

## **Education In Swinford**

A girls' Primary School was started in Swinford on the 24th September, 1856. It was not recognised by the Commissioners of National Education until the 12th September, 1857. There were 114 pupils on roll. When the number of pupils increased, a new school was erected in 1905. This was replaced by a new Primary School building in 1965. In 1990, the boys' and girls' schools amalgamated under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Achonry.

In 1906, a Secondary School for girls was established. In response to widespread requests, the Sisters opened a boarding school in 1912. Its prospectus described it as a boarding school for young ladies. It continued until the mid-eighties. St. Mary's, was first set up as an Intermediate School and started with rooms in the convent. In 1910, wooden and iron structures were built to accommodate increasing numbers. These included five classrooms, music rooms, a library and a shop. St. Joseph's Hall was added in the 1930's. Cooking, needlework, art, drawing and singing were taught. Many of the pupils had their first introduction to orchestra and opera there. Sr. Augustine was the first head mistress and continued for many years. Buildings were added, older ones demolished and the present school was opened in 1970. It includes a large new gymnasium. In 1985, St Patrick's Diocesan College amalgamated with St Mary's to form a new co-educational school known as Scoil Mhuire agus Pádraig. The local Vocational school joined them in 1993. Today, this school is under the trusteeship of CEIST.