

February 2025

Nóta ón bPríomhoide / Principal's Note

I want to thank all families and guardians for your loyal support and commitment to school and your student's education.

Our vision is Success For All. These bulletins give us a chance to celebrate and take stock of all the work that we are doing.

Our school is at the heart of the community. Sporting, cultural, youth, support services all make use of our school throughout the year. This is because Coláiste Chú Chulainn is a thriving school in a thriving town and has great ambitions. It is important that the ambitions of families are part of everything that we do in school.

In this bulletin, you will see that we work hard to achieve academic success and also emphasis a Zero Tolerance approach to bullying, cyber-bullying.

A resource for parents in Louth has been launched on <https://www.louthparenthub.ie/> It is a great website, and I strongly recommend you review it.

Please, read this document and always discuss school with your student.

Le Meas

Thomas Sharkey

Principal

Contacting School	
Note in the Student Journal	www.colaistecc.ie
colaistecc@lmetb.ie	042 9354553
Twitter @ColChuChulainn	Parent Teacher Meetings
Home School Liaison Mr Cumiskey	086 1287719



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Upcoming Events and Important Dates

Date	Time	Event
Friday 7th March.		1 st Year Vaccinations

School Activities/Events

Awards Day 2025

Our Awards Day took place on Monday, 24th of February from 11:30am to 1:00pm with all students present. The music department planned the entertainment. Thank you to Mr Corrigan for co-ordinating the event. Our guest speaker was Mr Bertie Ahern former Taoiseach, leader of Fianna Fáil, Tánaiste, Minister for Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht, Minister for Industry & Commerce, Minister for Finance, Minister for Labour, Lord Mayor of Dublin and TD as our guest of honour. Mr Ahern was an architect of the Good Friday Agreement, 25 years ago. There was academic, sports and attendance awards.



Creative Spark Upcycling Fashion Programme (Art)

The Creative Spark Upcycling Fashion Programme students took part in their sustainable fashion project on the 6th, 13th and 27th of February. They will be attending two more workshops on March 6th and March 13th.

Cultural Dress Celebration Day

There was a cultural Dress Celebration Day on the 14th of February.



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Excellent Attendance Certificates

Over 230 students received excellent attendance certificates. The importance of school attendance helps our students to achieve positive educational outcomes. Attendance is the core to success in school.

O'Faich Institute 6th Year Talk

O'Faich Institute presented Post Leaving Certificate (PLC) options to our 6th year students on Tuesday, 25th of February. Thank you to the Guidance Department for organising this.

Dundalk Scoildrámaíocht Festival

4th Year students attended the annual Irish language Scoildrámaíocht Festival in An Táin Theatre, Dundalk on Thursday, 27th February. The festival gave students the opportunity to act, gain confidence and have fun all as Gaeilge. Thank you to Ms Ní Thomhnair for organising this.

Sports

Coláiste Chú Chulainn Crowned U19 Basketball All-Ireland Schools League Champions!

Congratulations to our U19's who are the All-Ireland Champions. Thank you to their coaches Mr Slowey and Mr Murray.

U19 B Boys Basketball All Ireland Champions

Coláiste Chú Chulainn have etched their name in history as the U19 B Boys All-Ireland Schools League Champions, securing a fantastic 70-59 victory over Salesians at the National Basketball Arena on Thursday.

This was a true team effort, with captain Franciszek Chmielecki leading the charge, scoring an impressive 18 points. The scoring was evenly spread across the team, highlighting their depth and teamwork, as Joseph Osagie (17 points), David Osagie (16 points), and Mascuud Amir Haji (16 points) all made vital contributions to this incredible win.

The game started off as a tight contest, with Coláiste Chú Chulainn holding a 19-17 lead after the first quarter. As the match progressed, they steadily built momentum, extending their advantage to 35-30 by halftime.

The third quarter was where Coláiste Chú Chulainn truly stamped their authority on the game, launching a breathtaking 19-point scoring run to take control. A brilliant corner three from Mascuud Amir Haji pushed them to a 46-30 lead, before Chmielecki's emphatic dunk sealed a dominant quarter at 54-30.

Salesians fought hard in the fourth quarter, but Coláiste Chú Chulainn stood firm. A clutch three-pointer from Chmielecki, followed by a key basket from Joseph Osagie, put them in a commanding position at 61-42. Despite Salesians' late efforts, cool heads and precise free throws from Chmielecki and Amir Haji ensured Coláiste Chú Chulainn's well-deserved triumph.





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Speaking after the game, Coach Mr. Slowey expressed his immense pride in the team:

“Absolutely delighted to get over the line! Salesians beat us in the U16 cup final a few weeks ago, so we owed them one, and today was our turn. I’m so proud of our lads - they’ve worked incredibly hard for this moment, training through summer, midterm breaks, and Christmas holidays. They truly deserve this, and now we’re moving up to ‘A’ basketball, where they belong.”



This victory is a testament to the dedication, resilience, and skill of Coláiste Chú Chulainn’s players and coaches. Huge congratulations to the entire team on this historic achievement - what a moment for the school and the community!

Champions of Ireland!

Quarter Scores: Q1 19-17, Q2 16-13, Q3: 19-4, Q4 16-25

Coláiste Chu Chulainn:

Maciej Dobros, Kevin Mincans, Joseph Osagie, Mascuud Amir Haji, Franciszek Chmielecki, Belvis Osadiaye Nosa, David Osagie, Mylka Paloso Kabangu, James Obisan, Fahd Monney, Christos Kostopoulos, Miguel López Ríó.

Top Scorers: Franciszek Chmielecki (18), Joseph Osagie (17), David Osagie and Mascuud Amir Haji (both 16)

Head Coach: Mr. K Slowey, Mr. A Murray.





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Our 1st and 2nd Years boys played on the 4th of February and 10th of February against St Mary's Drogheda. Thank you to their coaches Mr Murray and Mr Corbally.



Boys Soccer

Our U15's played on Wednesday, 26th of February. They played in the Leinster Shield last 16 game. Thank you to their coaches Mr Nicks, Mr Rafferty, Mr Breen, and Mr Fearon.



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Information and Courses for Parents/Guardians

Student Information Management System - Compass

We have a new information management system in our school, Compass. You should have received an email to the email address you supplied to school. That email gives you your username and one-time password. When you log in, you will have to change the password. If you have more than 1 student, your log in detail will give you access to all of your student records.

Once logged in, you will see the following details on your student:

1. Profile (Attendance, Schedule / Timetable).
2. Academic Reports.

This new system means that we will no longer post reports to you in hard copy. We will switch on an Events utility on Compass. This means that you will receive a notification if your student is nominated to attend on a trip or play in a match. You will then have to confirm your consent to the student participating. If you do not confirm consent, the student may not travel or play in the event.

Compass also notifies you if your student is absent and will request a written note in the Student Journal to explain the absence.

Studyclix

The Studyclix resource is available to all 3rd and 6th Year students. Details of registration have been shared through Year Heads / ICT tutors. This resource allows students to access past questions and revision exercises at home and without the need to buy past papers. It is part of our drive for the best results for everybody. This will increase their ability to manage their studies and also reduces financial burden on families.

After-School Study

We offer an after-school study programme. This provides a quiet and structured environment for students to focus on their homework and to study.

After-school study in Coláiste Chú Chulainn fosters good study habits and time management skills that benefit students in the long run.

Working in a group setting encourages collaboration and peer learning while the environment also caters for individual, quiet study. After-school study keeps our students engaged in productive activities, reducing distractions.

The after-school study facility creates a supportive learning environment that helps students succeed. We invite students to participate, and we look forward to assisting an increased number of students who wish to participate.



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After School Study takes place on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 4:00pm-5:30pm. If interested, please contact the school office on 042-9354553.

State Examinations Commission

The timetables for the 2025 Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Applied and Junior Cycle examinations have been published on www.examinations.ie. Copies of the timetables are below.

The suite of timetables can be accessed under the Examinations 2025 Banner on the home page.



Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.

JUNE	SUBJECT	TIME
	H = Higher Level O = Ordinary Level F = Foundation Level	
WEDNESDAY 4	English, Paper 1 - H & O	9.30 – 12.20
	Home Economics, Scientific and Social - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
THURSDAY 5	Engineering - O	9.30 – 12.00
	Engineering - H	9.30 – 12.30
FRIDAY 6	English, Paper 2 - H & O	2.00 – 5.20
	Geography - H & O	9.30 – 12.20
MONDAY 9	Mathematics, Paper 1 - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
	Mathematics - F	2.00 – 4.30
TUESDAY 10	Mathematics, Paper 2 - H & O	9.30 – 12.00
	Irish Paper 1 - H (incl aural)	2.00 – 4.20
WEDNESDAY 11	Irish Paper 1 - O (incl aural)	2.00 – 3.50
	Irish - F (incl aural)	2.00 – 4.20
THURSDAY 12	Irish, Paper 2 - O	9.30 – 11.50
	Irish, Paper 2 - H	9.30 – 12.35
FRIDAY 13	Biology - H & O	2.00 – 5.00
	French - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
MONDAY 16	French - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	History - H & O	2.00 – 4.50
TUESDAY 17	Business - O	9.30 – 12.00
	Business - H	9.30 – 12.30
WEDNESDAY 18	Art, Visual Studies - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
	German - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
THURSDAY 19	German - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Construction Studies - O	2.00 – 4.30
FRIDAY 20	Construction Studies - H	2.00 – 5.00
	Polish, Lithuanian, Portuguese and Mandarin Chinese - H&O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
MONDAY 23	Polish, Lithuanian, Portuguese and Mandarin Chinese - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Hebrew Studies, Ancient Greek and Non Curricular Languages (see Note 2)	9.30 – 12.30
TUESDAY 24	Agricultural Science - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
	Spanish - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
WEDNESDAY 25	Spanish - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Chemistry - H & O	2.00 – 5.00
THURSDAY 26	Physics - H & O	9.30 – 12.30
	Physics and Chemistry - H & O	9.30 – 12.30
FRIDAY 27	Accounting - H & O	2.00 – 5.00
	Design and Communication Graphics - H & O	9.30 – 12.30
MONDAY 30	Music - Listening (Core) - H & O	1.30 – 3.00
	Music Composing - H & O	3.15 – 4.45
TUESDAY 31	Music - Listening (Elective) - H	5.00 – 5.45
	Economics - H & O	9.30 – 12.00
WEDNESDAY 1	Physical Education - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
	Italian - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
THURSDAY 2	Italian - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Russian - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
FRIDAY 3	Russian - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Classical Studies - H & O	2.00 – 4.30
SATURDAY 4	Latin - H & O	2.00 – 5.00
	Technology - O	2.00 – 4.00
SUNDAY 5	Technology - H	2.00 – 4.30
	Japanese - H & O - Written	9.30 – 12.00
MONDAY 6	Japanese - Aural	12.10 – 12.50
	Politics & Society - H & O	9.30 – 12.00
TUESDAY 7	Arabic - H & O	9.30 – 12.30
	Religious Education - O	2.00 – 4.00
WEDNESDAY 8	Religious Education - H	2.00 – 4.30
	Applied Mathematics - H & O	2.00 – 4.30

Notes



Leaving Certificate Applied Examination

Timetable 2025

WRITTEN TIMETABLE 2025

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subjects in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.

JUNE	TIME	SUBJECT
WEDNESDAY 4	9.45 – 11.45	English & Communication
	2.00 – 4.00	Social Education
THURSDAY 5	9.30 – 10.30	Gaeilge Chumarsáideach
	9.30 – 12.30	Sign Language (see Note 1)
	2.00 – 4.30	Sign Language (see Note 1)
	2.00 – 3.00	French / German / Spanish / Italian
FRIDAY 6	9.30 – 11.30	Mathematical Applications
	2.00 – 3.30	Hotel Catering & Tourism
MONDAY 9	9.30 – 11.00	Engineering
	2.00 – 3.30	Child Care / Community Care
TUESDAY 10	9.30 – 11.00	Graphics & Construction Studies
	11.30 – 1.00	Hair & Beauty
	2.30 – 4.00	Office Administration & Customer Care
WEDNESDAY 11	9.30 – 11.00	Agriculture / Horticulture
	2.00 – 4.00	Technology
THURSDAY 12	9.30 – 11.00	Active Leisure Studies
	2.00 – 3.30	Craft & Design



Coimisiún na Scrúduithe Stáit
State Examinations Commission

JUNIOR CYCLE EXAMINATION

TIMETABLE 2025

Each candidate should note carefully the dates and hours, as fixed on this official timetable, for the examinations in the subjects in which he/she intends to present himself/herself. The Commission will not be responsible for any errors which may occur in the reproduction of this timetable by outside agencies. Candidates are required to be in attendance at least half an hour before the examination begins in the subject in which they first present themselves.
The start time for all Junior Cycle afternoon examinations is 1.30p.m.

JUNE	SUBJECT		TIME
	H = Higher Level O = Ordinary Level C = Common Level		
WEDNESDAY 4	English	- H & O	9.30 – 11.30
	Religious Education	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
THURSDAY 5	Irish T1	- H & O (incl aural)	9.30 – 11.30
	Irish T2	- H & O (incl aural)	9.30 – 11.30
	Geography	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
FRIDAY 6	History	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	Mathematics	- H & O	1.30 – 3.30
MONDAY 9	Science	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	Business Studies	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
TUESDAY 10	Graphics	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	Italian (incl aural)	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	French (incl aural)	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
WEDNESDAY 11	Home Economics	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.00
	Spanish (incl aural)	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
THURSDAY 12	German (incl aural)	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	Wood Technology	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.00
FRIDAY 13	Jewish Studies	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.30
	Music	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.00
	Engineering	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.00
	Classics	- Common Level	1.30 – 3.30
MONDAY 16	Applied Technology	- Common Level	9.30 – 11.00

Leaving Cert Languages

Need more information deciding on Leaving Cert Languages?

Are you a student or parent who would like to know more about studying **Chinese, Lithuanian, Polish** or **Portuguese** for the Leaving Certificate?

Languages Connect is organising a series of online information sessions to help students and parents become familiar with the new Leaving Cert curriculum and also learn about language classes available for students and funded by the Department of Education. This is the link to the information sessions:

<https://languagesconnect.ie/leaving-cert-information-sessions/>



Supporting Parents Initiative

The [Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth](#) (DCEDIY) have developed a **Supporting Parents Initiative** which brings together trusted, high quality resources in one place, to help parents and guardians to navigate their parenting journey. The page may be of interest to parents/guardians. The page is continuously updated as new resources become available locally and nationally. The page can be accessed [HERE](#).

Parentline Supports for Parent in Non-Violent Resistance Programme



Parentline offers a Non-Violent Resistance Programme (NVR) to support parents with information and guidance on how they can both prevent and respond to the controlling behaviours of their children. Child to parent violence can be physical violence but it also includes verbal abuse, emotional abuse, manipulation, intimidation and any other coercive and controlling behaviours.

Why would a parent need NVR support?

Sometimes parents or carers are afraid of their own child because of the abusive and violent behaviour directed towards them. NVR aims to end certain patterns of behaviour and repair the damaged relationship between the parent and the child. It supports parents to change the ways in which they deal with violent, aggressive and controlling behaviours. Parents are supported in developing skills to deescalate the abusive behaviour. Parents learn to increase their positive presence in their child's life. It helps parents to understand that it is the behaviour that is the problem and not the child.

How is NVR delivered by Parentline?

The NVR programme requires the commitment of taking a one hour a week phone call from a highly trained, experienced Parentline volunteer. This is done in a confidential manner. The programme can last



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from anywhere between 4 and 8 weeks depending on how well and quickly it is implemented. It is usually offered to parents of children aged from 12 years to 17 years. Parentline is open Monday to Thursday from 10:00am to 9:00pm and Fridays from 10:00am to 7:00pm. Call 01 873 3500.

National Parents Council Launch Podcast

The National Parents Council (NPC) has launched a podcast which brings together experts, educators, and student representatives to discuss key issues in education that impact parents and children across Ireland. The latest episode focuses on Senior Cycle Redevelopment, featuring insightful discussions with:

- ✓ Esther Doyle (Department of Education) - Understanding the vision behind the Senior Cycle changes.
- ✓ Dr Colman Noctor - Supporting your child's mental health and managing stress during the Senior Cycle ✓
Jack McGinn (President, ISSU) - A student perspective on the reforms and what they mean for learning and wellbeing.
- ✓ Arlene Forster (CEO, NCCA) - How curriculum and assessment reforms will shape the future of education.

The podcast is available on the platforms below:

Amazon, Apple Podcasts and Spotify.

Get Ireland Active

Get Ireland Active has launched a new interactive map which would be a wonderful resource to share with parents. The map will guide the user to explore thousands of opportunities, from casual to competitive, and find those that suit their family best. The Get Ireland Active map aims to help users to take control of their own activity journey. All in one place, explore countless trails, clubs, facilities, and public places across the country. You can access the map [HERE](#).

FREE QQI Level 5 modules in Childcare

LMETB hope to commence FREE QQI Level 5 modules in Childcare (now called Early Childhood Learning & Care) part-time, through their Back To Education Initiative (**BTEI**).

BTEI classes are eligible to those who meet any of the criteria below:

- Have less than upper second level education (Leaving Certificate) **OR**
- Have a medical card or are the dependent of a medical card holder **OR**
- Are in receipt of a social welfare payment (e.g. Jobseeker Allowance/ Benefit. One Parent Family Payment, Cares Allowance, Disability Allowance, etc.)

For those seeking asylum, they must have their work permit before being eligible.



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For further details you can contact: LMETB FET Campus, Chapel St, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91 XV08

Contact: Claire O Boyle

Tel: 086 068 9542

Email: bteilouth@lmetb.ie

Empowering Further Education and Training (FET) Learners to Drive Climate Action: New Module Launch

Solas has a groundbreaking module aimed at equipping every Further Education and Training (FET) learner with the essential green skills and sustainability awareness needed to become catalysts for change on climate action.

This newly developed module, a vital component of the Government/Solas's commitment to environmental responsibility, offers learners the opportunity to delve into various user research topics and methods, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of the pressing climate challenges we face. Throughout the course, learners will explore practical ways to reduce their carbon footprint through the 'Reduce your Use' program, hosted on the user-friendly eCollege platform. Participants will gain valuable insights and knowledge, enabling them to make informed decisions that positively impact our environment.

Learners can sign up for the 'Reduce your Use' course on eCollege

<https://www.ecollege.ie/fetch/?sfcw-courseid=403961>

Upon completion of the course, learners will receive a certificate of completion, highlighting their dedication to sustainable practices. To ensure accurate tracking of learners' progress, tutors are kindly requested to save a copy of these certificates and submit the details of learners who have successfully completed the course through the convenient. [Tracking Form](#).

This innovative module not only empowers FET learners but also underscores the Government/Solas's commitment to fostering a greener future. By equipping individuals with the necessary skills and knowledge, we can collectively address climate change and create a more sustainable society.

This module is a vital component of the Government/Solas's pledge to equip every FET learner with the green skills and sustainability awareness necessary to act as real agents of change on climate action.

LMETB FREE Training Courses for Parents/Guardians

LMETB Adult Learning Service are offering the following FREE courses:

ESOL Courses (English for Speakers of Other Languages) - this course is for 4 hours per week for 12 weeks.

Computers/iPad/Smartphone Courses - this course is for 2 hours per week for 12 weeks.

Intensive Literacy and Numeracy Courses for Adults - this course is for 6 hours per week for 14 weeks and is QQI accredited.



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To register for any of these courses call or text 086-0598585.

Louth Tusla Parenting

Louth Tusla Parenting have developed an online pivotal point of information for parents in Louth. The "**Louth Parent Hub**" website which is <https://www.louthparenthub.ie/>. Parents can access parenting programmes at the following link: [Programmes \(louthparenthub.ie\)](https://www.louthparenthub.ie/programmes)

The key functions of this website are to:

1. **Inform** parents what Services are in their own locality, through providing a categorised "**Directory of Services**" that is easy to navigate and geo-mapped to provide results in closer to their own location.
2. **Help** Parents identify what "**Programmes/Supports**" are available in their area and link them with a local provider who they can contact directly through the website.
3. **Provide** Parents with up-to-date information on programmes and events happening in their area, using a "**Calendar of Events**" that can be populated by services who sign up to join the Louth Parent Hub. There is a QR code to the Louth Parent Hub below:



Visit the
Louth Parent Hub
for information on the
support, services and
events happening in
your local area



Scan QR Code to visit
louthparenthub.ie

PROGRAMMES
Discover a range of parenting and family related training programmes happening across Louth under the support of the Louth ABC programme.
VIEW PROGRAMMES

LOCAL SERVICES
Our aim was to provide families with the most up to date information available to them, and a way to find and contact the required services.
FIND LOCAL SERVICES

UPCOMING EVENTS
WHAT'S ON
View our live calendar of events, on which you can register your interest and contact the provider directly.
WHAT'S ON

Area Based Childhood
LOUTH LOCAL DEVELOPMENT
Child and Family Support Network
TUSLA
CYPSC

Louth Speech and Language

The Louth Speech and Language team are now on social media. You can follow the team for Speech and Language advice and tips.



Healthy Louth Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2024

Healthy Louth have designed a bi-monthly newsletter please find the link to the 12th edition below:

[Healthy Louth Newsletter Autumn/Winter 2024](#)

The Healthy Louth Newsletter will signpost to various health and wellbeing information / programmes and events happening across Louth each month. The content of the newsletter incorporates Healthy Ireland themes including:

- Mental Health
- Nutrition
- Physical Activity
- Sexual Health
- Spaces & Places for Health and Wellbeing
- Tobacco & Alcohol

- Older People
- Workplace Wellbeing

Parenting24seven

Parenting24seven is part of the Supporting Parenting project in Prevention Partnership and Family Support service within Tusla. You can choose your child's age range or look through their different articles. The link to the website is as follows: parenting24seven

Barnardos Online Safety Webinar for Parents

Barnardos trainers deliver live webinars to parents about online safety with a short Q&A after. These 45-minute webinars are free to register. There are generally two webinars a month. See below to register your place on an upcoming webinar, and download [this flyer](#) for more information. The link to the website is: <https://www.barnardos.ie/learning-development/training/online-safety-programme/for-parents/>



Barnardos Online Safety Programme

Online safety Webinar for Parents

Duration: 45 minutes
Group size: Up to 100
Costs: Free

Overview

Barnardos online safety webinars for parents are based on current research and best practice to promote online safety for children. We believe that open communication between children and adults and regular conversations about a child's online use are key to helping children stay safe online. We do not scare or sensationalise, our objective is that parents leave our webinar feeling empowered and have practical tips that will help their family stay safer and be happier on the internet.

Our workshop is suitable for parents with children of all ages and it is held live, on Zoom with an experience Barnardos trainer.

Topics covered are:

- How to talk to your child about online safety
- Parental controls
- Helpful websites
- Cyberbullying and how to help your child
- How to encourage digital wellbeing
- Sexting
- Strategies gaming and screen time

Learning outcomes

Parents will be able to:

- Outline the key risks for children with being online
- Implement practical solutions and tips to help their children stay safe online
- Reflect on how they might help their children if they were cyberbullied/cyberbullying
- Recognise ways to interact with their child's online world and day to day experiences
- Identify helpful websites and research and signpost them to others

You can register for the next available parent webinar on our website at www.barnardos.ie/osp

Advice for Parents about Cyberbullying



<https://www.webwise.ie/parents/>

THE INTERNET PRESENTS wonderful opportunities for children, from education to entertainment.

Despite the terrific opportunity it represents, the internet contains its fair share of safety concerns that all parents worry about. Chief amongst them is cyberbullying, which can affect any child on the internet. The Safer Internet Day 2023 Report and Research Findings, which is available to view on Webwise, noted that 45.3% of teenagers in Ireland had witnessed some kind of mistreatment online, meaning it's more important than ever for parents and teachers to speak with children about their online activities.

As shown in the above report, cyberbullying is sadly one of the more common negative experiences children encounter online in Ireland. The effects of cyberbullying can last a long time and affect a person in many ways. However, there are steps we can take to support children and teens online.

There is lots of helpful advice for families and schools available from Webwise. These include the Parent's Hub, which provides helpful talking points and conversation starters that can help parents to deal with conflict around technology use at home.

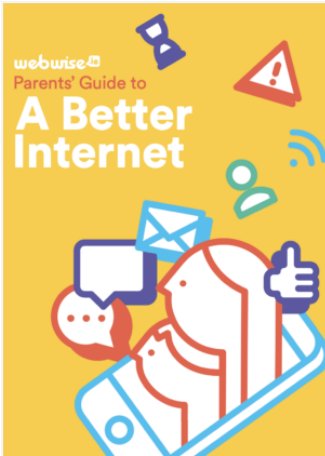
What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is bullying with the use of digital technologies. It can take place on social media, messaging platforms, gaming platforms and smartphones.

It is important to note that Cyberbullying can happen to anyone. It is always wrong, and it should never be overlooked or ignored.



Children may not be aware of the emotional damage cyberbullying, and all other forms of bullying can cause to the victim. Educating your children on this topic and enforcing the importance of not standing by while someone else is being bullied will help contribute to responsible internet use.



As cyberbullying takes place on the internet, we do not see the victim in front of us. You cannot tell the impact cyberbullying has on a person as a result.

What parents can do to prevent cyberbullying?

Prevention is better than cure. Talk to your child about online bullying before it happens.

1. Early conversations

It is never too late to start conversations and instruct children about safe and respectful communication. An important part of the conversation is around developing good habits around how they use technology, reviewing the settings and talking to them about making friends online.

2. Privacy settings and features

Privacy settings go a long way in keeping your child safe online. Your child can choose who gets to be friends with them online and stay protected from other users. Familiarise yourself with the apps they are using and go through the settings together. Ensure your child understands the safety features, such as blocking and reporting. Talk to them about who they are connecting with and avoid having profiles set to public.

3. Encourage positive connection and respectful communication

Encourage your child to treat others with respect online in all of their interactions. Remind them that they play a role in making the internet a friendly place for all. Open a dialogue with them about how to be a good friend on the internet, including when they witness cyberbullying taking place. If they see cyberbullying take place, let them know that they can report it to help those that are being bullied.

4. Asking for help

Talk to your child about the steps to take when they need help. Establishing rules around what is acceptable on the internet can help guide them in this regard. They should not feel nervous or fearful to approach you if they need help, so reminding them that you support them and are willing to listen can be extremely helpful.

5. What to do if something goes wrong

Remind your child that they can come to you if anything upsets them online. If cyberbullying has occurred, remember to keep the messages and instances of abuse. Report the abusive parties to the moderators of the platform where it took place. Banning your child from using the internet or taking away their smartphone can damage trust and may make them less likely to come forward if cyberbullying occurs again.

Remain calm and do not alarm them by taking immediate action they are not comfortable with. But it should also be made clear to them that in order to help them, you may have to speak with their teachers and the parents of other children who may be involved and contact the Gardaí in serious cases.



IN GET ADVICE, PARENTS

Dealing with Cyberbullying

What is Cyberbullying? Online bullying is something you should talk about with your child before it happens.

Ideally

School Notices

Attendance

- Attendance is the first step to academic success.
- There are **166 school days** in the year and every one of them is important.
- Attendance is an important life skill that will help your child both now and in their future.
- It will benefit a student's well-being, education, and career.
- Improved literacy and numeracy skills, even among those students who are struggling in school.
- Students who frequently attend school feel more connected to their community and develop strong social skills and friendships.
- Fahd Monney on the right continues to represent his family and town with Dundalk FC. He has full attendance in school.



Top 10 attenders in Leaving Certificate

Our top 10 attenders in the Leaving Certificate had over 80% attendance. Our top 5 students had over 90% attendance.

This shows the importance of school attendance with regard to achieving positive educational outcomes for our students. As we know, attendance is the core to success in school.

We pride ourselves on the excellent attendance of our students. Alan Jumbo sat his Leaving Cert in June 2023. He did not miss a day of secondary school. His Leaving Cert results were excellent, and he is heading to university to follow his dreams. Our best results are achieved by the best attenders. In the 2021 – 2022 school year, 44 students had full attendance. In the 2022 – 2023 years, this went up to 99!

We understand that there are unavoidable events and circumstances. When your student is absent from school, you will receive a SMS from the school system advising you that a note is required in the Student Journal.



Parents / Guardians can help make Every School Day Count

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Be organised. Make sure they have everything ready from the night before.
- Have their coats and bags at the door.
- Have their lunch made.
- Have their uniform/PE uniform ready.

Communication with School

Our school is very busy. We remind all families of the communications procedure we have in place:

1. Student Journal should be signed by guardians every week.
2. Guardians should note communication in the Student Journal and record absences / late arrivals in the front cover.
3. Guardians should email colaistecc@imetb.ie to request an appointment if required.
4. All students who have medical appointments, must be collected, and signed out in person by a guardian.

Homework and Study

Coláiste Chú Chulainn has an ambition for all students to excel in their academic endeavours. This means that we give homework, revision, and study tasks each day to all our students. Students should record this in their student Journal and should be busy with school work each evening. We ask that families ensure your student has the time and space to do this important work. We also require that guardians and parents check the Student Journal every week at a minimum and be part of the student's success.

The government and Department of Education now provide free copy books and materials to all 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Years. This will roll out to all senior students next year. This means that all students must have all their work neat, tidy and in the correct copies. We suggest that guardians read your student's work on a regular basis and discuss what they are learning.

As a school, we appreciate your support for our work and your student's progress.

Student Absences

All student absences from school need to be recorded in the inside cover of the school journal. This is the best way for school and family to record absences. It means that you and the Year Head can account for all days missed.

Punctuality (Beat the Bell)

Students are expected to be punctual each morning. It is important for your student to understand the importance of being in school on time and to go to each class on time. Your student is expected to be in



Coláiste Chú Chulainn

Parents & Guardians Bulletin Coláiste Chú Chulainn



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the school by 8:45. Missing a few minutes each day at the start of the school day or during the school day can add up to many hours lost over the year.

Good punctuality means:

- You show respect for the person you are meeting.
- You respect yourself enough to keep your word.
- You prove that you can be trustworthy.
- You are appreciated for being on time.
- You are regarded as a dependable person.
- You are seen as a professional.
- You build a powerful reputation for your character.
- You attract more opportunities for your character.
- You eliminate stress from your life by removing the anxiety of being late.
- You do the right thing and feel good about it.

Medical Certificates/Hospital Appointments

If your student(s) attend a doctor or hospital appointment, we need your student to bring in the medical certificate/hospital appointment to their Year Head who will then put this in their student file. This will explain their reason for their absence in school.

Healthy Eating Policy

We remind all parents/guardians that school provides a free snack at 10.50am and a free sandwich at 1.10pm. All students should bring an empty bottle as we have filtered water towers for them to drink fresh water.

Our school's Healthy Eating Policy prohibits sugary, salty, fatty foods. Students are NOT allowed take items such as sweets, lollies, crisps, chocolate, and minerals to school. **We have asked local shops to stop selling these items to children in the mornings.**

This policy is to ensure the best health, wellbeing, concentration, and dental hygiene for our young people. It is not acceptable for students to bring unhealthy foods to school. We instruct students and you teach your children to avoid lollipops, packets of biscuits and crisps. So, together, we will ensure they do not have them in school.

Mobile Phone Usage in School

The government and Department of Education is concerned about the use of mobile phones in school. We share this concern. Our policy is clear - that all student phones must be switched off throughout the school day. If a student is found to breach this rule, we confiscate the phone and require an adult to come to school to collect the phone from school. We appreciate everybody's support in this matter.



Vapes and E-Cigarettes

Vapes, cigarettes and e-cigarettes are prohibited in schools in Ireland. It is illegal to sell these products to young people. We take a dim view of vaping in our school and remind all guardians that a student who is found to be vaping, in possession of a vape, or involved with assisting others to be involved in vaping will be suspended.

We ask that all guardians discuss the dangers of vaping and smoking with your students.

Uniform Policy

All students know about the Uniform Policy. It is on page 7 of their journal. Please ensure full uniform at all times. Note the rule on facial piercings please. Our school has a clear uniform policy. I ask that all students follow it correctly. Some items to be aware of are that the tracksuit bottoms should be navy.

Only school jackets are allowed. We ask that all students wear their school jacket to school. Remember the uniform requires black shoes or black runners.

Proud of Our Heritage

Heritage and culture are important to all of us. We want to cherish the heritage of all students in our school. We now have a Culture Cabinet where we display items from across the world. If you have a souvenir from a country or region around the world, we would love if you donated it for display in our cabinet.