

Annual Report 2008

School Name: Tralee Community College

Tel: 066 7121741

Fax: 066 7129200

Email: tccoffice@eircom.net

Website: www.traleecc.com

Principal: Mr. Billy Curtin

Deputy Principal: Mr. Richard Lawlor

Board of Management

Name	Nominating Body
Cllr. Ted Fitzgerald	Kerry Education Service
Cllr. Terry O'Brien	Kerry Education Service
Mr. Leonard Hurley	Kerry Education Service
Mrs. Kelly Sweeney	Parents Representative
Mr. Chris Tester	Parents Representative
Mr. Thomas Moynihan	Parents Representative
Mr. Tony Conroy	Teaching Staff
Ms. Myrna Egan	Teaching Staff
Fr. Jerry Keane	Community Representative
Rev. Canon Robert Warren	Community Representative

Parents' Council

Students' Council (Executive)

Ms. Kelly Sweeney (Chairperson)
Ms. Gail Sweeney (Secretary)
Mr. Chris Tester
Ms. Catherine O'Connor
Ms. Risikat Kareem
Ms. Winnie Burke
Ms. Cheryl Fisher
Mr. Francis Fisher

Ryan Sweeney
Thomas Dunne
Sophie Powers
Catherine O'Connor
Patrycja Buczynska
Timmy McCarthy
Bart Dorosz
Deimante Poskeviciute
Adrian Gradowski
Karolina Kozłowska
Darren Goodall
Rosemary Moughalu
Julia Samul

Mission Statement

Tralee Community College seeks to provide for students, access to the necessary education and training to meet personal, social, cultural, economic, spiritual and civic needs. Tralee Community College is committed to the provision of second level, further and general adult education. The school supports the principles of inclusiveness, equality of access and participation. It respects diversity in an atmosphere of caring, encouragement and partnership with the major stakeholders, including parents, students, teachers, the local community and other school trustees.

Annual Report 2008

Economic, Social and Demographic Trends

There has been a significant growth in the numbers of students enrolling in PLC courses at the school. However, there has been a corresponding decline in the enrolments in post primary.

Enrolment

Recent Trends

	2005/2006	2006/2007	07/08	08/09
Junior Cycle	63	38	39	56
Senior Cycle	45	54	42	41
PLC	299	345	329	414
Total	407	437	410	511

By Year/Programme October 2008

School:	Jun Cert			JCSP			TYO	Repeat LC	Leaving Cert		LCVP		LCAP		VPTP/ PLC		Total Pupils
	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y1	Y2	Y3			Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	Y1	Y2	
				24	32				1	1	21	18			399	15	511
Totals	Junior Cycle: 56						TYO:	Senior Cycle: 41						FE: 414		Total 511	

Curriculum Provision

Programmes:

Tralee Community College provides an extensive range of Educational Programmes as follows

Post Primary

Junior Certificate

Junior Certificate School Programme

Leaving Certificate

Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

Annual Report 2008

JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME

This programme, which seeks to provide a positive experience of school for potential early school leavers, is now well established in the school.

SCHOOL COMPLETION PROGRAMME

Mr. Don Phelan is the co-ordinator of the programme.

A range of initiatives are ongoing. These include

Breakfast club

Lunchtime clubs

Day trips

Extra Curricular activities

Tracking of Student Attendance

Various talks were organised for both parents and students throughout the year covering topics such as:

Study techniques

Relationships and Sexuality

Road Safety

Courses at Institute of Technology, Tralee

PLC – FURTHER EDUCATION

Student enrolments on PLC courses at the college continue to thrive. In the 2008/2009 academic year 414 students were registered and all were following courses leading to certification by national awarding bodies such as FETAC and IATI.

Courses of study include Childcare, Special Needs/Classroom Assistant, Nursing Studies, Carers Community & Health, Pharmacy Assistant, Art Craft and Design, Engineering, Sport & Recreation, Construction Technology, Computer Studies, Multimedia/Graphic Design, Business Studies, Secretarial Studies, Accounting Technician II, Journalism (Radio and Print), Social Studies, Beauty Therapy and Body Massage and Security and Retail Studies.

There is a great focus on the promotion of PLC courses. In January the school had a display stand at the careers exhibition at the Brandon Conference Centre and staff visited a number of schools around the county promoting the courses.

ADULT EDUCATION

The past year has been a very busy and successful year in adult education. The school was open 3 nights per week and occasionally on Saturdays and a full range of courses were on offer. Other groups were accommodated by day also. These were from the Health Service Executive and Kerry Education Service. The College has a stand at the Adult and Further Education Exhibition in September.

Annual Report 2008

IT BRAILLE

This unit, which is being accommodated at the school, is well established and working to its fullest capacity, to the satisfaction of students and tutors.

Subjects:

Junior Cert.	Leaving Cert.	Transition Year Option	Leaving Cert. Applied	PLC
Irish	Irish			Childcare
English	English			Nursing
Maths	Maths			Carers, Community & Health Services
Home Economics	Geography			Multimedia
Geography	Business Studies			Journalism (Radio & Print)
Wood Technology	French			Computer Studies
Technical Graphics	Wood Technology			Beauty Therapy & Body Massage
Religion	Technical Graphics			Business Studies
SPHE	Religion			Accounting Technician
CSPE	Computer Studies			Secretarial Studies
Science	Art			Medical/Legal Secretarial
Metal Work	Engineering			Classroom Assistant/Special Needs Assistant
Computer Studies	Physics & Chemistry			Sport & Recreation
Business Studies				Building Construction
Art				Art, Craft & Design
				Supervision in Childcare
				Social Studies
				Security Studies
				Pharmacy Assistant
				Engineering/Motor Technology

Annual Report 2008

Co-curricular & Extra curricular activities

- *The Students Council* continues to participate in the KES Students Forum.
- Two fifth year students were nominated for Language (French) Scholarships to a summer school.
- Fifth and Sixth year students attended a Road Safety Show at the Brandon Hotel.
- Sixth year and PLC students were afforded the opportunity to attend the *Careers Day* in the Brandon Hotel and also the open day at Tralee Institute of Technology.
- Students from sixth year were afforded the opportunity of visiting Lee Strand Creamery, Fás and the Kerryman offices as part of the LCVP programme.
- A fundraising *Sports Draw* proved to be hugely successful.
- First year students were involved in the JCSP 'Make a Book' project and travelled to Cork in April to display their work.
- A *shared reading programme* was carried out between PLC Classroom Assistants and mainstream students.
- First year students participated in a Cultural Trip to Muckross Farm and Crag Cave.
- *An awards night* was held in May for all PLC students who participated in the vast range of courses on offer in the school.
- The *Art, Craft & Design* class exhibited their work in Siamsa Tire under the direction of Ms. Mary Kirby.
- Four students completed their work on the Young Entrepreneur Programme.
- Twelve fifth year students participated on the Pathfinders programme in association with the I.T. Tralee and Sixth year students participated in a study skills programme in the I.T.
- First and second year students travelled to *Cappanalea* as part of P.E. programme
- First year students enjoyed an ice-skating trip in December.
- A JCSP presentation to first and second year students and their parents took place in December.
- *An indoor soccer blitz* for main stream students took place in December

Annual Report 2008

- A very successful student Talent Show took place at the school in December. All proceeds raised were graciously donated to Mr. Dan O'Connor of Kerry Mental Health Association. A sum of €1,350 was collected.

- Students at the school have access to the facilities at Tralee Sport & Leisure Centre for physical education classes and other activities. As usual there were many events throughout the school year. *Football, Hurling, Basketball, Soccer* and *Athletics* were provided for students. Students of Tralee Community College participate in many competitive games throughout the year.

Student Supports

Learning Supports

Book Loan Scheme: The school operates a book-loan scheme that caters effectively for the needs of all students

Tralee Community College is part of the DEIS programme. This programme aims to provide social inclusion by delivering programmes and schemes centred on equality of opportunity in schools. DEIS provides for a standardised system of identifying and regularly reviewing level of disadvantage. It will provide a new integrated School Support Programme, which will bring together and build upon existing schemes and programmes.

The school has implemented a Special Educational Needs Policy, which is informed by the current practice and legislation and is subject to a regular cycle of monitoring, evaluation and review. The school has an inclusive vision of excellence for all. The school's philosophy, which underpins its policy for special educational needs, is that all children/adults whatever their ability or disability, have an entitlement to an accessible, broad and balanced curriculum. The school seeks to ensure that the special educational needs of all pupils are identified, assessed and met in an appropriate and efficient manner. Tralee Community College has a Learning Support Teacher and Home School Community Liaison Officer who are responsible for the day to day operation of the special needs policy, liaise and advise other teachers, co-ordinate the provision, maintain the Special Needs register, liaise with parents, external and support agencies.

The school has a well-developed language support department where extra assistance is provided for students who have language difficulties. A teacher from Poland was appointed by KES to assist the school in its work with international students. As well as teaching duties the teacher also liaises with parents and translated documents as required.

A resource teacher has been engaged by KES to provide learning support for six hours per week to PLC students.

Monitoring Progress & Achievement

Annual Report 2008

Examinations/Assessments for all classes take place at the end of first term and again at end of year for non-examination classes.

Parents are invited to **Parent/Teacher** meetings, one mid-way through first term and again early second term.

Guidance Counselling

A Guidance and Counselling document was drawn up by a steering group and adopted as policy by the Board of Management. The policy seeks to provide guidance for all students in the school; Junior Cycle, Senior Cycle and Post Leaving Cert Students. The aim of the policy is to develop each student's full potential and help the student grow in self-knowledge and self-esteem.

The objective of the policy is to identify the needs of individual students and help them reach their potential. It endeavours to integrate all members of the staff into the guidance programme and also encourage links with parents and other outside agencies.

Pastoral Care

There is a strong commitment to Pastoral Care in Tralee Community College, which is closely linked with the Guidance and Counselling work of the school. We endeavour to meet the personal, social, cultural, economic, spiritual and civic needs of all our students, by providing support, information workshops and interaction with other outside organisations. There is a strong link between home, school and community.

Communications with Immediate School Community

Communication with the immediate school community has always been a priority for Tralee Community College and this year was no exception.

The Parents' Council held regular meetings, one per term, which kept representatives informed about school business. It also enabled representatives to make suggestions regarding the running of the school.

The channel of positive communication, with each parent/ guardian, was kept open through our *Newsletter*. The newsletter continues to be well received by parents and students alike. It offers the teaching staff and management of the school an opportunity to commend the students on their achievements.

The Students' Council continues to attract considerable positive attention from our students. The interest and awareness level among students has grown with an even

Annual Report 2008

greater number of students putting themselves forward for election. A series of regular meetings have been held. The Student's Council has taken part in a number of initiatives, locally and nationally

The College has a number of *publications*, for PLC and night classes, which contribute to the positive public image we strive to create. Our promotional brochures, for our various classes, attracted a great share of interest and our high numbers of enrolments were sustained.

Our PLC *Work Placement Scheme* continues to strengthen our community and industry links. The work experience programme has been well received by the business community and we remain grateful for their continued support.

The *LCVP* programme enabled fifth and sixth year students to participate in the '*Pathfinders Programme*' in conjunction with the I.T. Tralee and Fás.

The *Home School Community Liaison Officer* worked tirelessly throughout the year maintaining the school's strong links with our community of learners.

A six-week parenting course was organised by the HSCL officer. Twenty three parents attended.

An initiative entitled Business in the Community has been running successfully in the school over the year with guest speakers coming to the school to give workshops to the sixth year students.

Mentors from the Community Volunteer Mentoring (KDYS/Partnership) have been working with students on a one to one basis from November.

Two representatives from the Kerry Adolescent Counselling Centre worked with our first year students for a number of weeks building up their confidence and self-assertiveness skills.

February 5th was designated Pink Day at the school in an effort to highlight Breast Cancer Awareness. Staff and students wore pink and an information stand was organised in the school library. The Nursing Studies coordinator, conducted an information session on breast cancer awareness for staff and students.

School Development Planning Initiatives (SDPI)

Key Policies Agreed and Developed

- Admissions
- Code of Discipline
- Anti Bullying
- Health and Safety
- Special Educational Needs
- Substance Use

Annual Report 2008

- ICT
- Guidance
- Child Protection
- Homework

Policies are developed at group meetings where an issue is discussed, a draft document drawn up and presented to staff and Board of Management. Amendments are agreed and the final document is then sent forward for ratification by the Board of Management.

Innovations and Developments

The college continues to offer a wide range of PLC Courses, a total of eighteen courses are being taught, with a further seven proposed for next year. These are *Carpentry and Joinery*, *Furniture Making*, *Interior Design*, *Pharmacy Assistant*, *Retail Studies*, *Youth Work*, *Travel Agency and Tour Guiding Skills*.

ICT continues to be a major part of teaching and learning at second and third level. The college can boast five fully equipped computer rooms, each with Internet access. A new computer room was set up on the ground floor of the school.

School based inservice has been organised to address issues of classroom management, i.e., engaging the reluctant learner and multiple intelligences.

The preparations for a Whole School Evaluation are ongoing due to the organic nature of school planning. The development of the college and our Whole School Plan has been the focus of the majority of staff meetings. A number of policies have been developed. Each subject co-ordinator has convened a series of subject specific meetings, which have yielded positive results.

Requirements for Future

Tralee Community College is currently providing for Post-Primary education for students from First year to Leaving Certificate. It is anticipated that there will be a demand to meet the needs of a growing number of post-primary students in Tralee in the coming years.

The College continues to meet the growing demand in an evolving Further Education sector as well as providing an extensive Adult Education Programme.

The Department of Education and Science should provide a teacher allocation in line with the growing number of further education students and adequate support staff to service this sector.

Upgrading of the College building and grounds will be necessary to cater separately for Post Primary and Further Education students.

Annual Report 2008

Concluding Statement

I wish to thank all the staff of the school for their hard work in providing an excellent education and service for all the students in our care. I also wish to express my appreciation of the work of the Board of Management, Parents' Association and the Students' Council. A special word of thanks also to the staff at Kerry Education Service for their continued support throughout the year.

Billy Curtin
Principal