



Avondale Community College

Leaving Certificate Applied 2026 Admissions Policy

Mission Statement

“Learning to Grow through Respect and Trust”

1. Overview

Avondale Community College has offered Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) since 2021. This decision was influenced by the attendance and participation levels of the students involved and feedback from both existing and potential students. Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) is a Two-Year programme offered as an alternative to the traditional Leaving Certificate Programme.

2. Aims of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme

The aims of the LCA Programme reflect those specific to the guidelines published by the Department of Education and Skills, namely:

- Prepares learners for the demanding transition to adult and working life.
- Recognises talents of all learners - programme responsive to aptitudes, abilities, needs and interests.
- Provides opportunity to develop in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge.
- Develops communication and decision-making skills.
- Helps learners achieve a more independent and enterprising approach to learning and to life.

3. Curriculum

The LCA curriculum follows the Curriculum Framework and Module Descriptors as specified by the Department of Education and Skills. Subjects and electives will be decided each year based on student aptitude and staff availability.

4. Admissions Procedure

- 4.1 Information on the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme will be sent to all interested parents and students.
- 4.2 LCA Application Microsoft online form will be made available to all interested students. A copy of the LCA Admissions Policy is available on the school website or by request through the school office.



- 4.3 Completed application forms must be returned by the specified closing date. Late Applications may not be considered. Completion of the application form does not guarantee a place on the programme.
- 4.4 External applicants must apply to enrol in Avondale Community College before completing an LCA Application form. These students are then subject to the same applications process as all other students.
- 4.5 Students must complete an interview. The student may be accompanied by a parent/guardian at the interview.

5. Criteria for Admission

- 5.1 Avondale Community College recognises the right of all students to apply for the LCA Programme.
- 5.2 It is important to note that places on this programme are limited.
- 5.3 For the 2026 academic year, a maximum of 15 places on the LCA programme will be available. This will be reviewed on an annual basis.
- 5.4 The student must submit a LCA Application Form (online Microsoft Form) detailing his/her interest and suitability for the LCA Programme. The student must also attend for interview.
- 5.5 The following criteria will help ascertain suitability for the Programme:
 - 5.5.1 Level of interest indicated by the candidate at interview.
 - 5.5.3 Willingness to participate fully in all elements of the LCA Programme.
 - 5.5.4 Student's satisfactory attendance record in school. The attendance score is calculated regardless of absent notes submitted to be fair to all. The review of dates is September 1st to Friday 31st January of the current academic year.
 - 5.5.5 Student's behavioural record over the three years of Junior Cycle/Transition Year or in the case of an external candidate, the student's previous school.
 - 5.5.6 The extent to which the LCA Programme represents the best possible pathway for the student to achieve success at Senior Cycle.

6. Interview Scoring & Procedures

- 6.1 Interview will be conducted and marked according to the following

Marking Scheme: Total 100



- Attendance 30
- Interview 20
- Behaviour Record 20
- Personal Achievements to Date 10
- Overall Suitability 20

6.2 Avondale Community College will endeavour to inform applicants if they have been allocated a place in LCA in a timely fashion. The closing date for applications in this academic year is January 31st 2026. Offers of a place on the programme will be made by February 13th 2026. Confirmation of acceptance of a place in LCA must be given by February 27th 2026 and a deposit must be paid by February 27th 2026.

6.3 Successful candidates will be offered a provisional place in the LCA class and their Parents/Guardians will be informed by letter.

6.4 This provisional place on the programme will be subject to the signing of an LCA Contract.

6.5 Students who return a signed LCA Contract are then considered accepted onto the LCA Programme in Avondale Community College.

7. Appeals Procedure

7.1 Appeals must be made in writing to:

The Principal, Avondale Community College, Rathdrum, Co. Wicklow
within 5 working days of the date of letter sent to unsuccessful applicants.

Board of Management Ratification	Date 13/01/2026
Board of Management Review	Date November 2026



Appendix 1

**Avondale Community College
Leaving Certificate Applied
Interview Score Sheet**

Student's Name: _____

Date of Interview: _____

Criterion 1	Attendance	30 marks
Criterion 2	Interview	20 marks
Criterion 3	Code of Behaviour Record	20 marks
Criterion 4	Personal Achievement to Date	10 marks
Criterion 5	Suitability	20 marks

Criterion 1 30 marks	Criterion 2 20 marks	Criterion 3 20 marks	Criterion 4 10 marks	Criterion 5 20 marks
Attendance	Interview	Code of Behaviour	Personal Development	Suitability
0-5 days = 30 6-10 days = 25 11-15 days = 20 16-20 days = 15 21 plus days = 10	0-4 Poor 5-9 Fair 10-15 Good 16-20 Excellent	No SBR = 20 1 SBR = 15 2-3 SBR = 10 4-5 SBR = 5 6-7 SBR = 0	0 Poor 1-3 Fair 4-7 Good 8-10 Excellent	0-2 Not suited 3-9 Somewhat 10-15 Very Well 16-20 Extremely

Signature: _____ Date: _____