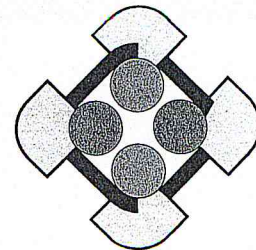


St. Ciarán's Community School

Pobailscoil Chiaráin

Kells, Co. Meath

Tel: (046) 9241551 Fax: (046) 9241554



Principal: Cara Mc Loughlin **Deputy Principal:** Angela Flanagan.

20th Dec 2018

Dear Parent,

As an 18-year-old, your son / daughter is an adult in the eyes of the law and are entitled to be treated as such by all institutions operating in the State.

In relation to the release of their personal data from our school to you their parents/guardians or any external body, they should be asked for consent in the first instance. For our school to act in compliance with the law, we must cease to communicate in any manner with you as parents or guardians once your son / daughter passes their 18th birthday, unless they voluntarily sign an authorisation to enable us to continue to do so.

The law as laid out in the Education Act (1998) states that a school shall use its available resources to "ensure that parents of a student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, have access in the prescribed manner to records kept by that school relating to the progress of that student in his or her education".

Furthermore, under our data protection legislation, individuals over 18 years of age have control over their personal data. The office of the Data Protection Commissioner has indicated that schools may give a choice to a student that reaches age 18 over whether they wish to directly receive updates on their progress, or wish to have their parents continue to receive updates for as long as they remain a student at that school. The Department of Education has stated that in the education area, the Data Protection Commissioner stipulates that obtaining consent from the 18-year-old students is of paramount importance in these circumstances.

Far from seeing these rights as a negative, we as a school we must comply with the law of the land and treat our 18-year-old students as adults in every way. We feel that this will go a long way towards preparing them for the reality of college and working life, which they will face the moment they step out of the school gate after they have completed their Leaving Cert.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cara McLoughlin'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'C' and 'M'.

Cara McLoughlin