

URSULINE COLLEGE SLIGO

POLICY ON MULTICULTURALISM

Within the context of the school's Religious and Educational philosophy, the school seeks to be inclusive of students from a variety of background, culture and nationality.

Ursuline College strives to nurture a community where Christian values are respected, lived and taught. The school's philosophy is based on the Gospels and the writings of St Angela Merici. In a context where Ireland is an increasingly multi-cultural society, Catholic education values tolerance and inclusiveness. It is open to generous dialogue with Christians of other traditions and people of other faiths, while remaining true to its own distinctive ethos. Ursuline College is open to students of all denominations consonant with its Admissions policy. In striving to cherish the uniqueness of each individual, Ursuline College seeks to promote respect for and appreciation of cultural and religious diversity, while at the same time encouraging integration at all levels of school life.

Social Integration

'The term **interculturalism** expresses a belief that we all become personally enriched by coming in contact with and experiencing other cultures, and that people of different cultures can and should be able to engage with each other and learn from one another'
(Intercultural Education – DES Guidelines for Schools)

The majority of young people are naturally friendly and interact well with one another. They often embrace difference – cultural, religious, social – more easily than adults. Once there is an understanding of the cultural differences between students, social interaction and integration become easier. The friendships that are formed will encourage participation in all aspects of school life. In this respect, involvement in extra-curricular activities is crucial, is actively encouraged and is in line with Ursuline ethos.

School supports

Ursuline College takes a whole school approach in its efforts to be inclusive. Subject teachers, Class Tutors, Year Heads, Guidance Counsellor, Special Needs Co-ordinator, dedicated Post-holder and Management all pay particular attention to the needs of students coming from different cultures and traditions.

Religious Education Issues

In line with the school's Religious and Educational philosophy which states that 'we nurture a community where Christian values are respected, lived and taught', all students are expected to support and respect this thrust. Likewise, we welcome students of other faiths and are enriched by their presence and contribution to the life of the school.

Parents/Guardians are asked to discuss any particular concerns they may have in relation to cultural or religious issues with the Principal prior to or at enrolment.