



ST. CLEMENT'S COLLEGE, LIMERICK

A Secondary School for Boys

# ETHOS STATEMENT

St. Clement's College is a ministry of the Redemptorists



## THE REDEMPTORISTS

Redemptorists are passionate about the Gospel and equally passionate about sharing the Gospel message of God's love for all people with all sectors of society, but especially with those who live on the edges of church and society. There is a special place in our hearts for those who feel abandoned and who have difficulty in finding their way in life.

We have inherited these passions and attitudes from St. Alphonsus de Liguori (1696 - 1787) who founded the Redemptorists in Scala, near Naples in Southern Italy, in November 1732. The foundation of the congregation was a response to Alphonsus' work among the poor in the city of Naples and especially in the mountainous regions of Southern Italy. He was heartbroken to discover people who did not realise how much God loved them and who, as a consequence of this and of the grinding poverty in which they lived, had little sense of their human dignity. Alphonsus inspires Redemptorists in their various efforts to promote *'the liberation and salvation of the whole human person.'* (Redemptorist Rule of Life) This vision inspires and underlines every aspect of life in St. Clement's College.

# ST. CLEMENT'S COLLEGE

The Redemptorists first came to Limerick in 1851 to preach a mission in St. John's Cathedral. Two years later they established a temporary presence in Bank Place and moved to the present site – which they named Mount St. Alphonsus – in 1854.

The Redemptorists decided to establish a school to foster vocations to the congregation and St. Clement's opened its doors for the first time in 1884. The first pupils lived in the monastery until a new wing was added in 1901. The present school was built in 1935 and extended in 1950. A science wing was added in 1967/68.

The founding purpose of St. Clement's was to foster vocations to the Redemptorists but in 1976 the Redemptorists decided to re-focus St. Clement's and to develop the school to serve the educational and pastoral needs of boys from Limerick and its environs. New subjects were added to the curriculum but the tradition of faith formation, sport and cultural activities continued to be nourished.

St. Clement's is proud of its Catholic and Redemptorist heritage and the trustees and the board of management are intent on preserving the Catholic values and ethos that have been at the heart of the school community since its foundation in 1884. Hospitality is a key Catholic and Redemptorist value and the trustees, the school board and the staff are equally intent on developing St. Clement's as a school that welcomes and cherishes diversity. We are convinced that it is possible to preserve and develop our Catholic ethos and identity while welcoming pupils from other faith traditions.



This copy of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was a gift from the Superior General of the Redemptorists in 1935. It is now venerated in the oratory of St. Clement's College.

## THE REDEMPTORISTS' MISSION

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Redemptorists stand up for the poor and the oppressed, showing solidarity with them, awakening them to the love of God, setting loose the spirit of Gospel liberation - the power to free people from darkness, bringing them from injustice to justice, from hurt to healing, from a lack of direction to purpose and meaning, from sinfulness to reconciliation, from restlessness to peace.

Redemptorists go to those who feel 'left out', those who have never experienced God's unconditional love, those who have never heard the Gospel message, or if they have, do not hear it as 'Good News' or may have abandoned it. They go out to those who suffer because of divisions in the Church, and to those who practice their faith, but are in need of continual conversion.



This picture of St Clement Hofbauer (1751 - 1820) is a gift from the Redemptorists at Mount St. Alphonsus and hangs in the lobby of St. Clement's College.

Redemptorists recognise the dignity of each individual. Each person is respected as an individual and together the faith, hope and love of each person is challenged and deepened through times of sharing and working with each other.

Redemptorists believe in the value of Catholic education. They give priority to education in a living faith whereby young people may be enabled to grow to appreciate the life and mission of Jesus Christ with a view to being committed to the world, as He was.

As education trustees, Redemptorists believe that the values on which their mission is based should be reflected in their school. For this reason, they practice an active trusteeship, based on the creation of a positive and close relationship between Congregation and school. Redemptorists believe that such a relationship provides their schools with a secure basis for the development of a positive school ethos.





## ST. CLEMENT'S COLLEGE

As trustees of the school, the Redemptorists are committed to the education of young people in a way which reflects the religious and educational philosophy of the Congregation.

In the tradition of St. Alphonsus and St. Clement, we find our inspiration in Christ the evangelist and communicator who sends us as He was sent, to bring the Good News of the Gospel and to work with those who are marginalised. We firmly believe that the richness of St. Clement's College comes from the trustees and each teacher, each student, each parent, each member of the Board of Management, each staff member, and each person who contributes to the life and work of the school community.

*St. Clement's College seeks to be a:*

- ♦ Catholic school, embodying a living-faith community founded on positive experiences of Gospel values, expressed in life, prayer and liturgy
- ♦ Centre of learning aimed at excellence in education and in the development of students to their fullest potential.
- ♦ Place where care and attention is given to the needs of all students
- ♦ Place of welcome in which there is a fundamental belief in the potential of each young person
- ♦ School which is welcoming and respectful of diversity.
- ♦ Place where true partnership is practised
- ♦ Happy, caring and supportive environment, where young people can discover meaning and purpose and are encouraged to explore change and growth.



EVANGELIUM  
REPTIOM

# ST. CLEMENT'S COLLEGE

## Students

The central purpose of the school community is to help our students to develop to their fullest potential: to encourage them to work collaboratively, and to develop a sense of the presence of God, in themselves, in others and in all of creation.

To this end, our students are educated so that they may:

- ✦ Engage with the values of the school
- ✦ Grow in freedom and maturity
- ✦ Be compassionate
- ✦ Have a sense of fairness
- ✦ Be able to take initiative
- ✦ Be able to take responsibility
- ✦ Achieve academically
- ✦ Be responsible citizens

Students are expected to contribute to St. Clement's College by:

- ✦ Taking personal responsibility for their development, learning and behaviour
- ✦ Respecting themselves, others and the school
- ✦ Acting responsibly
- ✦ Making an effort to achieve academically
- ✦ Co-operating with, and following the school rules

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# ST. CLEMENT'S COLLEGE

## Parents/Guardians

Parents are encouraged to fulfil their role as partners in education by:

- Being committed to the education of their children
- Supporting and reinforcing the schools values and rules
- Being actively involved and contributing to the life of the school
- Fostering positive and co-operative relationships with the school staff

The Church, recognising that parents have the primary responsibility for the education of their children, strives to assist them in this task. While all parents have both the duty and the right to educate their children, Catholic parents have also the duty and the right to choose schools that can best promote the Catholic education of their children.

# ST. CLEMENT'S COLLEGE

## Staff

Teachers and support-staff embody the school ethos by:

- ♦ Supporting the school values
- ♦ Fostering good relationships within the school community and promoting a positive atmosphere within the school
- ♦ Treating students with fairness, care and compassion
- ♦ Their commitment to academic excellence and high standards
- ♦ Placing their professional expertise at the service of students
- ♦ Recognising and supporting the individual and unique talents of students
- ♦ Participating in the varied aspects of school life
- ♦ Availing of existing supports and suitable opportunities to further their professional and personal development
- ♦ Responding to the needs of the time and a vision of the future in an innovative way.

# ST. CLEMENT'S COLLEGE

## Board of Management

Board members manage the school on behalf of the trustees and exercise their responsibility by:

- Realising the philosophy and educational policy of the school
- Working in collaboration with others in the school community in the service of the vision and mission of the school
- Having an awareness and understanding of their role as Board members
- Their loyalty and commitment to their task
- Being initiators of new ideas which respond to the needs of the time
- Their knowledge of statutory, legal and financial responsibilities
- Availing of opportunities for training and development







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