additional subject called Link Modules.

Students following this programme study two link modules, Preparation for the World of Work and Enterprise Education, in addition to the regular Leaving Certificate subjects.

The subject is enterprise based and involves visiting local businesses, report writing, Curriculum Vitae preparation, as well as work experience and many other practical tasks. The students submit a Portfolio before sitting a written exam. The portfolio is worth 60% of the marks.

LCVP is an attractive option in so far as students can obtain up to 60% of the marks prior to the final exam. It also provides the student with a solid foundation in matters pertaining to the world of enterprise.

## Leaving Certificate Applied

LCA is a two-year programme available to students who wish to follow a more practical-oriented course. This programme recognizes the talents of students and provides them with the opportunity to develop personal responsibility, self-esteem, and self-knowledge. Students spend one day each week on work experience and must complete a minimum of four different work placements over the two years.

## Subjects (Modules)

English & Communication	Mathematical Applications	Social Education	Hotel Catering and Tourism
Irish	Spanish	Vocational Preparation and Guidance	Agriculture / Horticulture
Leisure and Recreation	Work Experience	Art Craft and Design	SPHE
Engineering	Graphics and Construction	Information and Communication Technology	





## General Information

### School Day

The school day in DVS operates from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday to Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Friday. All class periods are 40 minutes in duration.

Morning break is from at 11:00 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. and lunch is from 13:20 p.m. to 14:00 p.m. There are a variety of lunchtime activities on offer for students to participate in.

### School Shop

A shop is provided at break and lunch time. Students can order hot / cold food from the shop or on the app and it will be delivered to the school for lunch time.

### School Uniform

All students at DVS must present in full school uniform daily.

#### Girls:

- Bottle green V neck Jumper
- White shirt
- Black trousers or DVS school skirt
- Black Shoes

#### Boys:

- Bottle green V neck Jumper
- White shirt
- Black trousers
- Black Shoes

The DVS uniform is available to purchase in The Magnet, Carrick-on-Shannon.

DVS offers an optional PE uniform; this comprises of a half zip, t-shirt and tracksuit bottoms. PE uniform may be worn on the day students have timetabled PE or on days that they are travelling to represent the school at a sporting event. PE uniforms are available to purchase from the on-line shop; link is available on our website – [www.dvs.ie](http://www.dvs.ie)





## Code of Behaviour

Admission to DVS implies acceptance of the rules and policies of the school.

The school discipline policy is based on the principles of natural justice, including the right of the majority in a class to education/instruction without interference. Disciplinary policy is primarily preventative and secondary corrective. The successful education of all pupils depends on an active partnership between pupils, Parents / Guardians, and the school. The full Code of Behaviour is available in the Student Journal and on our website ([www.dvs.ie](http://www.dvs.ie)).

Our school, we are proud to say, has excellent standards of behaviour and discipline, thanks to the support and co-operation of the parents. Serious incidents of misbehaviour are rare.

## Homework

Homework is an essential component of the learning process. It is important that Parents/Guardians take an active part in the homework process. Students record homework in their journal during each class. The recording of homework assists student's organisation of their homework routine. Parents are asked to check the journal each evening. Year Heads also check student journals.





## Educational Supports in DVS

### Additional Educational Needs

There is a well-established Additional Education Needs (AEN) Department in DVS. The AEN and ASD Co-ordinators work closely with individual students to assess their educational needs and in consultation with Parents / Guardians. Additional supports are put in place to ensure that all students have equal opportunities to reach their potential.

### Standardised Testing

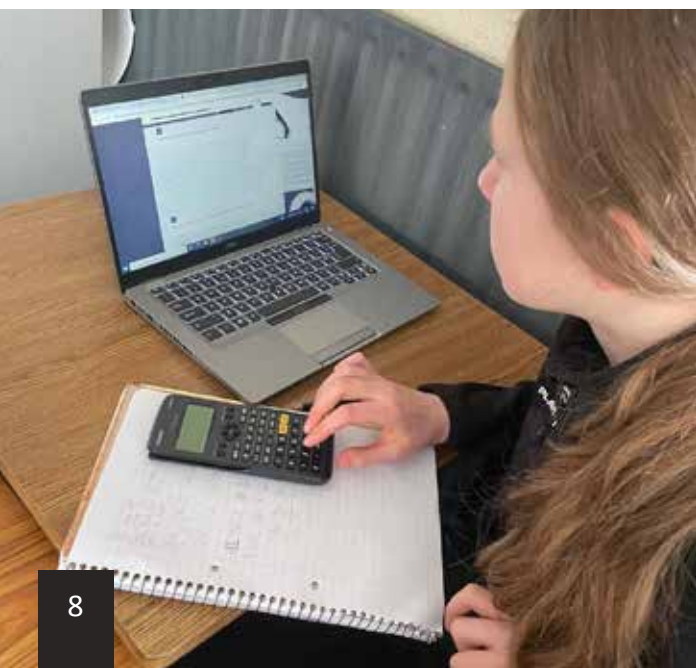
All students will complete standardised assessments in their first term. This will support student learning and help us identify any additional supports your child may need.

### Homework Club

Homework Club is offered to all students who may find it difficult to complete their homework. It runs over two lunch breaks. Students are assisted in completing homework by staff members.

### Supervised School

Afterschool supervised study is offered to all students at an additional charge. Study is currently offered Monday to Thursday, from 4:20 p.m. to 6:20 p.m., for 3rd, 5th and 6th Year students.





## Educational Supports in DVS

### Communication with Parents/Guardians

DVS school prides itself on the excellent links we have established with parents. Open channels of communication are regularly used through the school's website, student journal, phone calls, SMS messaging, email and utilising our VSware communication platform.

VSware is the school's management information system. Parents/Guardians have online access to their child's timetable, attendance records and term reports via their VSware page.

We also have a very active Facebook and X page with regular updates on school events.

### Technology In Education

Students and staff have embraced ICT in every subject. We acknowledge the importance of "anytime, anywhere" learning and the opportunities for self-directed and more personalised learning.

Our Wi-Fi infrastructure has been extensively updated to allow instant access in all areas of the school.

All classrooms in DVS have high quality wireless data projectors, visualisers and integrated sound systems to allow for seamless integration with our teachers devices during a lesson.

We have a dedicated computer suite, and our teachers have access to 3 mobile laptop trolleys allowing any classroom to convert to a computer room when needed.

All students in DVS are provided with access to the full suite of Microsoft packages through Office 365. In First Year, pupils are issued with a unique email address which allows them to download the Microsoft suite of packages to five different personal devices. One of the main benefits of Office 365, is that it is a cloud-based package, thus allowing pupils to access their work on any device. Microsoft Teams and associated apps are used in our school to provide the facility for online lessons and hybrid or blending learning if needs be.



## Year Head

Each year group has a designated Year Head. The Year Head is the point of contact for parents and oversee the welfare and progress of their year group. They work with students to foster a sense of community and belonging.

## Partnership with Parents

Recognising you, the Parents/Guardians, as primary educators, we value the importance of strong and supportive relationships between home and school. We are fortunate to have an active and enthusiastic Parents Association that engages with school management to enhance the educational provision for all children. The committee work tirelessly on behalf of the school. New parents are encouraged to join and become active members, helping build effective partnerships between home and school.

## Extra Curricular Activities

### Sports

There is an extensive sports programme available at DVS. The most popular sports are Gaelic Football, Volleyball, Soccer, Rugby, Basketball, Athletics and Chess. Students have access to a sports hall, volleyball courts, basketball courts, running track and an astro-turf pitch on campus.

### Other Extra – Curricular Activities

Students at DVS have a wide range of extra- curricular and co – curricular opportunities. These include Scifest, Enterprise, NFTE, Girls Active, Variety Shows, Chess Club, Darts Club, School Choir, Lego Club, Seachtain Na Gaeilge, Debating, Gaisce, Quizzes, subject specific competitions, EPAS, International Students Club and many more.

These social and cultural activities play a significant role in helping our students develop their full potential.

### School Tours

Various field trips are organised throughout the school year. These include visits to cultural and educational centres, plays, exhibitions and sports and adventure centres. Each year a foreign cultural trip is offered as part of the Transition Year programme.





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