

St. Vincent's Castleknock College

Mission Statement and Ethos Statement

Any visitor to St. Vincent's Castleknock College has no doubt that they are present in a Christian, Catholic and Vincentian school with all its attendant advantages. The College Mission Statement is set out as follows:

To have a College which is concerned with the development of the whole person in a Christian atmosphere; which encourages involvement in a balance of religious, intellectual, cultural and sporting activities; and which promotes the growth of self-worth and respect for others in the spirit of St Vincent de Paul.

The Objectives of St. Vincent's Castleknock College are:

- To pursue excellence in all areas of College life, academic, creative, cultural and sporting;
- To nurture a friendly and caring environment which allows each student to develop his own natural talents and gifts;
- To actively generate a happy social environment where students learn to appreciate the skills of group interaction and the value of friendship.
- To recognise the College's responsibility towards the wider community in developing a spirit of service; and
- To offer opportunities for the spiritual development of each member of the College community.

The Mission Statement and Objectives are to be considered in the light of the Codes of Professional Conduct for Teachers published by the Teaching Council of Ireland, in particular the Core Values of the Teaching Profession (pp 10-12, 1st Ed, 2007); and the Ethics of the Teaching Profession (p6, 2nd Ed, 2011).

The Ethos Statement of St. Vincent's Castleknock College

The philosophy of St. Vincent de Paul (1581 – 1660), the Patron Saint of Christian charity, continues to inform and inspire the students, faculty, staff and extended community of St. Vincent's Castleknock College. As a Vincentian college, it is committed to following Vincent de Paul's philosophy, which emphasises respect for the individual, service to the needy, human solidarity and adherence to the belief that self giving helps make the world a better place. The core values are focused on being creative, person-centred, holistic, collaborative and excellence-seeking. A Vincentian education is always viewed as central to the Catholic and Vincentian mission.

Vincent de Paul's philosophy forms the heart of the College's value system, which is driven by a passion for education and guided by a simple truth: education is more than career advancement; it's about learning how to make a difference in the world. Consequently, our education encompasses both academic and extra-curricular studies; and is a shared experience instilling a

preferential option for the poor. College students are actively involved in volunteering for works of charity and social justice including overseas mission experience.

The Vincentian Ethos thrives in a community where young people feel they belong, where they see real commitment from their teachers, where bonds are built between students and their peers, where co-operation is placed before competition, and where each student is regarded as remarkable.

The College's philosophy, the spirit and values of St. Vincent's Castleknock College, is the responsibility of everyone in the College. Both staff and students contribute to its creation and implementation in the day to day living of our Mission Statement. Its development has to be promoted and encouraged by living examples and practical action.

A Vincentian Education

Each member of staff at St. Vincent's Castleknock College also belongs to a wider community of Vincentian educators around the world. The core values which guide a Vincentian education are:

- Creative: Vincentian education always seeks new or renewed ways to meet changing needs among the student population while maintaining a clear "sense of the possible".
- Holistic: Vincentian education seeks to respond to the intellectual, spiritual, moral and affective needs of the students – educates the heart and the mind.
- Person-centred: the Vincentian education institution must be one in which all staff and students are respected and valued.
- Integrative: Vincentian education blends the human and the professional: the abstract and the practical.
- Collaborative: Vincentian education seeks to collaborate with, rather than compete with, other educational institutions.
- Excellence: Vincentian education places quality at the centre of its educational activities. It seeks this excellence in teaching (the instructor must not only be competent but must also be efficient, dedicated and reveal "all those virtues required of the students") and in methodology (the method employed must be active, challenging, competency-based, and enable the student not only to learn but to enjoy doing so).
- Flexible: Vincentian education makes the effort to adapt to the needs of the non-traditional student.
- Focused: Vincentian education is viewed as central to the Vincentian mission of service to the poor. It strives to integrate this vision into the education process and to keep this vision alive among all those who share in this common vision.

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