



LIOSMÓR MOCHUDA NATIONAL SCHOOL
Big Trees from Small Acorns Grow

Ethos Statement Roll Number: 14164 J

Liosmór Mochuda National School, under the patronage of the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory serves the following Church of Ireland parishes: Fountain, Lismore, Cappoquin and Fermoy. Liosmór Mochuda National School is co-educational. This school was founded in 1962 by Dean Gilbert Mayes. The school also serves the following churches and communities: Fermoy and Conna.

General Statement:

The Board of Management, which manages the school on behalf of the Patron (the Bishop), is obliged to ‘...uphold, and be accountable to the Patron for so upholding, the characteristic spirit of the school as determined by the cultural, educational, moral, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values and traditions which inform and are characteristic of the objectives and conduct of the school....’ Characteristic spirit or ethos is therefore, a key concept. It shapes who we are, the way the school does things and is the first building block of all of the policies in the school.

What is an Ethos Statement:

The school’s ethos statement declares:

- Who we are,
- What sort of school this is,
- What we value,
- What we wish our school to be known for,
- What makes our school different.

The school Ethos Statement is an essential step in making the Church of Ireland character of the school a living reality. It goes beyond personal statements of ethos to articulate a school community’s statement of what a school is. The Ethos Statement acknowledges that the school is part of the family of Church of Ireland and, at the same time, articulates the uniqueness of each school. We believe that it is crucial to the further policy development of our school and provides the foundation on which other policies such as admissions, R.E., Code of Behaviour etc are based. We endeavour that our Ethos Statement will be one of the reference points of the planning and development of Liosmór Mochuda National School. We hope that our Ethos Statement identifies clearly for all, within and outside the school, what the place of the school is in the local community and national educational framework.

Ethos Statement of Liosmór Mochuda National School:

The school ethos embodies the values advocated by the school's communities and provides the atmosphere for life in and beyond the school itself. The ethos statement acts as a focus for the unity of values and purpose among the diversity of the members of the school communities. Our ethos is rooted in the religious beliefs and values associated with the foundation of the school. Such an ethos can be a powerful influence on the school's aims, purposes and day to day life.

Liosmór Mochuda School is a co-educational school. Classes range from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. The school follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills and it depends on the grants and teacher resources provided, as it operates within the regulations laid down by the Department. There are 2 mainstream teachers, Special Education Teachers, and a part-time Secretary, Cleaner and Caretaker. From time to time, depending on enrolment, we may employ Special Needs Assistant. From time to time, teachers also come for

particular activities such as G.A.A., drama and art etc.

Liosmór Mochuda N.S., under the patronage of the Bishop of Cashel, Ferns and Ossory, is a school that meets the needs, and reflects the ethos of the Church of Ireland and related Protestant communities within Lismore Union of Parishes. In order to maintain this ethos, the Board of Management aims to reserve at least 50% of the places for Protestant children.

While many of the pupils come from the Protestant community, the school includes pupils from many religious persuasions. Pupils learn to respect the diversity of values, beliefs, traditions and language of other people. This school sees its role as providing a happy and secure environment where children are encouraged to enjoy learning. Care is taken to discover and promote each pupil's strengths and abilities. Encouragement is the key to building confidence – a fundamental necessity for happiness and success in life.

Liosmór Mochuda National School has an inclusive policy with regard to children with special needs and they are welcome in Mochuda. However, appropriate resources need to be in place to cater for their special requirements. Through exploration of other world religions and beliefs in the Senior Religious Education Curriculum the children are encouraged to recognise, respect and celebrate cultural diversity. The work of the school is conducted in an atmosphere of tolerance and respect for religious, social, physical and cultural differences. In regards to ecumenical matters; Liosmór Mochuda National School is very supportive of the inclusion of an active role of other local church ministers in school assemblies. Dean Draper leads assembly most Friday mornings. Where possible members of the community from other religious groups are asked to share their beliefs with the children, this comes under the education of the children on other religions. While the school is under Church of Ireland Management we welcome the enrolment of children from different religious backgrounds while also maintaining the Church of Ireland Ethos within the school.

The school's vision for the development of the child:

- The way in which the school nurtures faith and a living relationship with God.
- The Gospel values expressed in the daily life of the school.
- The ways in which the school nurtures faith in its pupils.

Liosmór Mochuda National School is a community and, as such, aims to establish core values which include:

- tolerance;
- respect;
- personal responsibility;
- recognition of the contribution that each individual makes;
- fairness and justice;
- willingness to acknowledge others' points of view;
- empathy;
- cooperation; consideration for other people;
- a relaxed and welcoming atmosphere;

- security, warmth and care;
- opportunities for pupils to achieve their full potential;
- companionship and consideration for other people;
- a feeling of mutual respect between adults and pupils;
- fun and enjoyment in learning;
- partnership between adults and pupils.

Through these values we aim to help each of the children within our school community realise their part in the school and local community. We endeavour to help each child attending Liosmór Mochuda National School to realise and reach their full potential academically, socially, and spiritually.

Liosmór Mochuda National School aims to nurture faith and a living relationship with God as well with other people through an attempt to link the gospel of Christ with the daily life of the school in an atmosphere of encouragement, acceptance and respect. Liosmór Mochuda National School aims to portray sensitivity to individual needs where children's self-esteem and confidence grow and where they feel able to make mistakes without fear of criticism; while encouraging a partnership between adults and children as well as sensitivity towards the beliefs, hopes and fears of parents. We endeavour to put in place a curriculum that combines academic rigour with fun, sensitivity and prayerfulness.

Where possible, Liosmór Mochuda National School endeavours to demonstrate the importance of personal belief to each child in the school. We endeavour to help the children to recognise the place of Christian faith in the lives of people. The children are encouraged to be creative, questioning and imaginative within a broad Christian framework that recognises the importance of experience, personal values and respect for the beliefs of others. Through exploration of other world religions and beliefs in the Senior Religious Education Curriculum the children are encouraged to recognise, respect and celebrate cultural diversity.

- **The Admissions Policy** - The admission policy in Liosmór Mochuda School is set out by the Board of Management in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1998, to assist parents in relation to enrolment matters. The Chairperson of the Board of Management Mr Brian Dungan (087-8106298 Home) and the Principal teacher, Miss Andrèa Quin (058-54848 Work) will be happy to clarify any further matters arising from the policy.
- **Parents** - Parents are always welcome at Liosmór Mochuda National School and they are encouraged to be actively involved in all aspects of school life.
- **Staff Development** - The teachers enjoy the challenge of teaching. In teaching the Revised Curriculum, great efforts are taken to include an awareness of, and an interest in, the world about us. Staff are encouraged to seek professional development in areas where they deem it necessary through professional development courses run by local agencies such as Cork/Waterford Educational Support Centre.
- **Follow Me Religious Programme** - Liosmór Mochuda National School follows the Religious Education curriculum as laid out by the *Follow Me* Religious Education Policy and aims to serve its community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of Christian belief and practice. It encourages an understanding of the meaning and significance of faith and promotes Christian values through the experience it offers to all its

pupils. The children attend an annual Children's Service in June each year. It is hosted in rotation by 7 local Church of Ireland schools and each school plays a part in the service.

- **Other religious groups within the school, inclusion and participation of minority groups** - Children of minority groups are welcome to partake in R.E activities but where their parents wish them not to take part the children are given other activities to complete during religion classes and activities.
- **Values expressed in the Code of Behaviour** -The aims of the Code of Behaviour for Liosmór Mochuda School are:
 - To provide guidance for pupils, teachers and parents on expectations of behaviour.
 - To provide for the effective and safe operation of the school.
 - To develop pupils' self-esteem and to promote positive behaviour.
 - To foster the development of a sense of responsibility and self-discipline in pupils based on respect, consideration and tolerance of others.
 - To facilitate the education and development of every child.
 - To foster caring attitudes to one another and to the environment.
 - To enable teachers to teach without disruption.

Every member of the school community has a role to play in the implementation of the Code of Behaviour. Rules will be kept to a minimum, emphasis is placed on positive behaviour and sanctions will be applied in a fair and consistent manner, with due regard to the age of the pupils and to individual difference. Good behaviour will be encouraged and rewarded. Where difficulties arise, parents will be contacted at an early stage.

Conclusion:

The mission statement of the school, which was decided upon by a consultative process involving staff, parent representatives, governors and pupils, is as follows: Our mission as an educational community is the pursuit of excellence and the development of the full potential of all. We emphasise values such as integrity, kindness and respect. Our aim is to enable pupils to take their place in society as responsible, informed, thinking and tolerant human beings. An invitation is extended to relevant members of the community to be part of our school community. The school welcomes pupils which share the ethos stated above.

Ratified by Board of Management on _____
(Date)

Signed _____
(Chairperson, Board of Management)