

Ennismore Retreat Centre, Montenotte, Cork

Re: School Retreats

Dear Principal,

Greetings to you from Ennismore Retreat Centre, Montenotte, Cork.

We are happy to enclose School Retreat literature for the 'coming year. You may already have been with us in Ennismore and are familiar with our ministry to schools. If you are new to our school retreat ministry, I hope you will have a moment to read the enclosed literature. We are a Dominican Retreat Centre of spirituality. The thrust of our ministry is to offer your students an opportunity for reflection, through group-work, meditation, prayer and discussion. Last year we hosted one thousand seven hundred students. We are happy to report a positive evaluation from the respective students and staff. We invite you to log on to our webpage www.ennismore.ie Here you may watch a short video on the school retreats.

We can also, in certain circumstances, direct School Retreats in school premises or nearby community/parish centres. This may facilitate your own school. Please contact the Secretary for further information – 021. 4502520 or email: info@ennismore.ie

Following the guidelines of **Children First** and the **NBSCCCI**, a school sending students on retreat must have sufficient adults (teacher/other adult) accompanying the students. These adults will be present for the 9.30am Assembly, the 11.00am and 1.00pm breaks. The staff/adult will also remain on the premises until the last student leaves Ennismore. This applies particularly when students make their own way or are dropped off by parents. Students cannot be left unattended prior to and at the end of the school retreat. This is in line with good practice around safeguarding children. It is also a requirement of Diocese of Cork & Ross.

Our School Retreat Programme has been reviewed in the light of the introduction of the Wellbeing Programme by DES. In consultation with the NCCA we are, in addition to the traditional school retreat, offering your students an alternative day. This day will meet the Six Indicators of the Wellbeing Programme issued by the DES. Both our school retreat and our alternative day's programme can form part of the 400 hours required by DES for its Wellbeing Programme.

All of our school retreat team are Garda Vetted and engaged in on-going pedagogical and faith-formation.

May we wish you and your staff every kind wish for this academic year.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Stephen, OP
Coordinator School Retreat Team