



ST. JOSEPH'S SECONDARY SCHOOL

PROUD OF OUR PAST, CONFIDENT OF OUR FUTURE



Iontaobhas Scoileanna Éamainn Rís
Edmund Rice Schools Trust

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WELCOME

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

Thank you for considering St. Joseph's Secondary School for your son/ daughter. I hope that our school prospectus will give you an insight into our school, our values and our curriculum.

We aim to give students a love for learning while developing their social skills, self-esteem and confidence. We have a thriving and diverse range of programmes for our students including Junior Cycle, L2LP, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Program and Leaving Certificate Applied. Our blend of academic and social programmes nurture inclusivity and provide our students with an opportunity to connect to local, national and international societies.

We offer an extensive extra-curricular programme which ensures that our students feel a sense of connection and belonging to our school. Our extra-curricular activities enable students to come together with others and work in teams, build positive relationships and flourish.

Paul Savage
Principal



Mission Statement



Our school recognises that each pupil who enrolls in our school is unique and has different gifts as well as different needs.

It is our wish that our pupils will leave us with enhanced self-confidence and with life skills and attitudes which will enable them to lead lives satisfying to themselves and which may contribute to the betterment of society.



We recognise that a pupil's development is closely linked to a good self-image and so we strive to present the school's total curriculum in such a manner as to allow all to realise their full potential.

We see ourselves as working in partnership with parents to develop the gifts and to meet the needs of all. We regard our school as an educational establishment with a Christian community characterised by care and justice.



Key Elements of an Edmund Rice School

1. Nurturing Faith, Christian Spirituality and Gospel Based Values
2. Promoting Partnership in the School Community
3. Excelling in Teaching and Learning
4. Creating a Caring School Community
5. Inspiring Transformational Leadership

Junior Cycle

Core Subjects

All Students Study:

English
Irish
Maths
Science
History
Geography
Religious Education

Non exam subjects

All Students study:

Digital Media Literacy
Computer Studies
Wellbeing
Physical Education
SPHE
CSPE

Subject Options

Students choose from:

Business Studies
Classical Studies
Visual Art
Music
French
Spanish
German
Graphics
Wood Technology
Applied Technology
Home Economics



Transition Year



Transition Year (TY) is a one-year programme that forms the first year of a three-year senior cycle in St Joseph's. It is designed to act as a bridge between the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate programmes. Transition year in St Joseph's is optional and involves 3 individual weeks of work experience.

Transition Year offers students an opportunity to mature and develop without the pressure of an examination. It also an opportunity for students to develop real life skills, such as organising events, working as part of a team or group, giving presentations to groups, getting involved in charity events, doing paired reading in the primary school, helping out in a nursing home and stepping out of one's comfort zone by participating in the school musical.

Transition Year in St Joseph's is year where students mature, develop new friendships and explore new skills which they can use outside the classroom long after they leave school.

Irish
English
Maths
Continental Language
Coding & Robotics
CAD & SolidWorks
Applied Maths
Home Economics
Politics & Society
Music
Enterprise
Visual Art
Car Maintenance
SPHE
GAA Future Leaders
Religion
Science
Computer Studies
PE
Career Guidance
Jiu Jitsu
Couch to 5K
Swimming
First Aid
Performance Arts
Touch Typing



Leaving Certificate

Leaving Certificate

All students study English, Irish and Maths, as well as Wellbeing, non-exam Religion and PE. We provide an extensive variety of subjects for students to study at Leaving Certificate to cater for all interests. In addition, every student chooses a further 4 subjects from the following:

Applied Mathematics	Religious Education (Exam)
Business	Technology
Accounting	Construction Studies
Economics	Design & Communication Graphics
History	Agricultural Science
Geography	Biology
Politics & Society	Chemistry
Classical Studies	Physics
German	Physical Education (Exam)
Spanish	Visual Art
French	Music

Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

LCA is a 2 year programme for students who want to do follow a practical Leaving Cert and prepare themselves for the world of work. It has a strong focus on preparing students for lifelong learning and helping them develop real life skills for the world of work beyond school. A strong component of LCA in St Joseph's is building students' self esteem by taking the pressure of terminal exams and motivating them to be successful. It is aimed at students who prefer to learn by doing.

Leaving Certificate Vocational Program (LCVP)

Students are also given the opportunity to study the Leaving Certificate Vocational Program.

LCVP students take their seven subjects as normal for Leaving Cert, plus an extra subject, which is broken down into 2 link modules.

More detailed information on the link modules can be found on www.ncca.ie.

The link modules are:

- Preparation for the world of work
- Enterprise Education



School Facilities



- 3 Biology Laboratories
- 1 Physics Laboratory
- 1 Agricultural Science Laboratory
- 1 Chemistry Laboratory
- 2 Art Rooms
- 4 Computer Rooms
- 3 AS Classrooms
- 3 Learning Support Classrooms
- Sensory Room
- Nurture Room
- First Aid Room
- Canteen
- General Purpose Area
- GAA Pitch
- Music Room
- Library
- DCG/Graphics Room
- Graphics IT Suite
- 3 Woodwork Rooms
- 2 Technology Rooms
- Greenhouse
- PE Hall
- Fully equipped gym
- Astroturf pitch
- 2 outdoor basketball courts







STEM

We have a strong and proud tradition in STEM subjects in the school (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths).

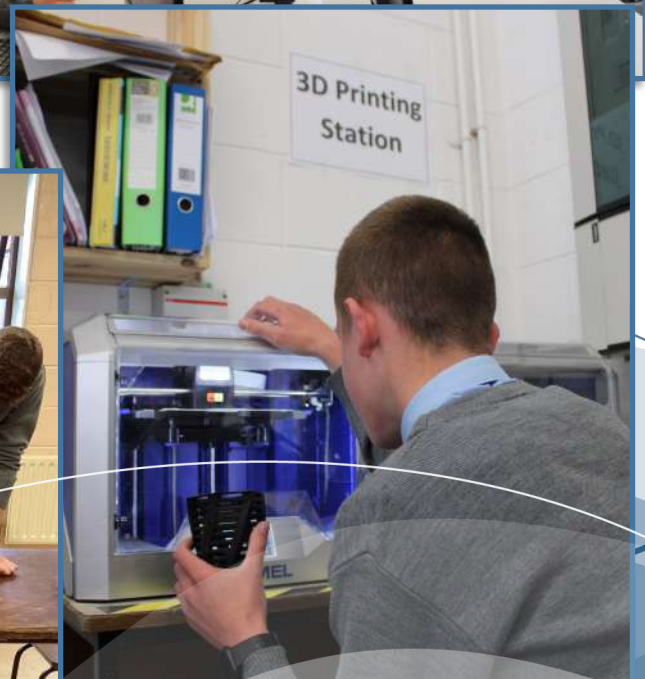
Our Whitaker extension in 2015 saw the school expand to include three fully equipped, state of the art Woodwork rooms, two Technology rooms and six Science laboratories.

We offer an extensive range of STEM subjects to our students such as Construction Studies, Technology and Design & Communication Graphics and Leaving Certificate.

We introduced Applied Mathematics to our curriculum in 2020.

All students at Junior Cycle have the option of studying Wood Technology, Applied Technology and Graphics.

Science is compulsory for all students at JC. Our broad range of STEM subjects enables our students to engage in further study in many disciplines at third level.



School Support



First year students are supported in their transition to secondary school through a range of effective structures in St. Joseph's.

The Student Support Team is a visible representation of the school's understanding and valuing of each student as an individual. Students who experience severe difficulties in life will find it difficult to have cognitive space for learning. Therefore, the rationale of the support team is to strive to care in a genuine way to improve the lives of students and thereby ensure access to the curriculum and learning. The Support team for each year group meets weekly. This working group consists of one of the Deputy Principals, the Guidance Counsellor, the specific Year Head and Additional Educational Needs (AEN) coordinator.

Each first-year class groups will also be assigned a Form Tutor who will be a link teacher who the student can engage with on a regular basis. The Form Tutor will work alongside the Year Head in advocating for and championing their class group.



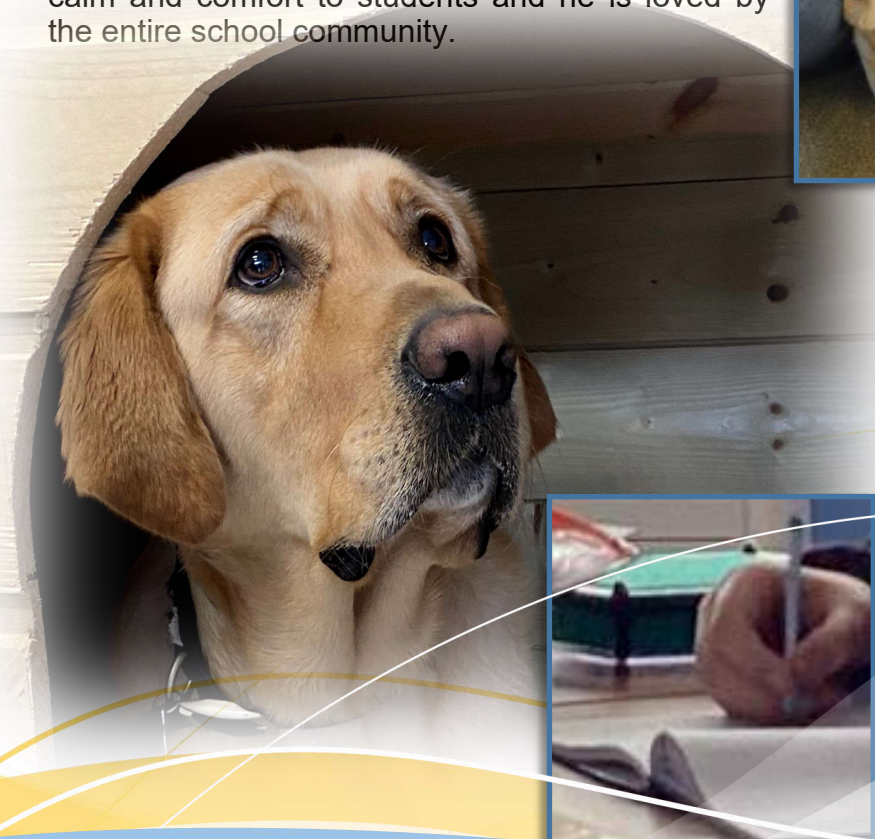
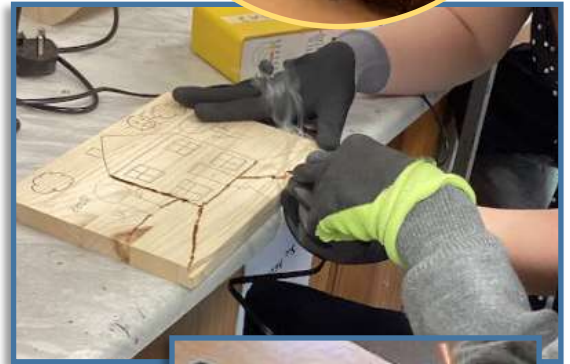
AS Classes

Inclusion is a core part of our school ethos and we have four specialised classes for students with Autism in St. Joseph's. These classes are equipped with additional ICT, specialist furniture, life skills area/kitchenette and a fully equipped sensory room. An allocation for a specialist AS 2.6 million euro new building, connected to the existing building has been recently granted by the DES with a three-year timeline for completion.

Our AS classes take a maximum of 6 students each and this allows teachers and SNAs to work intensively with each of the students in the class to their specific needs and enable them to reach their full potential. Students in our AS classes are offered a dual learning environment, where they access mainstream classes and specialised classes tailored to their learning needs.

Andrew our Community Dog

Andrew joined our school community in September 2021 and is a community dog, fully trained to work with students with autism with thanks to Irish Guide Dogs. Andrew works with the students in our AS classes and helps reduce anxiety and stress. Andrew provides a wonderful sense of calm and comfort to students and he is loved by the entire school community.



Teaching & Learning



Here in St Joseph's we are committed to providing high quality teaching and learning for all of our students. Our dedicated team of teachers are continuously upskilling in their subject areas and working collaboratively to ensure best practice in the classroom.

We also have specific teams of teachers working in areas such as School Self Evaluation, Teaching and Learning, Literacy and Numeracy development, Student Attainment, STEM, Digital learning, Active schools, Inclusion and Diversity and Academic Mentoring.

The collective work of these teams and teachers ensure that classes in St. Joseph's are vibrant, engaging, challenging and inclusive. We strive to challenge and support students to realise their full potential and do the very best that they can in the future.

Wellbeing

We have a comprehensive and engaging Wellbeing program in the school. Students complete 400 hours of Wellbeing at Junior Cycle, comprising of PE, SPHE, CSPE and a double Wellbeing class. All 5th years also have a double class of Wellbeing each week. Student wellbeing is a core part of our school ethos and students study a variety of fun and innovative modules to enhance their physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing.



Awards

St. Joseph's is committed to a policy of recognition, encouragement and reward of positive behaviour. We have in place effective school and class expectations and routines where students are clear on the boundaries and positive behaviours which facilitates engagement in learning. In St. Joseph's students are recognised for all their efforts in areas such as:

- Academic Achievement
- Wellbeing
- Determination to Succeed
- Reading/Library achievements
- Curricular Awards (Music, STEM, Art & Creativity, Technology)
- STEM Ambassador of the Month Award.
- Characteristic Spirit
- Sporting Accomplishments
- Extra-Curricular Success



Extra Curricular Activities

At St. Joseph's Secondary School, we pride ourselves in the variety of extra-curricular activities on offer to our students. We try to cater for all our students and each year we respond to their needs and ambitions in numerous fields of endeavour. The school has a long and distinguished record in sport and extra-curricular activities.

Activities include:

- Football
- Chess Club
- Gaisce
- Hurling
- Performing Arts
- Society of St Vincent de Paul
- Athletics
- Homework Club
- Coding Club
- Basketball
- After School Study
- Library Club
- Soccer
- Green Schools
- Science Club
- Swimming
- Student Council
- Games Club
- Golf
- Can Sat Team
- Inter Class Soccer Tournament
- Rugby
- Build A Bank
- Erasmus +
- Breakfast Club
- India Immersion Project
- Drop Everything & Read
- Educational Tours
- Young Entrepreneurs
- BLAST Project
- Accelerated Reader
- Freckle Maths
- Culture Week
- Christmas Card Sale for Local Charities
- Young Economist Project
- Maths Club





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