



Presentation Secondary School

About Our School





Presentation Secondary School

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Mission Statement

Presentation Secondary School, Coláiste na Maighdine, is a Catholic school for girls (only), inspired by the vision of Nano Nagle, and under the trusteeship of CEIST. This school is a community of students, parents, staff and management. Together we aim to provide our students with an education for life, recognising and fostering, in a caring environment, the unique dignity and value of each.

The Core Values of CEIST:

- Promoting Spiritual and Human Development
- Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning
- Showing Respect for Every Person
- Creating Community
- Being Just and Responsible



Principal's Welcome



Dear Students and Parents,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to our school and to thank you for considering us as the next step in your daughter's educational journey. Choosing the right post-primary school is an important decision, and we are delighted to showcase what makes our school such a special place to learn and grow.

Our modern, purpose-built facilities provide a bright and stimulating environment where students can thrive. Equipped with up-to-date classrooms, specialist subject areas, and the latest learning technologies, our building is designed to support excellence in teaching and learning.

We are proud to offer a wide range of extracurricular clubs, teams, and societies. From sport and music to debating, drama, and STEM, these opportunities enable students to broaden their horizons, develop new skills, and enjoy a truly holistic education.

What truly sets our school apart is the dedication of our staff. Every teacher is committed to nurturing the talents of their students, supporting them as individuals, and fostering the success of each and every child. For those who require additional support, our specialist team ensures that every learner can access the curriculum and achieve their potential. Visitors this evening are warmly invited to view our ASD classroom, which reflects the inclusive ethos of our school community.

Equally, our students are a source of great pride. They are welcoming, enthusiastic, and always ready to offer a helping hand. Many of them are here tonight to guide you around the building, answer your questions, and share their own experiences of school life.

We hope your visit gives you a sense of the vibrant, inclusive, and ambitious community that defines our school. We look forward to welcoming you and your daughter into our school community in the future.

Warm regards,

Sally Ronayne
Principal

School Curriculum

Presentation Secondary School provides a learning environment that looks to support our students' efforts to realise their potential. The school offers Junior Cycle, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate Established and Leaving Certificate Applied programmes. A wide range of subjects is offered, with an annual review to ensure we meet the needs of our students, while providing excellence in teaching and learning within the resources available to us. Based on best practice, our first year base classes will be formed based on mixed ability

Junior Cycle

Presentation Secondary School provides the Junior Cycle - a key change in education over the past twenty years. Learning in the Junior Cycle is informed by eight principles, which underpin the entire Framework for the Junior Cycle

- Wellbeing
- Quality
- Inclusive Education
- Learning to Learn
- Creativity and Innovation
- Continuity and Development
- Engagement and Participation
- Choice and Flexibility



Core

Maths
English
Irish
History
Geography
Religious Education

Wellbeing

CSPE
SPHE
PE
Learning2Learn
Speech and Drama
Computer Studies

Options

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

Autism Class

We are very proud of our ASD special classes, newly established in September 2025. These classes allow us to cater for autistic students who can participate, with support, in a mainstream school. The students attached to our autism classes attend a mix of both mainstream and small group classes, according to individual need.



Junior Certificate School Programme

The Junior Certificate School Programme attempts to help young people experience success and develop a positive self-image by providing a curriculum and assessment framework suitable to their needs. The programme aims to ensure that students actively participate in their learning, make progress and build on their achievements. The programme also aims to develop students' literacy, numeracy, communication and group work skills. Our dedicated JCSP team work closely with students to ensure ongoing participation and success.

To enable a sense of achievement JCSP students use statements to assess their progress. These statements are filled out over the three years of Junior Cycle and completed in third year for JCSP profiling.



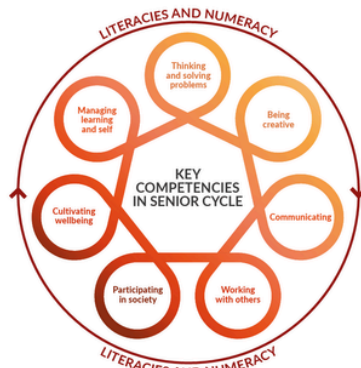
Senior Cycle



Students in Senior Cycle pursue a one-year Transition Year Programme followed by a two-year Leaving Certificate.

Transition Year

Our outstanding TY programme is designed to promote the personal, social and vocational development of pupils and to prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society, through a varied and practical Transition Year Programme. We provide a varied and challenging TY Programme to ensure that 'students enjoy their learning, are motivated to learn and expect to achieve as learners' (LAOS 2022) and that students get a broad experience of 'Being a Learner'. Students continue their academic studies in core subjects such as English, Irish and Maths, taster subjects for senior cycle options including all three science subjects, DCG, art, drama, politics and society, history, geography and home economics, but also get to explore other subject areas unique to TY, such as sustainability, cookery, musical theatre and hair and beauty.



TY promotes education for maturity with an emphasis on personal development, including social awareness and increased social competence and supports our students in developing general, technical and academic skills with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning through group and project work. Students have a wide range of opportunities for engagement, such as Gaisce, SVP, Bros. of Charity Integrated PE Programme, STEM Passport for Inclusion, our Digital Leaders programme and Microsoft Dreamspace, to mention a few.

Personal development is encouraged with a focus on 'Career Exploration' through experience of adult working life during our work experience and community work placements, so that 'students develop the skills and attitudes necessary for lifelong learning' (LAOS).

Students are also encouraged to access wider opportunities for personal growth and career development through Erasmus+ and many other career/skills and learning programmes offered both locally and nationally.

Transition Year Classes:

Core Academics: English, Irish, Maths, French, German

Core Classes: Religious Education, SPHE, PE, Career Guidance

Tasters of LC Subjects: Geography, History, Home Economics, Art, Applied Technology, Graphics, Politics and Society, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Hair and Beauty, Accounting

TY Exclusive Subjects: Creative Writing, Public Speaking, Speech and Drama, Coding, Sustainability, Cookery, Craft, Tapestry, Ethics, Enterprise, Musical, Dance, Creative Arts, Work Prep, Management, Finance Management, Information Technology, World Of Science, Spanish (Basic)



Leaving Certificate Established

The Leaving Certificate begins in Fifth Year. All students are required to take a minimum of seven examination subjects, which are offered at all levels.

Core Academics: English, Irish, Maths

Optional Subjects:

- Accounting
- Art
- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Physics

- Design & Communication Graphics
- Drama, Film and Theatre Studies
- French
- Geography

- German
- History
- Home Economics
- LCVP
- Music
- Politics and Society
- Leaving Certificate Physical Education

**Note the availability of options is subject to sufficient demand and resources*

Non Examination Subjects

The following subjects are an integral part of the curriculum and are taken by all Senior Cycle students:

- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Career Guidance



Leaving Certificate Applied

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) is a two-year Senior Cycle programme aimed at students who prefer practical learning and continuous assessment over a purely academic, exam-focused approach. It's designed to prepare students for work, further training, or progression to certain third-level options.

The LCA programme at Presentation is designed to give students an opportunity to follow a distinct, self-contained, practical two-year programme relevant to their needs and to provide students with qualifications for their future lives. We strive for high attainment in LCA, with many past pupils having received the LCANA Fergal Quinn National Award for Excellence in LCA over the past number of years.

The programme is structured around key areas: vocational preparation, general education, and practical experience. Assessment is based on projects, assignments, and practical tasks completed throughout the two years, along with final exams. Students build credits continuously, which reduces the stress of a single high-stakes exam.

Our students for adult and working life by developing confidence and self-esteem, together with literacy and numeracy skills. The emphasis is also on the personal and social development of all students participating in the programme by integrating subjects in a variety of areas and supporting self-evaluation and reflection.

LCA students are supported in making further study and career plans through work experience placements, career investigations, college visits and a wide variety of practical assignments on the course and will participate in four work experience placements over the course of the two-year programme.

Key Features of LCA

- **Practical Learning:** Emphasis on hands-on tasks, real-world projects, and work experience makes learning more relevant and engaging.
- **Continuous Assessment:** Students gain credits steadily through projects and tasks, rewarding consistent effort and reducing pressure.
- **Work Experience:** Placements give students first-hand insight into careers, helping them make informed choices about their future.
- **Confidence and Skills Building:** Focus on communication, teamwork, and problem-solving helps students develop skills employers value.
- **Flexibility for Different Learners:** It suits those who would prefer an alternative to traditional academic routes but thrive in applied, practical learning environments.



Core Subjects: English & Communication, Mathematical Applications, Gaeilge Cumarsáideach, Communicative French and Social Education.

Specialist and Elective Subjects: Information Technology, Childcare/Community Care and Hair & Beauty.

Students with Additional Educational Needs

Presentation Secondary school welcomes pupils with Special Education Needs (SEN) and, in line with the Education for Persons with Special Needs Act 2004, recognises “the need to provide that the education of people with such needs shall wherever possible take place in an inclusive environment”. Proactive steps are taken to ensure that the school provides an inclusive environment that is non-judgmental and supportive.

All staff seek to support students with additional needs in an inclusive environment, as is possible within the resources provided to the school.

Model of Special Education Teaching Support

Special Education Teaching Support in Coláiste na Maighdine is organised in line with the NEP's “A Continuum of Support for Post-primary Schools” (DES 2007). According to this model, support is organised at three different levels:

- Support for all students
- School Support (for some students)
- School Support Plus (for a few students)



English as an Additional Language

Presentation Secondary School is a highly diverse community with many students learning English for the first time. English as an Additional Language is a curriculum-based extra support for students whose first language is not English. All EAL classes are taught surrounding the CEFR Framework and their core four strands - Reading, Writing, Listening, Speaking.

Guidance Counselling Service

The school has two counsellors, Ms Deirdre Quinn and Ms Aura Matthey, to help students who may encounter difficulties in their lives.

There is a comprehensive guidance and careers information programme available to each student. This includes both timetabled career-guidance classes and individual counselling.

Class Tutor and Year Head

Each class has an assigned teacher who acts as the class tutor. The class tutor meets with the students daily and monitors their progress, checks in on attendance and wellbeing, and passes on important announcements.

Each year group has an assigned Year Head. The Year Head, on behalf of the school community, takes on the role of overseeing the welfare of a year group so that learning and growth are supported.

Code of Behaviour

The Code of Behaviour complements other school policies, and is not in conflict with them. The guidelines for dealing with certain forms of unacceptable behaviour, such as substance abuse, may be dealt with more completely in a separate policy.

The Code of Behaviour could be summarised in a simple code of conduct:

- ***Treat everyone at school with care and respect***
- ***Take good care of our school's image and reputation***
- ***Take good care of our school's buildings and grounds***
- ***Be careful with others' property***
- ***Work to the extent of your ability***
- ***Allow others to work to the extent of their abilities***

Attendance Officer

Our attendance officer will make contact with your home on any day you are absent. The attendance office is located on the ground floor.

Student Council

Our school has a Student Council, which represents the student body. Each class has one elected representative. The Council meets regularly to promote the views of students and to improve school life.

5th Year Mentors

A group of Fifth Year volunteers who meet with and support First Year students during the transition from primary to post-primary school. They undergo training to equip them with the skills necessary to become mentors to our first-year students. They support students through our Induction Programme and check in regularly with mentees.

Homework

Presentation Secondary School values the part homework plays in the education of our students. Homework allows each student to build on her learning in class.

Homework activities may include:

- Written or Learning Assignments
- Revision Work
- Essay Writing
- Completing Class Work
- Project/ Coursework
- Research (including online)
- Creating videos or PowerPoints
this can include the use of modern technologies such as CapCut or TikTok
- Oral and Aural Practice Work
- Preparation for debates, role - plays
- Reading
- Experiments or developing practical cookery skills
- Drawing
- Model Making
- Word processing
- Watching a set programme or online video

Homework Club

Homework Club is available for an hour after school, Monday to Thursday, for all First Year students. Experienced staff and older (Transition Year) volunteers are on hand to help with homework.

After School Study

Supervised Study is available Monday - Thursday, 4:10 pm - 6:10 pm. It is open to all years, and interested students are notified of the fee and payment arrangements in September. It is highly recommended that all students avail of Supervised Study, as it provides a quiet space each evening where students can comfortably study and complete homework assignments. There is a charge for this facility, and details are available from the office.

Parents' Association

The Parent Association helps to create an environment where all parents know that their views matter, and where they feel confident and comfortable putting them forward. They work on behalf of all parents to discuss educational matters that are of importance to all. They do not get involved in individual matters relating to children or staff in the school

Home School Community Liasion

The HSCL co-ordinator promotes partnerships between parents, teachers and the local community to ensure the best possible educational outcomes for our students. These relationships are fostered through Home Visits, organising classes for parents in our vibrant Parents' Room, and by linking parents with groups and activities in our local community.

Senior Prefects

Our senior prefects are selected during the second term of Fifth Year. Applications are made in writing, and interviews are held. Teachers and the student year group play a part in the selection process. It is an honour to be selected as a prefect, and perhaps you will aspire to this position. Prefects perform a number of specified duties around the school.

Uniform Details

It is in the interests of all students that a good image of our school is presented to the general public at all times and a spirit of equality and community is fostered. To this end, the school uniform must be worn while at school. It must also be worn during examination time or when students are representing the school at public functions. All items of uniform are either black, red, or white.

School Uniform:

- Black knee-length uniform skirt
or
Black Presentation uniform trousers
- White shirt
- Red tie
- School jumper
- Black tights or black or white socks
- Black shoes

P.E. Uniform:

- Black tracksuit ends
- White/red polo T-shirt (all 1st -3rd years must wear the red school polo shirt)
- Non-marking runners
- Sport socks .

No jewellery is allowed except a watch, one ring, and one pair of small earrings. Makeup may not be worn except for a discreet amount of tinted moisturiser or concealer. One discreet nose stud piercing is permitted.



Extra-Curricular/Co-Curricular

Students can greatly benefit from participating in sports and extra-curricular activities. Their natural sense of fun and spontaneity flourishes in positive sporting environments. Therefore, we encourage all students to try the various sports and pastimes we offer. Beyond the important health advantages, sport offers an excellent opportunity for students to develop new skills and build self-confidence.

Presentation Secondary School is a truly active school, supporting both competitive and recreational pursuits.

Book and Poetry Club

Young SVP

Athletics

Science Club

Games Club

Amber Flag

Basketball

Choir

TY Digital Assistants

Badminton

Soccer

Camogie

Diversity Committee

Green Schools

