

English as an Additional Language (EAL)



English as an Additional Language (EAL) – Supporting Integration, Inclusion and Success at Coláiste Chú Chulainn

At Coláiste Chú Chulainn, our **English as an Additional Language (EAL) Department** plays a vital role in ensuring that students arriving from different countries, cultures and linguistic backgrounds feel welcomed, supported and included in our school community. As a proud multicultural school, we recognise that language should never be a barrier to education, friendship, opportunity or success.

Our dedicated EAL teachers provide targeted language support classes to students who are developing their English language skills. These classes help students build confidence in speaking, listening, reading and writing, while also supporting their understanding of the language used across the wider school curriculum. Beyond academic development, our EAL programme is instrumental in helping newly arrived students settle into school life, form friendships, develop a sense of belonging and fully participate in the many opportunities available at Coláiste Chú Chulainn.

For students who have arrived in Ireland after experiencing conflict, displacement or significant changes in their lives, our EAL Department provides much more than language lessons. It offers a

welcoming, supportive environment where students can rebuild their confidence, find their voice and begin a new chapter in their educational journey.



One particularly inspiring example of the transformative impact of our EAL programme is the story of **former student Daniel Mushuli**.

Daniel joined Coláiste Chú Chulainn after fleeing his native Ukraine during the height of the Russia–Ukraine conflict. Arriving in a new country, entering an unfamiliar education system and speaking very little English presented significant challenges. However, through the dedicated support of our EAL Department, alongside his own remarkable determination and hard work, Daniel made extraordinary progress.

Speaking about his experience, Daniel highlighted how EAL support transformed his time at Coláiste Chú Chulainn, helping him overcome language barriers, integrate into school life and achieve his academic potential.

Just three years after arriving with very limited English, Daniel graduated from Coláiste Chú Chulainn with outstanding academic results. His achievements were further recognised when he became **one of two students from his graduating year at Coláiste Chú Chulainn to receive a scholarship through the prestigious *No Mind Left Behind* programme.**

Daniel's journey is a powerful testament to the importance of providing meaningful language support and creating an inclusive educational environment where every student has the opportunity to succeed, regardless of their background or circumstances.

As part of our **School of Sanctuary journey**, our EAL Department embodies our commitment to the principles of *Learn, Embed and Share*. Through language education, understanding, compassion and practical support, we strive to ensure that students who arrive at our school seeking safety, stability and opportunity are given every chance to thrive.

At Coláiste Chú Chulainn, we believe that every student deserves to feel that they belong. Our EAL programme reflects our school ethos of **“Success for All”**, demonstrating that with the right support, language barriers can be overcome, potential can be realised and every student can become a valued and successful member of our school community.

