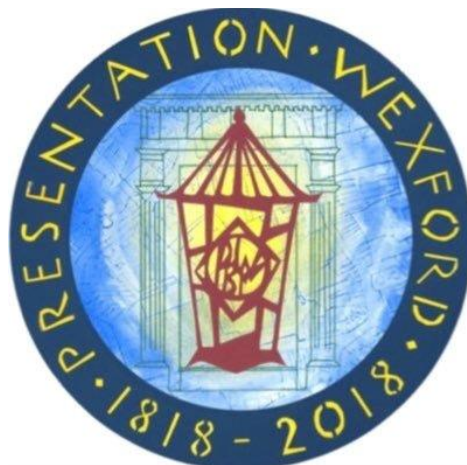




Presentation Secondary School, Wexford

Information Pack



Serving the people of Wexford since 1818

"Our best, always"



Message from the Principal

Dear Incoming Student and Parent/Guardian,

A very warm welcome to our new First Year students and their parents/guardians.

This year, we celebrated 205 years of providing education to the people of Wexford and its environs. As your child enters our school in August 2024, they will be following a very long line of students over the past two centuries.

Our school is fully underway in implementing our current Strategic Plan and School Focus that will run from 2022-2027 and build on the excellent work already done in the school over many years. The main areas of focus are; Learning & Teaching, Academic Success, Third Level Progression & Further Pathways, Inclusive Education & Student Potential, Whole School Sustainability and Wellness & Belonging. Additionally, a new school focus motto is being promoted; Be Present, Be Prepared, Progress.

Our school supports the Religious and Educational Philosophy of the Founder of the Presentation Order, Venerable Nano Nagle. Therefore, Religious Education takes a central place in the life and curriculum of the school. In our school, we also pride ourselves on the strong relationships that exist between our enthusiastic students and supportive parents/guardians, along with the professionalism and dedication of our staff to ensure a holistic education for all our students. We encourage our students to actively participate in all areas of school life to help them achieve their full potential. In doing so, we strive to create a caring and supportive environment where all students are known, valued and respected. We have a proud tradition of academic excellence.

In addition, students participate in a wide variety of extra-curricular activities that are provided by a generous and committed staff, who give up their time on a voluntary basis. I fully encourage your child to get involved, whether it be through sports, music, drama, creative writing or debating. This all helps to create a holistic person.

The school has a long history of - and reputation for - helping students to reach the top of their potential and, indeed, we are very proud of our very many past pupils, who are very successful contributors and leaders in their field of expertise. We want our school to be the best school in which to learn, to play, and to grow. Academic excellence and achievement are high on the school's agenda.

We encourage and support all students to strive to achieve their personal best. Achieving one's personal best does not happen by chance – it requires commitment, focus, determination, and hard work.

The standards we set here are high and we aim to fulfil the following standards: happy students and staff (caring and supportive towards each other) student supports, high quality learning, high personal standards, the Christian ethos, respect and manners, high quality teaching, high standards of behaviour, positive reinforcement, homework, student leadership and professionalism and respect.

As Principal here in Presentation Secondary School, Wexford, my door is always open to staff, parents/guardians and students and I look forward to continuing to work with all members of our school community in a challenging and positive environment, always upholding the values on which we were founded. We introduce exciting new subjects here in the school, such as Junior Cycle Graphics, Leaving Cert P. E. (exam) and Leaving Cert Politics & Society. I look forward to working with your child over the course of the next 5-6 years.

On behalf of the entire school community, I thank you for choosing our school as the place where your daughter will spend the teenage years of her life. In hindsight, some of us say school days are "the best days of our lives." By the end of her time here, I sincerely hope that every student will have developed into that holistic person, that I mentioned earlier, and one that we all can be proud of. We hope that all our students will strive to do their best in life.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Ryan".

William Ryan, Principal

Points of contact within the school

Senior Leadership team

Principal: *Mr William Ryan*

Deputy Principal: *Ms Mary Dooley*

Deputy Principal: *Ms Caroline Ryan*

Deputy Principal: *Mr Scott Gaynor*

Ms Dooley is the contact Deputy Principal for the First-Year cohort of 2024-25

Middle Leadership Team

Assistant Principals carry out certain posts of responsibilities and duties that supports the Senior Leadership team and the whole-school community.

These roles are subject to ongoing review/the needs of the school.

| Name | Role |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <i>Mr Brendan Brophy</i> | School Welfare Co-ordinator |
| <i>Ms Donna Leacy</i> | Junior Cycle Management Support |
| <i>Mr Keith Gilshinan</i> | Mock Exams Co-ordinator & Student References |
| <i>Ms Jacqueline Hartnett</i> | Programme Co-ordinator (T.Y. and L.C.V.P.) |
| <i>Ms Maria Kenny</i> | Co-ordination of Academic Tracking |
| <i>Ms Fiona Kinsella</i> | SSE Co-ordinator & Student Achievement |
| <i>Mr Gavan Lynch</i> | Behaviour Reflection Workshop & Student Council Co-ordinator |
| <i>Mr Donal McCarthy</i> | Primary School Link |
| <i>Ms Mo O'Brien</i> | E-learning & Digital Framework Coordinator |
| <i>Ms Grainne Power</i> | Library Co-ordinator and Class Prefects |
| <i>Ms Valerie Redmond</i> | Positive Behaviour & School News Co-ordinator |
| <i>Ms Bridget Ryan</i> | Exam Secretary |
| <i>Mr Ciaran Walsh</i> | Health & Safety, Extra Curricular, Open Night Co-ordinator |
| <i>Ms Vera Whelan</i> | Meitheal & Parental Link Co-ordinator |
| <i>Mr Damien Nugent</i> | Further Pathways and School Inclusion |

In relation to **Additional Educational Needs**: The Support team: *Ms Roísín Stenning, Ms Teresa Bradshaw, Ms Michelle Curran, Ms Ellen Sunderland, Mr Brendan Brophy*

In relation to **Guidance**: *Ms Bríd Kavanagh, Mr Damien Nugent (Guidance counsellors)*

In relation to **Curriculum** issues: *The Deputy Principal (Ms Mary Dooley, Ms Caroline Ryan)*

In relation to **Behaviour Management**: *The Year Head or Deputy Principal (Ms Mary Dooley, Ms Caroline Ryan, Mr. Scott Gaynor)*

In relation to **Pastoral Care** issues: *The Year Head or the Deputy Principal (Ms Mary Dooley, Ms Caroline Ryan, Mr. Scott Gaynor)*

In relation to **Attendance**: *Attendance and Punctuality Co-ordinator*

All contacts can be made through the school's general office.

Office hours (during the academic year):

8.30am – 4.15pm - Monday to Friday

(Please note that the general office is closed during lunchtime breaks)

Message from the Primary School Liaison



Welcome to Presentation Secondary School, Wexford.

In this school, we are very aware that the transition from primary school to secondary school is a big step, for students and parents/guardians. It's an exciting time, but it's also very normal to feel nervous and have a lot of questions.

We have lots of in-school supports to help new students with their transition from primary to secondary school, including my role as Primary School Liaison, our First Year Information Evening, and this Information Pack. You will be able to read about some of the many other supports inside.

This Information Pack will hopefully provide you with the key information that you need to know right now, it will be a handy document to keep a hold of in your first year with us. It has answers to many of the questions you probably have about starting school at Presentation Wexford.

As Primary School Liaison, part of my role is visiting all our feeder schools across County Wexford. I know first-hand how you have all participated in your local schools and communities and how proud they are of you. I know I speak for all of us in this school when I say I am confident you will find your new school community a warm and welcoming place, where you can make the most of your talents and abilities and make lots of new friends.

The entire school community looks forward to seeing you all in August 2024.

Donal McCarthy,

Primary School Liaison



Message from the Head Girl

Hi, my name is Abbie Currid and I am a 6th year student and Head Girl for the year 2023/24. I have to begin by saying what an honour and pleasure it is to be given the opportunity to be Head Girl. Over the coming years I am sure you will find out the great pride associated with being a Pres girl. It all begins now!

Heading into Secondary School, you may or may not know people, sisters, cousins, or friends from primary school or clubs outside of school. I know it feels like you need to know someone before coming in, but I have to admit it really doesn't matter! There are so many people in our school looking out for you even if you don't realise it. From Meitheal leaders, to Teachers, to fellow students, Deputy Principals and even the Principal himself, they are all here to support you, and always here to help.

I understand how scary it can be heading into /Secondary school, I was scared myself, however, I found in this school the transition was fun and exciting. With extra- curriculars of all kinds, committees, clubs and sports as well as an abundance of leadership roles, all waiting for more people to get involved, even if it's a student's first time something, try something new.

In the Presentation, as students we benefit from the care, dedication, and forward-thinking action of our Senior Leadership Team. Our Principal Mr. Ryan and Deputy Principals Ms. Ryan, Ms. Dooley and Mr. Gaynor who lead with compassion, attention and understanding, keeping our school at the forefront of new developments in education.

This team along with all of the incredible staff, offers a comfortable, active and stimulated learning environment for everyone, all while keeping high standards for education. Presentation Wexford's school motto is 'Our best Always'; it is something the entire school community strives for every day. This is a way of thinking that serves you well in Presentation Wexford, speaking as a sixth-year student it has kept me motivated over the past six years.

My time in the school has nearly come to an end, and I can honestly say without a doubt that I will never forget all the life lessons I have learnt in my time in the Presentation, and I will carry them with me through the rest of my life.

I wish you all the best over your own school years and I hope your time in school will be as incredible and memorable as mine has been.

Kindest Regards
Abbie Currid
Head Girl 2023-24

General Information for parents/guardians

Moving into second-level education is a big challenge for any young person. In this transition, we are mindful of the wellbeing of all the students in our care.



Our standards in Presentation Secondary School, Wexford

- Happy students and staff
- Caring and supportive towards each other
- High quality learning
- High personal standards
- Christian ethos
- Respect and manners
- Care and support
- High quality teaching
- High standards of behaviour
- Positive Reinforcement
- Homework
- Prefects and leadership
- Professionalism and respect

Responsibilities

For students

We want each student to receive a holistic education. We want you to be ambitious, always do your best, have respect for people and property, be prepared, be in school every day – attendance and punctuality are crucial – and abide by the school’s Code of Behaviour.

For parents/guardians

In this school, we have a very good working relationship with our parents/guardians. Please do not hesitate in making contact. It is a big change from primary to secondary school. If you have any concerns at all, please make contact. The sooner we know about any issues the better it will be for all concerned. Some advice tips for parents/guardians of new First-Year students: help, support, encourage, protect, set boundaries and be vigilant.

School Facilities

The school maintains an excellent campus, in the heart of Wexford Town, with excellent facilities. We have:

32 classrooms, 5 Science labs, 2 Art Rooms, 2 Kitchens, Study Hall, Concert Hall, Sports Hall, Music Room, Library (Fiction/Careers), Prayer Room, Oasis Room, Sensory Room, Computer Room and Digital Media lab, 5 Support rooms, 3 Guidance Counselling Rooms, Interview Room, General Purpose Areas, Outdoor training pitch and walkway.

In the 2021-2022 school year, the new Rossiter Wing, including an additional Science lab and Prep room, 2 classrooms and office space opened on our campus, for the benefit of the entire school community.

Mixed Ability Classes

It is our school policy to have ‘mixed ability’ classes in First-Year to allow students to settle into the school and to achieve their potential. Students will be banded in Second-Year in core subjects like Irish and Maths, based on the Christmas and Summer test results and on the recommendations of their teachers.

Additional Educational Needs

Support is available to students who have been identified by the school as having additional needs, in line with the NEPS Continuum of Support 2010. If any student has been assessed as having additional educational needs in primary school, has had access to SNA support or has been granted an exemption from the study of Irish, **please let the school know as soon**

as possible. Please arrange to speak to a member of the Support team (listed on the 'Points of Contact' page) to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child's educational needs.

Exemption from Irish

Only students who have an official exemption from Irish, granted by the Department of Education and Skills, are considered to be 'exempt' from the subject. Irish is mandatory for all other students. If a student has been granted an exemption in primary school, please submit a copy of the exemption to the school on or before admittance. Students will continue to study Irish until a copy of their exemption is received by our school.

Guidance & Counselling

Guidance counsellors are trained professionals with the expertise and knowledge to help and support students to make important choices related to personal and social issues, educational and career issues throughout their time here in Presentation, Wexford. We are part of the Student Support Teams, in the school, and our aim is to encourage students to develop a range of skills to enhance their own wellbeing, to improve their learning skills and to develop their career skills.

We do this through guidance classes and other classroom activities, individual counselling appointments, advice and information seminars and psychometric assessments from First-to-Sixth Year. Assisting students to make the transition from primary to secondary school is a key target area for the Guidance Department in Presentation, Wexford.

Subject Options

Students who are just beginning First-Year can be overwhelmed when they learn that they have to study so many subjects, some of which may be completely new. However, in our experience, students adjust quite quickly to the new challenges of second level education.

- We ask you to read the description of the subjects contained in this Information Pack
- For the optional subjects, they should also choose subjects in which they may already have an interest

One of the great advantages of a large school, such as ours, is that we can provide a wide range of subjects. Students study a broad range of subjects, since it will allow them to identify their strengths and preferences before having to focus their choices in Second-Year and indeed on into Leaving Certificate.

Three things are important when choosing a subject:

Aptitude

Interest

Ability

Looking ahead

Future career choice needs to be considered when choosing subjects at this stage.

For example, **Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)** are:

- Required by NUI universities – some exceptions for some courses in NUI (for example, Science, Agricultural Science, Engineering etc.)
- Required for teaching Home Economics
- Not required by University of Limerick, D. C. U., T. U., Technical University, Dublin or PLCs

In this school, it is possible to choose two MFL subjects.

For example: **Business Studies**

- Opens the door to four Leaving Certificate subjects – Accounting, Business, Economics and LCVP.

Subject Choice

| Core Examination Subjects | Non-Core Examination Subjects |
|----------------------------|---|
| <i>Irish</i> | <i>Physical Education</i> |
| <i>English</i> | <i>Social, Personal, Health Education</i> |
| <i>Maths</i> | <i>Civic, Social, Political Education</i> |
| <i>Religious Education</i> | <i>ICT Skills</i> |
| <i>Science</i> | <i>Drama/Choir</i> |
| <i>History</i> | <i>Tutor Time</i> |
| <i>Geography</i> | |

Optional Examination subjects

Students choose 2 from the following list:

Band 1 - French/German/Business Studies

Students choose 2 from the following list:

**Band 2 – Visual Art, Business Studies, Spanish Graphics, Home Economics,
Music**

Academic Council

We encourage and support all students to strive to achieve their personal best. Achieving one's personal best does not happen by chance, however – it requires commitment, focus, determination and hard work. We congratulate and acknowledge the ongoing successes and outstanding achievements of many of our students, both past and present. However, some students may lose focus at times and, as a result, do not reach their full potential. This can result in students having regrets later in their academic career.

In 2009, following consultation with Parents' Council, Student Council, teachers and the Board of Management, an Academic Council was established. The main aim of this Council is to further encourage and promote the academic success of all students by supporting students, parents/guardians and teachers in monitoring student achievement. It also aims to support parents/guardians and teachers in challenging students to set academic targets and achieve results in keeping with their ability.

The Academic Council has set up a system of active academic tracking to monitor academic performance and to support students to achieve grades in keeping with their abilities.

The Academic Council has been commended by the Inspectorate, during inspections in our school, so much so that they have recommended to other schools to follow our lead in setting up an Academic Council. The Council is made up of a sampling of Senior Leadership, Guidance Counsellors, members of the Support team and subject teachers.

Religious Education

In Presentation Secondary School, Wexford, Religious Education plays a central role in the curriculum offered to students. We are committed to the importance of formal religious education, as it enables us to reflect on, explore and articulate what it means to be a Presentation school and a C. E. I. S. T. school. If a parent/guardian has concerns about the religious education of their child, then these concerns must be raised through appointment with the Principal, prior to accepting the offer of a place in the school.

VSware Positive Behaviour System

Our school has an online rewards system (through the school's VSware portal) which is designed to motivate students by recognising the great things they do in-and-out of the classroom. Students are awarded points or commendations for doing something well. Every student starts with 100 points – points can be added (or deducted). Parents/guardians have access to the VSware system and can monitor where their daughter is at, under the Behaviour tab.



iPad information

Wriggle is now providing an improved home delivery model where the student will receive their Wriggle bundle (iPad device/case) to their home (or designated address) over the summer period.

The student device will still be configured and personalised, as well as having a safe and secure management profile setup.

Each bundle will arrive with an easy to navigate 'Get Started Guide' that will include details of how the device is configured (This will be a combination of both physical and online video guides). All that will remain for the student to do is turn it on and insert a passcode (which will be addressed as one of the steps in the 'Get Started Guide').

Students are expected to be responsible in their iPad usage, as per the school's iPad Acceptable Usage policy.

Purchases of iPads and books can only be completed during a certain window – April 2nd – Mid June.

Website: www.wriggle.ie

Order online – enter unique school code: 27850241

Books can be purchased at www.bookhaven.ie or from any bookshop, so long as the books have unredeemed codes inside the book cover, in order to access the e-book version.

When the store opens online you can select the model and case, You can also select the bring your own device. It is recommended to be an 9th Generation iPad or higher.

Please note the following:

- Students who decide to bring their own iPad must have the iPad sent to Wriggle **by the end of May at the very latest.**
- It is necessary to have the iPad in on time to avoid delays with the installation of management software.
- Any iPads submitted in August/September must be in Wriggle HQ for 30 days for this process.
- Late purchases or late submissions of iPads incur long delays, as they are only processed after all other orders. This can present interruptions.

For further questions, please check the FAQ section on www.wriggle.ie/faq
In case of any queries, parents/guardians are strongly encouraged to contact Wriggle directly: e-mail: info@wrigglelearning.ie or telephone: 01- 5009060.

The Parents' Council

We hope that - as new parents to the school community - you will become actively involved in the life of the school. The Parents' Council votes new members onto the committee each year at their AGM. If you are interested in getting involved, please put your name forward at this meeting.

In-school supports

Several initiatives are organised by volunteer groups within the school.

They can change from year to year but have included a Breakfast Club, a Paired Reading and Support Maths programmes, Parenting Courses and individual subject support. Support initiatives are circulated through the students. Please contact the school, if you wish to join any voluntary groups or avail of any extra supports.

Supervised Study

Optional Supervised Study is available in school from Monday to Tuesday from 4.00pm to 6.00pm and Wednesday to Friday from 3.30pm to 5.30pm providing a structured environment that is conducive to productive study. Application forms are available on request.

Practical Information for new students

Structure of the school day

| Day | Start time | Finish time | Small break | Lunch |
|-------------|------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Mon & Tues | 8.50 | 3.50 | 11.00 – 11.10 | 1.10 – 1.50 |
| Wednesday | 8.50 | 3.00 | 11.00 – 11.10 | 12.20 – 1.00 |
| Thurs & Fri | 8.50 | 3.00 | 10.50 – 11.00 | 1.10 – 2.00 |

Please note that all classes are one hour in length.

Classrooms

The classrooms in the Presentation are teacher-based. That means that you will be moving to different classrooms, throughout the school day, depending on what teacher/subject you have on your timetable. You will be provided with a list of teacher-based rooms when you come to our school in late August. You will also have a dedicated “base” classroom, where your “tutor class” is based.

School Uniform

Our uniform is a green knee length skirt or school trousers (official), V-neck bottle green jumper with school crest, two honey gold shirts, green school jacket or fleece, pair of flat black or brown school shoes, bottle green or plain black socks or tights, red school scarf, white apron (for Home Economics), Physical Education uniform.

Lockers

You will receive a locker in the school. They will be allocated to you in the first week back to school. We recommend that you leave any valuables that you may have in your locker. You should also use the lockers as much as possible for your books/copies/folders, as this cuts down on the considerable weight of school bags. You should also get into the habit of going to your lockers at break times, in order to gather the books for the next block of classes.

E-mail

At the start of First-Year, you will be set up with your own personal school email address. This email address should be used appropriately and for school business only.

Homework

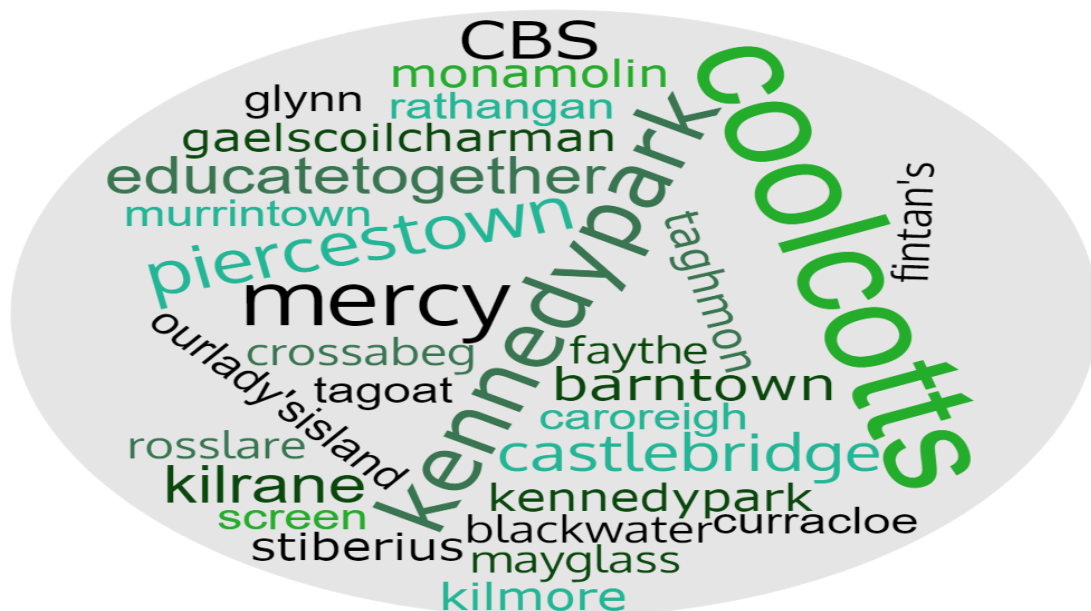
Get into the habit of noting all your homework/learning in your Student Journal. It is recommended that your parents/guardians check the journal each night to ensure that this

is being done and that you are completing your homework assignments to the best of your ability. Study should be done in a quiet environment, without the distraction of smartphones, television etc. An average week's study should be a combination of homework, revision, exam preparation and self-directed learning. It will not be possible on every evening to include all aspects, yet it is important that you learn the importance of revision from First-Year.

Study

Success in secondary school demands the development of good study skills and the establishment of a consistent pattern of study, which includes homework, revision, exam preparation and self-directed learning. Establishing this pattern, however, takes time, patience and determination but with the ongoing support of teachers, guidance counsellors and management, you can achieve your goal.

Where our incoming First-Year students are coming from in 2024-2025



Induction for First-Year students

In Presentation Secondary School, Wexford, we are committed to the welfare of all the students in our care. We are committed to ensuring that each student gets the best possible start in this school and that the transition, from primary school, is as easy as possible.

Class Groups - Tutor Classes

In First-Year, we try to ensure that students have as much stability as possible. As may have been the case in primary school, students will have a “base class” group, with whom they may have up to 75% of their classes with. This provides an ideal opportunity for them to get to know each other. In First-Year, students are assigned to mixed ability classes on the basis of their subject choices.

The Class Tutor

Each base class has a Class Tutor – this is a member of our teaching staff who will meet them, for 8 minutes, every morning for Tutor Time, which takes place immediately after the morning break. This constant contact means that new students have someone in the school with whom they have contact with each day and to whom they can talk with if there is any problem with which they need help.

The Year Head

Each year group has a Year Head, this is a member of our teaching staff who has overall responsibility for the year group. Year Heads deal with pastoral and behaviour issues in the year and have a great deal of contact with the students. Year Heads also work closely with the school’s Attendance and Punctuality Officer. If there is any difficulty with attendance or if a student requires a prolonged absence from school - the Year Head or Attendance and Punctuality Officer should be informed immediately.

The Induction Days

First-Year students will have their own Induction Days when they join the school in late August. These days are important orientation days for the students, which gives them a chance to get to know their classmates, their Meitheal Leaders and some of the teachers better before formal classes begin.

The Meitheal-Mentor Scheme

We have a student mentoring programme in Presentation Secondary School, Wexford. Sixth Year Meitheal Leaders are assigned to each First-Year base-class. They meet First-Year students before class begins and at break and lunchtimes in an informal way, which helps to support our new students in the new school community. They also help with transition issues and encourage First-Years to get to know their classmates by organising group activities and events for First-Years at different times in the school year. This is also an excellent opportunity for First-Year students to get to know some of the older students and to ask for their advice on issues.

The Student Council

There is an active Student Council in this school. Three student representatives, from each year group, are elected on to the school's Student Council. The job of the Council is to represent the views of the students to school management and to assist in the running of the school. Each year, the Council takes on a series of projects and initiatives, in which students get involved.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The philosophy of education in a Presentation school is a holistic one. For this reason, we are committed to a diverse programme of extra-curricular activities in our school, which is only possible through the ongoing commitment of our dedicated teachers, who give selflessly of their time. We encourage all students to get involved in extra-curricular activities in the school, as it helps personal development but is also a great way to get to know other students and to settle into the culture of the school more effectively.

Activities range from GAA: Camogie, Gaelic Football and Handball, Basketball, Soccer, Equestrian, Athletics, Outdoor Pursuits, Hockey, Badminton, Student Library Team, Green-Schools Committee, Deep-Green Creative Writing, Debating, Junior-and-Senior Choir, Feminist Society, Positivity Group, Nano Foundation, Games club, Computer club, amongst others.

The school also offers many subject-related school trips in the form of exchanges, foreign trips, drama productions, cultural trips etc.



Junior Cycle

Junior Cycle (subjects currently on offer)

Irish, English, Maths, French, German, Religious Education, Physical Education, Science, Geography, History, Business Studies, Home Economics, Spanish, Art, Music, Computers/ICT Skills, Graphics, Civic, Social, Political Education, Social, Personal, Health Education, Junior Cycle Key Skills, My Friends Youth, Life Skills

Description of the subjects

Irish - Junior Cycle Irish builds upon the language developed during primary education. The learner's vocabulary is both reinforced and enriched at this stage and the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) are further developed. In addition, the learner's linguistic and cultural awareness are expanded over the three years of Junior Cycle. Irish is a compulsory subject for all students who studied it in primary school. Students need to have Irish to enter some colleges/universities and courses, e.g. Primary School Teaching.

English - In Junior Cycle English, you will have many opportunities to be creative, to use your imagination, and to find out about great writers. You will also learn how to communicate more effectively with others and to express your point of view in many ways. By the end of the Junior Cycle course, you should be better able to understand your world and to express what you think about it. Junior Cycle English aims to develop students' knowledge of language and literature, to consolidate and deepen their literacy skills and make them more self-aware as learners. Most employers and colleges/universities will require students to have studied English. Higher Level English is a requirement for some courses e.g. Journalism.

Maths - In Maths, you will develop your problem-solving skills and your ability to present logical arguments. You will be better able to use what you learned in Mathematics in real life situations in everyday life and work. An extremely important subject, Maths is required for many courses and occupations. Higher Level Maths is needed for most Engineering courses in colleges/universities and some other specialised areas.

Religious Education - In Religious Education (R. E.), you will learn about what people believe, why they believe and how these beliefs influence their own lives, the lives of others and the world around us. You will explore how world religions have shaped the world you live in today. R. E. is a state examination subject for all Junior Cycle students in our school.

History - History involves the study of people who lived in the past - ordinary people as well as famous people. In History, you will learn about the sources of evidence on which we base our understanding of their lives. You will find out about important changes that, over time, have helped to shape the world in which you live. It will help you to better understand the world in which you live. You will gain experience of working with evidence and learn to tell the difference between fact and opinion. History is a very practical subject because it involves learning about people, countries, societies and cultures. History can help you in many different careers, especially those linked with heritage, tourism, research and the environment.

Geography - In Geography you will study about places, people and what shapes the environment. You will learn how the environment influences people, and how they change the environment. You will develop your ability to draw and understand maps, graphs and diagrams, as well as studying photographs and collecting information outside the classroom through fieldwork.

Science - We come across science in everyday things in the world around us, both living and non-living. Studying Science in school can help you to understand the importance of science in our lives and in the environment. By the end of Junior Cycle, you will be able to appreciate how scientists work and how scientific ideas are modified over time. Many of the skills you learn while studying science such as problem-solving and investigation skills are very useful outside of school and will be of use to you in whatever job you choose to do.

Business Studies - Business Studies aims to stimulate your interest in the business environment and how you interact with it. It develops skills, knowledge, attitudes and behaviours that allow you to make informed and responsible decisions with all the resources available to you, ensuring your own, and society's well-being, while becoming more self-aware as a learner. Business Studies encourages you to develop an appreciation of how people's lives are shaped by economic and social factors, while also improving knowledge and understanding of good business practice and of business as a productive activity.

Modern Foreign Languages (French, German and Spanish) - You will find modern languages useful in your personal life for travelling and in many careers including tourism, catering, education, business and translation services. A MFL is a requirement for entry to practically all colleges of the National University of Ireland. All students in First-Year are grounded in at least one language, since they cannot be started at a later stage in school. The continental languages currently being taught are French and German. Spanish can be offered if there is demand/teacher availability. A MFL is a requirement for entry to some colleges/universities and courses, especially in the National University of Ireland.

Graphics - In Graphics, you will learn how to represent 3D objects on paper and on computer. You will develop problem-solving and creative thinking skills through the solution of graphical problems. Graphics helps you to think in a more logical and creative way. You will be able to communicate information using diagrams and sketches.

Visual Art – In Visual Art, you will have the opportunity to create images and objects using a variety of tools, materials and special equipment. Many of the skills you learn while studying Art are very useful outside of school and in whatever job you choose to do in the future. There are many career opportunities - areas such as: photography, illustration, interior/industrial/fashion design, education and architecture.

Music – Junior Cycle Music focuses on giving students the opportunity to develop their musical knowledge, skills and cultural awareness through the practical and cognitive engagement with music. Music has a very important part in many peoples’ lives. Most of us will take pleasure in listening to music and many people will enjoy singing or playing an instrument throughout their lives. Some people may even decide to take up a career in music in many different areas.

Home Economics - Home Economics is a practical subject that combines aspects of science, nutrition, cooking, textiles, life skills and finance. Students learn about the inter-relationships between diet, health, family, home and choice and the management of resources. Home Economics delivers vital skills that enable students to lead effective lives as individuals and family members as well as members of the wider community.

Physical Education - Physical Education (P. E.) is a subject where you can take part in and learn about physical activities. You learn about how important keeping fit is for the health of your body and mind. In some activities you work on your own and in others you work with your classmates as part of a team.

Civic, Social and Political Education (C. S. P. E.) - Civic, Social and Political Education is taught to all Junior Cycle students. It aims to help you to become actively involved in your community, your country and the wider world.

Social, Personal and Health Education (S. P. H. E.) - In Social, Personal and Health Education, you learn about what might help you to make choices for a confident and healthy life. In this class, you will learn how to get on with your classmates better, as well as help each other to be healthy, safe and well.

Computers/ICT skills

Junior Cycle Key Skills

My Friends Youth

Life Skills

Junior Cycle: A broad education for your child

The new junior cycle will place the student at the centre of the learning process. It allows for new ways of learning and a broader range of skills to be properly assessed. This leaflet aims to inform parents of post-primary school students about the key changes underway.

Principles, Key Skills and Statements of Learning

Underpinning the new junior cycle are a set of principles, key skills and statements of learning. These will ensure that your child receives a rich educational experience that has both breadth and depth. Your child will have access to a varied curriculum of knowledge, skills and values.

Eight principles underpin the framework for Junior Cycle. These inform the planning for, as well as the development and implementation of, junior cycle programmes in all schools. The eight principles of Junior Cycle are *Learning to Learn, Choice and Flexibility, Quality, Creativity and Innovation, Engagement and Participation, Continuity and Development, Inclusive Education and Wellbeing*.

Eight key skills permeate across the entire curriculum



Through engaging with the key skills students will:

- be more actively engaged with learning
- take greater ownership of their learning
- have a critical engagement with digital technology
- be encouraged to problem solve and think creatively

How student achievement at Junior Cycle will be assessed

The release of the Junior Certificate results by the State Examinations Commission (SEC) in September 2016 marked the end of an era. In the future, junior cycle students will receive a new Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA). The JCPA will reflect a much wider range of your child's achievements over the three years of junior cycle. The JCPA will report on a number of areas, including:-

1. Subjects
2. Classroom Based Assessments
3. Short courses
4. Other Learning Experiences

Subjects

Schools will be able to choose from a total of 21 different subjects for inclusion on their junior cycle programme. All subjects are being revised and each one will have its own specification replacing what was previously known as a syllabus. Each specification describes the learning that takes place as part of the student's study of a subject in junior cycle. By 2019 all new subject specifications will have been introduced. Students can study a maximum of 10 subjects for the JCPA, and if their school offers short courses they can study 9 subjects plus 2 short courses or 8 subjects plus 4 short courses for certification purposes.

Classroom Based Assessments

Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs) provide students with opportunities to demonstrate their learning and skills in ways not possible in a pen and paper examination, for example, their verbal communication and investigation skills. CBAs will be undertaken in subjects and short courses and will be facilitated by the classroom teacher.

Language of Reporting

| CBA Descriptors | SEC Examinations |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Exceptional | Distinction 90-100% |
| Above expectations | Higher Merit 75-89% |
| In line with expectations | Merit 55-74% |
| Yet to meet expectations | Achieved 40-54% |
| | Partially Achieved 20-40% |
| | Not Graded 0-20% |

How will students know they are learning?



Assessment in Junior Cycle is changing to recognise and value the different types of learning that take place in schools. Students are at the centre of teaching, learning and assessment. This will allow for a more rounded assessment of the education of each young person, enable students to express their learning and provide them with opportunities to grow and flourish as learners. The areas highlighted below outline how changes in assessment will be seen across the three years of Junior Cycle including Level 1 and Level 2 Learning Programmes where relevant.

Ongoing Assessment in Junior Cycle

Year 1

Year 2

Year 3

Students Reflecting on Their Learning

Students are encouraged to reflect on how they are progressing in their own learning which supports them in taking ownership of their learning and their development as self-directed learners.



Assessment Moments

Teachers plan lessons and activities to capture learning. This may include gathering evidence of student knowledge, understanding, skills and values over the three years of their Junior Cycle education.



Formative Feedback

Teachers provide ongoing support and feedback to help students plan the next steps in their learning. Student collaboration is encouraged to support the sharing of ideas and students learning with each other.



Ongoing Reporting

Student progress and achievements in learning are reported to parents throughout the three years of Junior Cycle, giving an insight into where students are in their learning and how they can progress further.



Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)

Students will complete CBAs in all subjects and short courses. These are assessed by their teachers and take place in second and third year.



Final Examination and Assessment Task (AT)

Students complete a final examination in each subject at the end of third year. In addition, students will complete a project or reflective Assessment Task. These are assessed by the State Examinations Commission.



The Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement (JCPA)

The JCPA provides a comprehensive picture of student achievement throughout the three years of Junior Cycle. The JCPA is issued from the school within the calendar year of the Final Examination.



Transition Year

We offer Transition Year as an optional one-year programme, which is designed to bridge the gap between Junior and Senior Cycle and to prepare students for adult work. Numbers are determined annually by our school's Board of Management.

Subjects/modules offered in Transition Year are subject to annual review and changes.

Leaving Certificate

Subjects currently on offer (**may be subject to review and change**):

Irish, English, Maths, Religious Education, Careers/Guidance, Physical Education (non-exam), Relationships and Sexuality Education.

Students then choose four subjects from the following:

Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Agricultural Science, Home Economics (S&S), Politics and Society, History, Geography, Business, Accounting, Economics, French, German, Applied Maths, Physical Education (exam), Music, Art, L. C. V. P.

We were chosen by the Department of Education and Skills to be a pilot school for the new Leaving Certificate Politics and Society examination and the new Leaving Certificate Physical Education examination.

