

Mercy Secondary School Kilbeggan

Welcome 1st Year
Parent /Guardians
2026-2027



SECOND LEVEL SCHOOL

- A Whole New Experience
- It Takes Time
- Trust Us
- Things Will Go Wrong
- Please Remain Calm



CLASSES

- 128 Students in 1st Year
- All Mixed Ability Classes
- 1 Red, 1 Blue, 1 Green, 1 Yellow & 1 Purple
- 754 Students in 2026–2027
(611 in 2021)



CLASSES

- NB : Classes will not be formed until Tuesday 1st September 2026 – the first day 1st Years start
- Students Assigned to Classes in a Considered Manner Unless Family Requests Communicated
- Please ignore [VSWare](#) or any speculation in this regard prior to this



CORE SUBJECTS FOR 1ST YEARS

- Irish (LS-Exemption)
- English
- Maths

- Science
- History
- Geography

- French or German
- Religion
- Well Being
 - PE
 - SPHE
 - CSPE
 - Computers

1ST YEAR SUBJECT CHOICES

- Taster Programmes
- Exposure to Subjects Before Choosing
- Three Lines
- NO NEED TO CHOOSE NOW

1ST YEAR SUBJECT LINES

Line A

French

German

- Students not taking a language have LS at these times

1ST YEAR SUBJECT LINES

Line B

Visual Art

Wood Technology

Engineering

Business

Home Economics

Music

Graphics

1ST YEAR SUBJECT LINES

Line C

Visual Art

Graphics

Business

Home Economics

Wood Technology

Engineering

MSSK 1 st Year – Taster Subject Lines Example				
	Classes	Taster Length	Dates	Elective From:
Line A	French	3 Weeks	Mon. 31/08/2026 – Fri. 18/09/2026	12 th October 2026
	German	3 Weeks	Mon. 21/09/2026 – Fri. 09/10/2026	
Line B	Business	2 Weeks	Mon. 31/08/2026 – Fri. 11/09/2026	2 nd November 2026
	Engineering	1 Week	Mon. 14/09/2026 – Fri. 18/09/2026	
	Graphics	1 Week	Mon. 21/09/2026 – Fri. 25/09/2026	
	Home Econ.	1 Week	Mon. 28/09/2026 – Fri. 02/10//2026	
	Visual Art	1 Week	Mon. 05/10/2026 – Fri. 09/10/2026	
	Woodwork	1 Week	Mon. 12/10/2026 – Fri. 16/10/2026	
	Woodwork	1 Week	Mon. 19/10/2026 – Fri. 23/10/2026	
Line C	Music	2 Weeks	Mon. 31/08/2026 – Fri. 11/09/2026	2 nd November 2026
	Business	1 Week	Mon. 14/09/2026 – Fri. 18/09/2026	
	Engineering	1 Week	Mon. 21/09/2026 – Fri. 25/09/2026	
	Graphics	1 Week	Mon. 28/09/2026 – Fri. 02/10/2026	
	Home Econ.	1 Week	Mon. 05/10/2026 – Fri. 09/10/2026	
	Visual Art	1 Week	Mon. 12/10/2026 – Fri. 16/10/2026	
	Woodwork	1 Week	Mon. 19/10/2026 – Fri. 23/10/2026	

MECHANICS OF SCHOOL LIFE

- School starts at 9.00am (Mon– Fri)
- School finishes at 3.55pm (Mon– Thurs) – 1st Years = 3:50pm
- School finishes at 1.15pm (Fri)
– 1st Years = 1:10pm

MECHANICS OF SCHOOL LIFE

- One Hour Classes
- Six Classes Per Day – Four on Fri.

MECHANICS OF SCHOOL LIFE

- Supervision on site from 8.35am
- Be On-Site by at least 8.45am
- Give Them Plenty of Time
- No Lates Please

MECHANICS OF SCHOOL LIFE

- Drop Off & Parking – No Issues in Morning
- In / Out System in Place
- Very, Very Busy
- Drop Off Bay – limited
- Parking at Back of School
- Traffic Management Team – Difficult Task
- Please be Considerate and Patient

LOCKERS

- All First Years Will Get a Locker
- School Will Provide Secure Lock
- Lockerfix – Very Safe System
- Monitored by CCTV
- Large Locker With Coat Hooks
- €10 per Student

SCHOOL GMAIL ACCOUNT

- Each Student Gets a School Gmail Account on Arrival
- @mercykilbeggan.ie
- Important for Communication
- Google Classroom
- School Calendar

STUDYCLIX

- All students will have access to full StudyClix Suite
- Value of €90 – Free to families.
- All students will be given in school demonstration of features and how to use.
- Fantastic Resource.



LUNCHTIME ARRANGEMENTS

- No Permission to Leave School
- Only TYs, 5th Years and 6th Years
- 1st Years Out at 1:05pm
- Extra Curricular Activities



CENTRA KILBEGGAN

- Excellent Support to MSSK
- Shop Open Before School & Small Break
- Lunches Available in School
- Centra Kilbeggan
- Order Before School or Online via the App.



UNIFORM

- Available as per notice on mercykilbeggan.ie
- Black Shoes/Runners With Black Laces/Black Soles
- Any Plain Navy Crested School Jacket
- No Set PE Uniform
- Non-Uniform Designer
- Label your Belongings!



FREE BOOK RENTAL SCHEME

- School Purchases Books and Loans to Students
- 1st Year Book Rental is €0
- Students Must Pay for Lost / Damaged Books
- See Information Note Previously Shared with Families



Resource supplied free by school	1st Year
Textbooks, workbooks and novels	As required
Examination papers	
A4 copies (120 page)	As required
Small softback copies (120 page)	As required
Maths softback copies	As required
Science hardback	One
A4 plastic zip mesh folders	One per subject
A4 ring binder folder	One
A4 refill pad	One
Poly pockets (100 pack)	One
Scientific calculator	One
Maths set	One
Pack of colouring pencils	One
Set of 2 pens (4 colour, retractable) & 2 pencils	One
Pack of highlighters	One
Eraser & pencil sharpener	One
Ruler (30cm)	One
Music manuscript copy	As required
Graphics set	As required
Visual Art set & sketchbook	As required
Home Economics practical pack	As required

SPORT & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Lots of Different Sports/Activities
- Very Good for Social Interaction
- Great Experiences/Memories
- Full Range for Girls & Boys



PASTORAL CARE TEAM

- Deputy Principal : Ms Gallen
- Deputy Principal : Mr Donnelly
- Year Head : Mr Duffy
- Each Class Has Class Tutor
- Chaplain : Ms Kelly
- Learning Support : Ms Mulligan
- Guidance Counsellor : Ms McArdle & Ms Stenson



SCHOOL JOURNAL

- Provided by School
- Important That Parent Signs it Weekly to Monitor Homework
- Watch Out for Notes Written by Teacher



HOMework

- Vital Component in Learning Process
- No Such Thing As No Homework
 - Always Learning to be Done
- 1 to 1.5 Hours per Night



ABSENCES / LATE

- Absences Must be Followed by Note From Home on Return to School
- Templates in Back of Journal
- Email to principal@mercykilbeggan.ie
- No Need to Phone to Supplement Note
- Any Student Late Must Sign In at Office & Must Have a Note



LEAVING SCHOOL EARLY

- Students Must be Signed Out by Parent/Guardian at all times.
- Please Pre-Arrange Time With Student
- Avoid Calling Students Out
- Problem of Using Intercom



MOBILE PHONES

- Mobile Phones / Online Activity / Social Media are a Major Health Risk to Young People
- Parents / Guardians Must Take Control
- Children Should Not Dictate Terms
- They Will Blame You Later in Life for Not Protecting Them



MOBILE PHONES

- Turned Off at All Times During the School Day and on School Activities
- Staff Member Will Confiscate if Used
- Retained in School Until End of the Next School Day & Then Returned to Student
- Or Collected By Parent in Office
- New Mobile Phone Policy



MOBILE PHONES

- No Problem Using Phone in Office if Necessary
- Parents Contact Students Through Office
 - Phone/email
- Families Should Not Text or Call Students' Mobile Phones During School
- Let Students Learn from Mistakes



VAPING

- Huge issue for society
- Vapes / Nicotine pouches prevalent in lives of Young People
- Exploitation by some agents
- Unknown Health Risks
- Immediate Suspension.



SCHOOL PARENT CONTACT

- Feel Free to Contact School at Any Time
- Don't Assume We Know Everything That is Going On
- Parent Teacher Meeting Once a Year
- Scheduled on School Calendar
- Be Positive About Teachers / School



ASGARD

- Very Significant Part of the School
- Thirty Students at Present
- Mr Duffy

EVENING STUDY

- Only Engage in Evening Study if Essential
- Not Recommended for 1st Years



ONLINE VSWARE SYSTEM

- mercykilbeggan.vsware.ie
- Username sent by text from school
- Reset Password using phone
- Log In
- Pay School Costs
- Term Reports / CBAs
- View Timetables When Students Start



TOTAL COSTS FOR 1ST YEAR STUDENTS

	€
Book Rental	0
Administration	40 (€50 per family)
Insurance	10
Locker	10
Total	60



COSTS FOR 1ST YEAR STUDENTS

- Pay Before 23rd October 2026
- Pay Online on [VSWare](#) Please if Possible
- Cards / Cash / Cheques Accepted at Office – Cards Preferable
- Reminders Sent Out



6TH YEAR MENTORS

- 6th Year Students Act as Mentors for 1st Year Students
- Work with 1st Years Throughout the Year
- "Big Brother" "Big Sister" System
- Very Successful to Date



WWW.MERCYKILBEGGAN.IE



READY TO LAUNCH !

- Tuesday 1st September 2026
- School Day 9.00am – 1.15pm
- Buses Operating
- Small Break – Bring a Snack
- Lunch Provided / Chicken Roll
- Greeted by 6th Year Mentors at School Entrance
- Only Schoolbag & Pencil-case Needed



KEYS TO SUCCESS

- Attendance – No Holidays during Termtime
- Work With Teachers
- Strong Work Ethic – Take Responsibility
- Build Resilience – there are two sides to every story
- Family Support





Thank you

