

St Cecilia's NS Special School, Co Sligo

About Us

St. Cecilia's is a school for children with moderate/ severe and profound learning disabilities and autism based in County Sligo in the North West of Ireland along the Wild Atlantic Way. We currently have an enrolment of 40 students, 7 teachers, 18 SNAs, a walking principal, school nurse and a part time secretary.



Our active flag process, and it was a process!! took us from our initial thoughts of 'sure we're doing loads anyway' to a more considered and focussed approach to delivering all aspects of the P.E. curriculum in a more thoughtful and creative manner. The application form, although long, helped us to consider our current position and to analyse the way we deliver P.E. to the students. The active flag application brought us together as a school community. Staff awareness of the importance of physical activity improved, staff were more open to try out new sports/activities and this led to more varied and exciting opportunities for the students to experience. To name one initiative that is working best for our school would be impossible, but we feel that our use of the community and all its amenities, clubs and the relationships we

have built up over the years with the people who work in and run them have opened up prospects for students whose choices can otherwise be limited.

We see our location as very positive in participating in outdoor activities. We are very close to the beach, lakes, rivers, mountains and woodlands. We use these amenities regularly to exercise and explore our environment. We surf, kayak, horesride, walk and swim as part of our outdoor and adventurous activities strand of the curriculum. Please scan the QR code below to watch a short video of how active we are in St.Ceciliasschool.ie



As well as accessing the community, we have also brought the community into the school. All staff received Special Olympics training, and are currently working on developing a local inter-schools event. Our P.E. hall is used weekly to link in with Sligo Sports and recreation partnership who assist us with athletics and boccia. The senior students attend a weekly physical education lesson in Sligo Grammar School. The students integrate and work together through a variety of sports to develop their skills.



We have two playgrounds, senior and junior yard. On these there are roundabouts, spinners, swings, a trampoline and a wheelchair swing. We have specialised tricycles for children to cycle on and a tandem bike for staff to bring the more confident children on cycles. In addition we provide the students with different sized, shaped, weighted and textured balls. We use some multi –sensory



balls that light up and emit sound to encourage students with sensory processing difficulties to get involved.

