Extra-Curricular Policy

of

Jesus & Mary Secondary School.
Gortnor Abbey

School Patrons: Le Chéile Schools Trust clg.

This Policy has been approved by the Board of Management at its meeting of

DATE: 26-3-2026

CHAIRPERSON: Paul Mc Dermott

Mr. Paul Mc Dermott

NEXT REVIEW DATE: 26-3-2029

Extra- Curricular Policy

ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT 2026

This policy is available to our school community on the school's website and in hard copy on request. This policy and its implementation will be reviewed, each calendar year or as soon as practicable after there has been a material change in any matter to which this policy refers.

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1. Introduction

Jesus and Mary Secondary School, Gortnor Abbey, is a Christian, co-educational voluntary secondary school with a Catholic ethos under the trusteeship of Le Chéile Schools Trust.

The purpose of Le Chéile / Jesus and Mary Secondary School is to provide an education that acknowledges and affirms the dignity and uniqueness of every human being as a child of God. It embraces the intellectual, physical, cultural, emotional, social, moral and spiritual growth of each student.

Our school seeks to build a learning community that welcomes, and witnesses to, the Gospel values of Jesus Christ. The school draws on the richness of the religious and cultural heritage of the past and the charisma of St *Claudine Thévènet*, foundress of the *Congregation of the Jesus and Mary Sisters* who established Gortnor Abbey in 1912.

Our school is committed to creating a place of inclusivity, equality and openness, where people can live with and be taught by one another, however diverse our experiences might be

Extra-Curricular Activities play an important role in developing a positive working relationship between students and teachers and leads to an enhanced atmosphere within the school. Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities makes a major contribution to the students' education and to their Physical, Social, and Emotional development. Staff must make use of the opportunities that Extra-Curricular Activities provide to help the students to grow and develop holistically.

2. Purpose

Our aim is to create opportunities for students to participate in a wide variety of Extra Curricular Activities. Extra-curricular activities encompass the many different activities that take place in Gortnor Abbey including Basketball, Rugby, Gaelic Football, Athletics, Soccer, Internal leagues/blitz's, Debating, Music & Drama, Art, Poetry & Essay competitions, Musicals/talent competitions, Quizzes, Educational & Cultural trips/exchange programmes, lunchtime clubs, Gaisce, John Paul II.

This list is not exhaustive.

Gortnor Abbey Extra-Curricular/Sporting environment provides for:

- Enjoyment of participating.
- Proficient teaching and development of skills.
- A balanced attitude towards competition where winning and losing must be handled in a spirit of true sportsmanship.
- Harmonious interaction between teacher/staff and student and between fellow students.

- Exposure of students to a variety of activities to promote life-long benefits or encourage future participation.

3. Procedures

While participating in Extra-Curricular Activities, there should always be a good spirit. A positive spirit encourages students to participate not only for themselves but also for the team and for our school.

- **Conduct**
  - Students are expected to accept the decisions of match officials.
  - Students are expected to obey the rules and take responsibility for their own behaviour.
  - Students should not use foul language or behave in an unsporting manner.
  - Students are expected to respect all staff, officials, and opponents.
  - The captain of the team will always model good behaviour.
  - The correct attire must be worn for participation in all sporting and other extracurricular activities. For example, the school PE uniform must be worn to all matches.
- **Teachers/Staff Expectations**
  - Teachers/Staff are always responsible for the students in their care.
  - Meet in the canteen where appropriate and take accurate attendance before the activity takes place
  - Ensure students are in correct uniform, Full school uniform when representing the school at activities/competitions, Full PE uniform for sporting events. Teacher organising will communicate with students the appropriate uniform.
  - Teachers/Staff and their players are responsible for ensuring that playing areas and environs are litter free before and after matches.
  - All accidents must be recorded on Accident Report Sheets.
  - For away games or activities off school grounds, it is school policy that all students use transport organised by the school.
  - All discipline problems on the sports field will be dealt with by the teachers/staff. Serious misdemeanours must be reported to the Principal/Deputy-Principal and will be dealt with under the Code of Behaviour.

- It is the responsibility of teachers/staff that all school equipment should be cared for properly and returned to its appropriate location after use.

- Teachers attending extra-curricular activities must ensure that there is relevant schoolwork left for students to complete while they are being supervised. A School Activity Form on TYRO must be completed when booking the activity for cover to be arranged by Deputy-Principal/Principal

- **Students/Players Expectations**
  - Wear correct uniform
  - It is forbidden to wear any jewellery when participating in any physical activity.
  - Play by the rules.
  - Never argue with an official. If you disagree, have your captain, staff coach/manager approach the official during a break or after the competition.
  - Work equally for yourself and/or your team. Your team's performance will benefit and so will you. Representing Gortnor Abbey Secondary School is a privilege and must be respected as such. This privilege may be withdrawn by school authorities at any time if the student's behaviour in school dictates.
  - Treat all participants in your sports as you would like to be treated. Do not bully or take unfair advantage of another competitor.
  - Cooperate with staff, team-mates, and opponents.
  - Participate for your own enjoyment and benefit, rather than just to please your parents and teacher.
  - Respect the rights, dignity and worth of all participants regardless of their ability, cultural background, or religion.
- **Protocol regarding use of changing areas/swimming pools**
  - Act in an appropriate manner that treats all students with respect and dignity.
  - Phones are not to be used in changing rooms or in/around swimming pools.

- **External Sports Coaches**
  - All external Sports coaches who coach teams in the school will be Garda Vetted by the school through the JMB Vetting Unit.

4. Links with other Policies

Several teachers have inputted into this policy.

This policy operates in conjunction with the following policies:

- Code of Behaviour.
- Acceptable use policy (AUP).
- Homework policy.
- Substance misuse policy.
- Child protection policy.
- Trips policy.
- Student parking policy

5. Implementation

This policy will apply to all students who are involved in sport and extra curricular activities.

6. Review

This Policy will be reviewed and evaluated from time to time. Such review and evaluation will take cognisance of information received from parents/guardians, students, school personnel and others.

Appendix

Extra-curricular Sport Participation Conditions

It is an honour and privilege for any student to represent Gortnor Abbey Secondary School in sport. However, this privilege comes with certain conditions attached and the conditions must be adhered to by all students involved. In the event they are not, the privilege of representing your school will be withdrawn.

- All students must conduct themselves well and participate in class and avoid coming to the attention of the Year-head for a breach of the Code of Behaviour.
- Students are permitted to play/be involved in two sporting activities only each year.
- Students are responsible for their own personal belongings e.g., money, phones, etc.
- Phones are not to be used on journeys to and from extracurricular activities or during the activity unless directed to by the teacher involved.
- A full PE uniform, no jerseys unless it is the school PE jersey (including black shoes, black jacket) must be worn both to and from matches. The full Code of Behaviour applies to students when they represent the school. Polite and courteous behaviour is expected of all students, especially outside of school grounds, on the bus, in shops and in 'away' venues. Loud, aggressive behaviour and foul language will not be tolerated. Students are ambassadors for the school and are expected to behave as such.
- Students returning from matches must go to class on return. Students playing in venues close to their homes must return to the school grounds after matches with the rest of the team unless they have written parental consent.
- Students must get homework that they missed either through Google classroom or by having the contact number of someone in their class. They must have it ready for the next day (Absence from class is not an excuse for not having homework done).
- Students travelling to fixtures will be charged five- ten euros each to be offset against the cost of the bus (and may be asked to participate in a fund-raising event).
- Students are responsible for wearing the appropriate gear including gum-shields, shinpads etc. where advisable.
- Commitment to training is essential for inclusion on team panels travelling to matches. Percentage%% Included here??
- For the Gym (upstairs), Sports-hall and Playing field to be maintained as a safe working area for all student groups, all equipment is to be put away tidily after use and no training gear or rubbish should be left behind when leaving. Changing rooms must be used not the stage of gym, toilets or resource areas.

Signed: _____ Signed: _____

Student Parent/Guardian