PRESENTATION WEXFORD







Portfolio

2023



Welcome to our School of Sanctuary Portfolio. Hopefully this gives you just a flavour of the inclusive culture we strive to create and sustain here at Presentation, Wexford.

The 1998 Education Act States that all students should experience an education that "respects the diversity of values, beliefs, languages and traditions in Irish society and is conducted in a spirit of partnership"

As a microcosm of society, Presentation Wexford has become a diverse school and we are reaping the benefits of Ireland becoming multicultural.

Presentation Wexford



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Presentation Wexford





I'm delighted to welcome you to our School of Sanctuary Portfolio for 2023. As Principal of Presentation, Wexford I am proud that we are the educational home for over 950 students, each with their own unique background and story.

As a community, we strive to promote and recognise this individuality whilst coming together under the one roof to move forward in our own journeys.

Our school is reflective of the very best of modern Ireland, a place of welcome for students from all different regions and nations, and it is this diversity that gives our school a richness that makes it such an enjoyable place to come each day.

I hope this publication gives you a sense of what our students and staff do to create a safe, welcoming space for every student to flourish as we strive for "Our Best, Always."



PRESENTATION WEXFORD











Our school here on Grogan's Road in the heart of Wexford, is a vibrant community of 950 students and over 70 staff. We have wonderful students, staff, and a modern campus, with 3 buildings & excellent sporting & extra-curricular facilities.

We are very proud of our broad curriculum, our excellent academic results, our excellent facilities, our vast array of co and extra-curricular activities but more importantly our excellent staff and our fantastic students.

We offer a supportive, inclusive & caring environment where we set high standards for learning & teaching, high personal standards for our students all done with mutual respect for all members of our school community.

We strive each day to in-still in our students a sense of pride & belonging & the belief that each & every student is unique & can succeed.

All at our school believe that respect is at the heart of creating a climate where all can succeed. We insist on a smart uniform, good behaviour, good manners & politeness. When all are in situ our vision for all our students to achieve their personal excellence can be achieved.

History

The Presentation Congregation was founded in Cork in 1775 by Nano Nagle, a daughter of one of the oldest families in the country. The aim was to help downtrodden citizens by the only means in her power – to provide them with schools and education. The story of Presentation, Wexford, started in October 1818, when two sisters came from the already established convent in Kilkenny.

They started by opening a Primary school. About 1940 a second-level school was established and in the following years the school became a fully recognized Secondary school.

The Presentation order was established in Wexford town in October 1818, being the first religious order to come to the town after the Penal Laws. In the 1820s, the Presentation Sisters established a school, which has, over time, developed into the Presentation Secondary School. We will mark 200 years of providing education to the town of Wexford in 2018.

The school currently operates under the trusteeship of C. E. I. S. T. (Catholic Education an Irish Schools Trust). As such, it supports the Religious and Educational Philosophy of its Founder, Nano Nagle. Religious Education takes a central place in the life and curriculum of the school. We are an all-girl, voluntary secondary school and are situated in a primarily residential area of Wexford town.

Presentation School Wexford aims, with the resources available, to provide the best possible environment in which to facilitate the cultural, educational, moral, physical, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values and traditions of all students.

Presentation Secondary School, Wexford provides for a wide range of artistic, cultural, social and sporting activities to develop the talents of all students and to provide them with the confidence to be involved in various activities in later life. The school also places great emphasis on the development of competitive games for all its students.

Working together as a school community, the Board of Management, parents, staff and students aim to provide an environment that will allow each student to develop intellectually, physically, morally, socially and spiritually so that she will be able to fulfil her role in society.

The current student cohort of 953 reflects a wide variety of socioeconomic backgrounds and includes students from the locality and a
considerably large rural hinterland. There is a strong culture of C. P. D. for
the teaching staff within the school. The school offers the Junior
Certificate, an optional and well-established Transition Year (T. Y.)
programme, the established Leaving Certificate and L.C.V.P. We have
approximately 26 schools in our catchment area.

Nano Nagle



Nano (full name Honora) Nagle was born in Ballygriffin, County Cork, Ireland in 1718. This was the period in Irish history when the English had imposed the oppressive Penal Laws, which severely limited the Irish people. The Irish were denied access economically, politically, socially, and educationally to the rights and means that would have raised them from the imposed poverty and oppression. It was a crime of treason (punishable by death) to educate the Irish and it was forbidden to practice the Roman Catholic faith.

Because of her family's position and wealth, Nano was sent to be educated in the Irish community then living in Paris. According to Sister Rose Forest, PBVM, one biographer of Nano, her "stay in the midst of Irish Parisian society was brief, but during this time an incident took place which has become a classic episode in the Presentation story. One morning the charming, wealthy, and beautiful Miss Nagle...was returning from an all-night ball. As her carriage rattled over the cobblestones of a silent street, she saw a small group of poor working people waiting in front a church...for the door to open for early Mass. The contrast between their useful lives and her own empty one devoted to pleasure made a lasting impression on the girl of twenty-two".

Returning to Ireland, other events lead Nano to consider a way that she could help the poor she saw every day in Cork and on the family estate. Distressed by the ignorance of the Irish in both faith and academics, she opened her first school in 1754 with an enrolment of thirty-five girls in a two-room cabin. These began her great work of education and as some historians have noted her important work in saving the Irish culture.

Without regard for her own safety, she selflessly educated the children during the day and visited and nursed the sick by night. As a result, she became known in Cork as the Lady with the Lantern, the symbol of the Sisters of the Presentation worldwide. Today the people of Ireland, especially in Cork, who attribute their freedom to her, revere her.

Eventually, realizing the need for a group to continue her work after her death, Nano founded the Sisters of the Presentation on December 24, 1775.

Nano died from tuberculosis, Monday, April 26, 1784.
According to Sister Rose's account, "On her deathbed Mother Nagle gave to her daughters the following injunction: 'Love one another as you have hitherto done.' As her legacy she bequeathed to them the treasure which she prized above all the wealth of the earth – the love of the poor of Jesus Christ.

She bade her Sisters 'Spend yourself for the poor.'"
In the years since Nano's death, the Sisters of the
Presentation have carried her spirit around the world in a
variety of ministries

Since the Congregation's founding in 1775, Sisters have worked to secure the breadth of Nano's vision — crossing geographical, political, religious and social frontiers, bringing her vision to life with deeds, embodying her dream through a variety of ministries, especially education, faith and spirituality, social and pastoral, health care and healing. Her vision is captured the words that she wrote, "If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe I would willingly do all in my power."

The world has changed radically since Nano circumvented the Penal Laws by providing schools for the education of poor Catholic girls and boys in Cork city. Yet her lantern light lives on through the world-wide network of Presentation Sisters, Presentation Associates and Friends of Nano (who form part of an international lay movement for mission), co-workers and colleagues in Presentation schools and centres, and wherever those inspired by her are seeking to make the world a better place. Of the Presentation family it may truly be said there are, "Many lamps, [but] one flame" . . . the flame of the Divine (Rumi).

In 2013, Nano was declared Venerable by Pope Francis – fitting recognition of her role as a woman of heroic virtue

STUDENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE







Our Students Across the Globe is a long standing group of students and staff at Presentation Wexford that that have strived to continue to make our school a place of welcome for all. Emboldened by the School of Sanctuary principles of Learn, Action, Share, this mix of students, across all year groups, have planned, surveyed, learned and worked in the name of inclusion across a number of different areas related to life in our school.

The group has grown in numbers, continuing to encompass the founding principles, to learn and raise awareness of the many different cultures, languages, races and nationalities represented at Grogan's Road. We look forward to continuing that work long into the future.

Presentation Wexford



PLEDGE SAMPLES



Schools of Sanctuary

Schools of Sanctuary Ireland Pledge Form

m Presentation Secondary School, Waspard

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HEBA HAJ HABO





Although Heba had been drawing and painting for as long as she could remember, when she was introduced to oil painting at Cow House Studios, she was inspired for the first time to create a series of powerful paintings reflecting her feelings and observations of her voyage from Syria to Greece from age 10 to 13. Heba writes about her work "I packed many memories and stories into each picture to make a whole. Too many memories to put just one on a page. I want to let my paintings have a voice and tell the story. Hope."

Heba was born in Syria in 2005. She lived with her parents and her five brothers and sisters on a large family vegetable farm in the town of Tell Arn in the district of Aleppo. In 2013 the family moved along with her grandmother's family further north in Syria to escape the dangerous war surrounding and within their town. As the danger engulfed Syria, the family moved from place to place until they finally escaped to Kurdistan Iraq in 2014, where they settled for two years before traveling through Turkey to request asylum in Europe when landing in Greece.





Heba Haj Habo, Leaving Certificate Class 2022

Heba arrived in Ritsona Refugee Camp northeast of Athens with her immediate and extended family in March of 2016 just as the camp was opening. She and the family lived in Ritsona and then in Athens and all 39 of Heba's family members in Ritsona Camp were accepted for asylum in Ireland. Heba and her family moved to Ireland in December of 2017 and resided in a refugee hotel in Dungarvan (Clonea) until settling in Wexford in 2018. Currently Heba and her now 43 family members are happily and productively resettled in Wexford, Waterford and Mullingar.

Heba graduated from the Presentation Secondary School Wexford, completed with distinction her leaving certificate and was accepted for her first year at SETU Waterford, where she is now studying science. She is the first member of her family to attend university. At Presentation, Heba received numerous awards including: the Ethos Ambassador Award; School Ambassador for Diversity and Multiculturism; the Diversity and Inclusion Award; the Visual Art Award; the Award for Personal Growth; The GAISCE President's Award and two School Principal medals. She continues to share her voice through painting.











Our Students Across the Globe Group were thrilled to visit Heba's exhibition at D'Luish Cafe in Wexford Arts Centre. Heba is a fantastic role model for our students to aspire to and we are incredibly proud of her achievements.





GLOBAL CITIZENS

Presentation Wexford

Diversity in education recognises and honours the unique backgrounds of every student, including race, ethnicity, religion, and nationality, and intentionally fosters a multicultural school environment built on respect. But why is diversity so important for students? A school's cultural climate directly impacts student success. Students benefit from interacting with a diverse peer group because they learn how to build relationships across backgrounds. You get to experience different traditions, mind-sets, languages and so much more. You are stronger leaders, better global citizens, and more creative problem solvers. It gives you compassion and empathy when you experience those who come from different backgrounds and allows you to grow into kind and caring individuals.



Diversity is always an asset.

You will see visible signs of multiculturalism in our school but as members of this community it is up to each and everyone of us to embrace multiculturalism- to share your cultural story and to listen to the stories of others.



Presentation Wexford

Thirty students from the Presentation School Wexford, entered Show Racism the Red Card's creative competition to raise their voices as a unit to oppose racism.

The Wexford school's artwork displayed creative posters with slogans against racism. One student said: 'If we can like different drinks, why can't we like different people?' This was in multicoloured font advocating equality. There was also a piece of cloth with mini triangles each of which contained a letter from Show Racism The Red Card.

Over 235 schools participated in the event held in Dublin's Aviva Stadium at Lansdowne Road. Wexford hurler Lee Chin is ambassador of the campaign in Wexford.

Show Racism The Red Card works closely with schools and youth organisations to raise awareness of racism in the community and society at large. Prominent sports people help it to spread the hen they see or experience it.





Presentation Wexford

One of the key events on the school calendar is our Stand Up & Inclusion Week at Presentation Wexford.

Each year, there are awareness campaigns, social media drives, and a day where students can show their support for the LGBTQI+ community by wearing a colour of their choice to voice and show their support.

In the physical space at our school, we have introduced a permanent inclusion wall, as well as messages and images in our bathrooms to show solidarity and support.



Being a young woman in Ireland can be really tough....
Through our Wellbeing Group & Shona Project, we celebrate women from all over the world, those who succeed and those who overcome, those who lead and those who think, those who win and those who learn. We share our stories so that we don't feel alone. We laugh, learn, try and cry together.

Figuring out who we are, and where we fit into this world is hard, and there are so many challenges; anxiety, depression, body image, selfesteem, boys, family drama, social media, exams stress, hormones, sexuality, relationships, bullying and feeling like we don't fit in.

The world (and Instagram) tells us we should have it all figured out by now, and that we should be perfect, which none of us will ever be. Really, we should be helping each other to be smart, strong and, above all else, kind.

We know exactly how it feels to struggle and feel alone, because we've been there. We believe that we all need to give ourselves a break, and take care of ourselves, and of each other, to celebrate each other's differences, and to support each other so we can all achieve everything our quirky little hearts desire.

Whether you identify as a cis- or trans girl or as a non-binary individual—wherever you are on your journey of gender expression and identity—you are welcome here.





SHONA PROJECT









HOME FROM HOME



Library

Since 2019 our library has applied for a grant to fund books in the languages other than English that are the mother tongue of our students. A student committee was formed and the money was spent on books in Polish ,Italian, Spanish, Romanian, Lithuanian and Arabic.

Let us know!

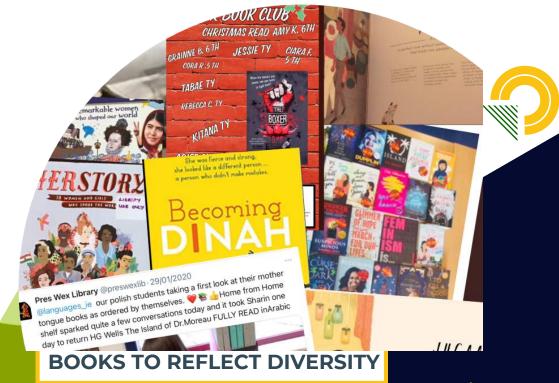


We apply for that grant annually.

If you would like your first language represented on our shelves ... speak up and let us know.

If you would like to share books in your first language with us, we would be delighted to put them on our "Home from Home" shelves

Presentation Wexford



Presentation Wexford

Presentation Wexford's Library aims to stock books that reflect the diversity of our student population.

If there are further books by authors or about people or places that reflect your nationality ,ethnicity, race or religion that you would like to see added to our shelves please let us know.

If you have any books that reflect your culture and you wish to donate them to us we would be delighted to receive them for others to enjoy reading too.

Did you know that with Wexford Town Library membership you can access The PressReader App for free ,giving you access to magazines in 100s of languages.

Ask a Student Librarian for more information.





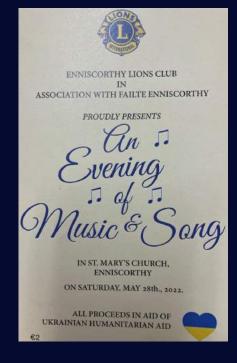
SONG FOR UKRAINE

Presentation Wexford

Jon Saturday May 28th our school choir sang in an 'Evening of Music & Song J⊓ " in St Mary's Church Enniscorthy under the direction of Ms Mahon.

All proceeds went to Ukrainian Humanitarian Aid.

A particular hit on the night was a beautiful rendition of a Song for Ukraine.







GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Presentation Wexford

Our school as an incredibly active Green Schools Committee, led by Ms Ciara O'Muiri, and their theme for this year is Global Citizenship. They engage in a number of different activities and events across the school calendar, promoting their work in this area.

In May 2024, 10 members will travel to Kaoma, Zambia, to visit the Presentation community there. Here, they will volunteer in local schools, and offer their help in the eco-spirtitual Garden of Oneness.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EVENING







Each year, we welcome our new & International Students & their parents/guardians & hosts for a special welcome evening, where all the students talked about where they were from & their first experiences in our school. This is a wonderfully warm event each year on our calendar, and it is a fantastic opportunity to meet not just with our new students, but also their families and guardians, as they join the Presentation community.

LEARN



Empewering Student Voice and Leadership - Jist January 2027

named by the Cultain Compagnic team, in this weblise we look at now all foods can support participations accepted to empower business value and leadership, drowing on some examples from chooks arous the cit. See the resources mentioned here.



Welcoming Ukrainian Students in Schools - 29th Hovember 2022

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The "new normal" gave
Presentation Wexford and their
School of Sanctuary Team an
opportunity to welcome a host
of speakers and webinars into
our classrooms.

These opportunities to hear stories from those affected by a range of issues around the world, as well as tips and suggestions as to how we as a school community can put different supports in place have proved invaluable to our student and staff groups.

The follow up resources such as the one we used for the Ukrainian Refugee webinar, proved to be fantastic resources to prompt discussion.







ACTION









Our Students Across the Globe group wanted to create a physical space in the school to recognise the different nationalities represented among our student body.

At the time of production, we had 48 nationalities represented, with a flag raised for each nation. Students were also invited to engage with our interactive map, pinning their place of origin on the globe for the entire school community to see.

This wing is reviewed each year, with additions made when we welcome students from new parets of the world.

ACTION







In an effort to make our group more visible amongst the student body, a suggestion was made to create badges for our members to wear with pride on our uniform. Each year we replenish our stock so our logo can be displayed on our uniform, letting everyone know they are actively working to help create a safe space for all at Presentation Wexford

ACTION

HOME LANGUAGE SURVEY

1 Is English the main language snoken and used in your home? * \PM



All 958 students at Presentation Wexford were surveyed in relation to their Home Language. This data will help inform us as a school on how best to improve opur communication with home.

•	is English the main language sporten and asea in your nome.
	○ Yes
	○ No
	If you answered No to Question 1, what language or languages are spoken and used in your home? 🖫
	Enter your answer
3.	Name your heritage or home country. 🗔
	Enter your answer

April 5th 2022 saw an incredibly beautiful gathering at Presentation Wexford as we celebrated Multicultural Day. Fashion, food and music representative of the different nationalities we have at our school lit up our halls with laughter, discussion and learning. Student speakers welcomed our guests from School of Sanctuary, local schools and parents/guardians as we came together to mark the vibrant dynamism here on our campus. Enjoy the pictures as we remember a fantastic event on our school calendar.















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Presentation Wexford



SHARE

We were delighted to not only welcome our friends from School of Sanctuary and our parents and guardians, but also our neighbours from Loreto Secondary School, Wexford.

Their multicultural team were welcomed to the event by our students and we hope they got as much from our day as we did from theirs as we work towards the same goal of creating schools of sanctuary in Wexford Town.





SHARE & LEARN





On January 24th, members of our Students Across the Globe group visited Mt Sion, Waterford for a workshop with their team. Mt Sion were the very first Champion School of Sanctuary so we were very keen to learn from their work. It was a fantastic day full of collaboration and learning. We got to listen to Homayoon Shirzad - School of Sanctuary Coordinator. Homayoon was involved with Places of Sanctuary as a volunteer since his arrival in Ireland in late 2016. His story and accounts was a great inspiration to our team.

A massive thank you to Ms Jacinta O'Rourke for her preparation and facilitation of this event.

SHARE & LEARN





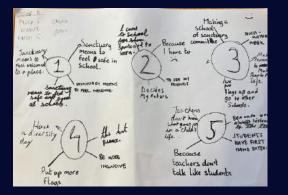
School of Sanctuary Student Workshop



Student workshop - sharing of ideas of what it means to be a school of sanctuary.

- 1. What does Sanctuary mean to me?
- 2. Why do you come to school?
- 3. What is your school doing to encourage diversity?
- 4. What ideas do you have that could improve what your school is doing?
- 5. Why is it important that sanctuary comes from the students and not only the teachers?











SHARE & LEARN



January also saw us visit our neighbours at Loreto Wexford who were hosting their own multicultural celebration. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to see how another school was marking the occasion and a chance to mix and ask questions of each other. A big thanks to Ms Michelle Jordan and the team at Loreto for the warm welcome.



Presentation Wexford

TRAVEL BROADENS THE MIND



Presentation Wexford has a long history of bringing our students out to the wider world through trips associated with languages, geography, history and sport.

In the last couple of years alone we have been and are going to...



- New York
- Boston Italy
- ____ Zambia
- Barcelona
 - Iceland
 - Krakow
 - France
- With lots more to follow...

Presentation Wexford

INCLUSION ACROSS THE CURRICULUM



Embrace Opportunities

In all the subjects studied at Presentation Wexford you will get an opportunity to develop your multicultural awareness.

Embrace those opportunities.

The arts, social sciences and a whole host of subjects use their platform to increase multicultural awareness.



Languages

Studying a language will also involve learning about the Culture and may give you the opportunity to immerse yourself in that Culture through travel. At Presentation Wexford, we study not just English and Irish, but French, German, Spanish & Chinese!



LANGUAGES





each year we celebrate European Day of Languages at Presentation Wexford. Here, a variety of languages are celebrated and engaged, with our speed dating events proving to be extremely popular among our student body. We are looking to continue with this initiative, and explore further ways of expanding and including a broader group of languages in the future.



RELIGION & MULTICULTURALISM



In Religious Education in Presentation teachers take the time to educate all about moments of importance, religious festivals and occasions of the five major world religions.

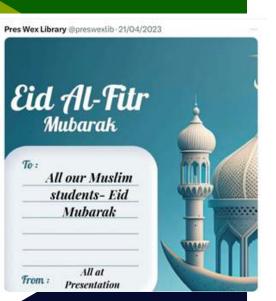
Also we often create displays acknowledging those celebrations. Our schools social media also makes sure that these occasions are visible for all.



Multicultural Awareness in RE



Acknowledgement of religious occasions of all are displayed in our Senior Social





ART



Our art department have been busy under the direction of Ms Julia Kelly & Ms Anita Conway creating a Students Across the Globe piece to display on our school walls. The image captures the heart of what we are trying to achieve and celebrate at Presentation Wexford. It has been worked on by a range of students over an extended period of time and we hope you enjoy looking at it as much as we enjoyed creating it.





Presentation Wexford

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our Peer Mentor & Meitheal Leaders in 5th & 6th year are a key support for students in our school. These groups lead our younger student body, guiding and facilitating their growth and development. Through this work, each student is valued and given a safe space, with inclusion at the heart of the programmes.



Our Learning Leaders at our Learning Hub also held a teach meet celebrating multiculturalism. This allowed for discussion and celebration of a range of cultural experiences.









INCLUSION IN THE COMMUNITY



As part of our community initiatives, Presentation Wexford is delighted to host Wexford FC's Powerchair Football team at our school. Here, a number of children from across the South East come to our school to play and learn new skills. We are currently in discussions to establish a further Pan Disability after school club, with student coaches and leaders.







FUTURE ACTION





Ms Holly Byrne, our school's EAL Coordinator has conducted a large volume of work carrying out Data Capture forms and how we can improve our communication with home.

In future, the school is seeking to have translated versions of documents to allow for ease of access for all our our students and parents/guardians,.



FUTURE ACTION

Students Across the Globe Group

Phonetic Spelling of Names Document

(Please speak to Ms Carr if you need any assistance completing this, Thank you!)

Name	Phonetic Spelling	
Isabelle Vasiliu	Vah- sil- you	
Karyna Deineka	Ka-ri-na	
Annamiya Deepu	Anna-me-ya	
Catherine O'Leary Petrunina Cawley	Peh true nee nah	

Our Students Across the Globe group have begun working on a document to help with the pronunciation of all of our students' names.

This document will have the phonetic spelling beside the name to allow everyone to be called by their name correctly. We are in discussions with our host platform to incorporate this on our official platforms to try to ensure nobody has their name mispronounced.



THANK YOU!



We hope this portfolio gave you a snapshot of some of the initiatives and work that our school community are engaged in to create and sustain a place of welcome for all here at Presentation, Wexford. We look forward to seeing how both our Students Across the Globe and wider student and staff body continue to evolve and further this great work.

Thank you for taking the time to read about our continuing School of Sanctuary journey at Presentation Wexford.