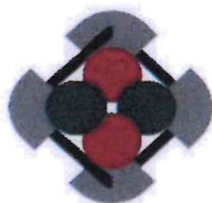


ST CIARÁN'S
COMMUNITY SCHOOL



OMNES VIRTUTEM SEQUENTES

St. Ciarán's Community School

LCA Policy

St. Ciarán's Community School

Leaving Cert Applied Admission Policy

Background to the LCA

The Leaving Certificate Applied is a distinct, self-contained two year programme aimed at preparing students for adult and working life. The programme puts an emphasis on forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past. It is an innovative programme in the way students learn, in what they learn and in the way their achievements are assessed.

The LCA is intended to meet the needs of those students who are not adequately catered for by other Leaving Certificate programmes or who choose not to opt for such programmes.

The advantage of the Leaving Certificate Applied is that it focuses on the talents of each individual student and helps students apply what they learn in the real world. The two year programme consists of four half year blocks called sessions and achievements are credited in each of these sessions.

LCA in St Ciarán's Community School

The LCA was introduced to recognise the talents of all students and to provide those not adequately catered for by the traditional Leaving Certificate with opportunities for development in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge. The maximum number of students in each LCA class will be set each year depending on allocation.

LCA Personnel and Classes

LCA Coordinator: Peter Carry

Class Tutor: Each LCA class is assigned a Class Tutor

Student Selection

Students are selected for the LCA based on their suitability for the programme. The selection process involves:

- **Liaison with the student's parents:** An information session on the programme is provided for parents and students.
- The closing date for applications is outlined at the LCA information evening, and late applications may not be considered.
- **Application form:** A written application form must be completed in respect of each student intending to enrol on the LCA programme.
- The Board of Management reserves the right to decide on the numbers entering each programme on an annual basis.
- In each case, it is important that enrolment of the applicant in the opinion of the school is considered beneficial to that child's continuing education.
- The Board of Management reserves the right to refuse an application which includes an established prior record of poor behaviour
- **Academic Review:** year head of 3rd year, class tutors and core subject teachers are consulted to assess the student's performance in the school up to Junior Cycle/Transition Year
- Attendance, referrals, and suspensions are taken into account when students are being selected for LCA.
- In the event that there are more suitable applicants than places and it is not possible to accommodate all suitable applicants, a lottery will determine the order in which the places will be allocated. The lottery will also determine the order in which the remaining unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list. Applicants on this list will have priority over any late applicants.
- Late admissions will be dealt with on a case by case basis.
- In relation to attendance, a student who has not provided the LCA coordinator with proof of doctor's cert/visit to dentist etc. and does not have 90% attendance may be removed from the LCA programme. A cert should be provided within a week of returning from an absence.
- Late applications for LCA or transfers into St Ciarán's Community School for LCA are dependent on availability of a place in the course as places in LCA are limited. Late transfers must have a completed application form and a satisfactory interview with the Principal and LCA coordinator.

Based on the above the student's suitability for the programme is assessed and if his/her application is deemed successful, the student will be offered a place on the programme for the following September.

Curriculum

The subjects offered by St Ciarán's Community School in the LCA programme may be as follows (depends on the schools ability to offer the subjects):

Vocational Preparation and Guidance:

- Guidance
- Work Experience
- Job search
- Community Work

Vocational Education Specialisms:

- Engineering
- Hotel Catering and tourism

General Education:

- Introduction to ICT
- Social Education
- Arts Education [Visual Art & Music]
- Leisure and Recreation
- Mathematical Application
- English and Communications
- French
- Irish

Electives:

- Graphics and Construction Studies
- Horticulture

Other:

- Religion
- Personal Reflection Task
- Practical Achievement Task [Year 2]
- Work Experience

Students complete work experience for one day each week. Students will be given an insurance form for this purpose. The Vocational Preparation and Guidance teacher aids coordination of the Work Experience Module.

Tasks

The seven tasks completed by students are as follows:

LCA 1 Tasks

January - Session 1

General Education Task

May - Session 2

- Vocational Preparation Task - VPG and English and Communication)
- Vocational Education Specialism Task - Hotel Catering and Tourism OR Engineering
- Personal Reflection Task Statement 1

LCA 2 Tasks

January End of Session 3 - Year 2 Students

- Practical Achievement Task – Logbook of Skill acquired outside school
- Contemporary Issue Task – Social Education

Vocational Education Task

Vocational Specialism – Hotel Catering and Tourism OR Engineering

May End of Session 4

- Oral Examination English & Communication
- Oral Examination Languages – French (LCA 1) and Gaeilge (LCA 2)
- Practical Examinations for Hotel Catering and Tourism and Engineering
- Personal Reflection Task Year 2 Statement
- Final Examinations

Assessment

The LCA programme uses a unique system of assessment. The students' work is assessed over two years of the programme and they gain credit as they go along **provided that they have a minimum of 90% attendance**. Absences are only accepted with medical notes presented within a week of returning to school after absence.

Practical work, interviews and terminal written papers are among the different forms of assessment used. Additionally, the student must complete seven Students Tasks [as outlined above] that bring together the different learning experiences that the students have gained from the courses they have taken.

As students complete the programme they collect credits – to a possible maximum of 200:

- A maximum of 62 credits [31%] are awarded for completing the required courses
- 10 credits for each of the 7 student tasks completed [70 credits, 35%]
- 68 credits [34%] in total for the terminal examinations at the end of year two [or in the case of some subjects, e.g. French, at the end of year one.]

The Leaving Certificate Applied is awarded at three levels:

- Pass [60-69%]
- Merit 70-84%]
- Distinction [85-100%]

Ratification

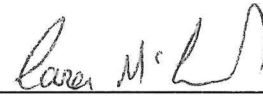
This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management of St Ciarán's Community School at its meeting on: 17/12/24

Signed:



Chairperson
Board of Management

Signed:



Principal

Date:

17/12/24

17th Dec 2024

Date of next review:

2026