ECA FAQ:

ECA Schedule Term 1 2026/27

Day	#Weeks	ECA Name	Time	Class	Dates	Cost
Mon-Thurs	14	1:10 Club Monday	1:10-2:05	JI&SI	14 weeks	€126
	14	1:10 Club Tuesday	1:10-2:05	JI&SI	14 weeks	€126
2-day min.	15	1:10 Club Wednesday	1:10-2:05	JI&SI	15 weeks	€135
	15	1:10 Club Thursday	1:10-2:05	JI&SI	15 weeks	€135
	14	Arts & Crafts 1	1:10-2:05	JI&SI	14 weeks	€154
Monday	13	Book Club 1	2:10-3:10	1st-3rd	*No book club 1 on 21st Dec*	€117
	14	Book Club 2	2:10-3:10	4th-6th	*No Class, 1st Feb*	€126
	14	Coding	2:10-3:10	4th-6th		€126
	14	Music Production	2:10-3:10	3rd-6th	*No Class 9th Nov **	€126
	14	Soccer	2:10-3:10	1st-6th		€126
	14	Volleyball	2:10-3:10	4th-6th		€126
	14	Crochet	2:10-3:10	2nd-6th		€154
	14	Drama	2:10-3:10	3rd-6th	14 weeks	€126
	14	Film Making	2:10-3:10	3rd-6th	6th October- 9th February	€126
Tuesday	13	Jr. Engineers	2:10-3:10	1st-3rd		€130
	14	Lego Club	2:10-3:10	1st-6th	No Jr. Engineers class 6th Oct.	€126
	14	Mixed Sports	2:10-3:10	1st-6th	*No Class 10th Nov **	€126
	14	Science Club 1	2:10-3:10	3rd-6th	No Class, 22nd December	€140
	14	Spanish Club 1	2:10-3:10	1st-3rd		€126
	14	Trending Dance	2:10-3:10	2nd-6th		€126
	15	Creative Writing	2:10-3:10	3rd-6th		€135
Thursday	15	Chess Club	2:10-3:10	1st-6th	15 weeks	€135
	15	GAA	2:10-3:10	1st-6th	8th October- 11th February	€135
	15	Mindfulness Club	2:10-3:10	4th-6th	*No Class 12th Nov **	€135
	15	Science Club 2	2:10-3:10	1st-2nd		€150
	15	Spanish Club 2	2:10-3:10	4th-6th		€135
	15	Arts & Crafts 2	1:10-2:05	JI&SI	15 weeks	€165
Friday	15	Craft & Create	2:10-3:10	2nd-5th	9th October- 12th February	€165
	12	Mandala Art	2:10-3:10	1st-6th	*No Class 13th Nov **	€108
	15	Musical Theatre	2:10-3:10	2nd-6th	***No Mandala Art: 8th, 15th, 22nd January***	€135
	14	Yoga	2:10-3:10	1st-6th	*No Yoga Class 29th Jan*	€126

*****No classes during the first week of Parent/Teacher Meetings; exact dates to be confirmed by the school later. (These are not the confirmed dates).*

****1:10 club requires a minimum of two days. Please sign up for two days to ensure placement on the waiting list.*

What time will the classes be held?

- Junior and Senior Infants will run from 1:10-**2:05** PM.
- Classes will run from 2:10-3:10 PM for the 1st-6th Classes.
- Adventure Club runs from 2:10-4:10 PM.

How will children get to and from ECA classes?

- The ECA Provider will collect the students from their class teacher and ensure they are delivered to their ECA.
- The ECA provider will bring the children outside for collection at the end of their ECA.
- The ECA provider will ensure the children attending Explorers are dropped off at their classroom.

Where will the children be collected after the activities

- Junior and Senior Infants will be collected from the small yard near the bike racks.
- 1st-6th Class: For outside activities, the children can be collected from the yard where the activity takes place.
- For all indoor classes, children will be brought into the small yard for pick-up.
- On rainy days, all classes may be collected directly outside the door closest to the bike rack.

What is the Term Duration?:

Term 1: 5th October-12th February, 15 weeks. *(No ECA classes during the first week of Parent/Teacher Meetings, date to be confirmed).*

ECA Break: 15th-19th February 2027

Term 2: 22nd February- 18th June, 14 weeks

What is the cost?

Final prices are listed in the above schedule.

**An additional Processing Fee of €1 per child is added to each completed transaction, helping to cover the cost of payment fees.

Apart from reading this section, how can I get ready in advance?

Please read through our Terms and Conditions and the school's code of behaviour, as you will be asked to confirm you have read and agreed with them before a booking can be completed.

How long will places be available?

We will send out an informative email each term with all the details regarding the ECA schedule, how to enrol, and when the registration process ends. In most cases, registration will close one week before the start of each ECA term.

What if a class is cancelled ?

We make every effort to keep the amount of cancellations to a minimum. However, if a class needs to be cancelled, the ECA will contact the parents and inform you at least 2 hours before school collection time.

How can I ensure I'm contacted for cancellations?

We will only call if the class is canceled less than 2 hours before the end of the school day.

For cancellations over 2 hours prior to the end of school, we will notify parents/guardians by email and via our ECA WhatsApp Group.

Upon registration, we ask for a contact email address. Please provide an address that is monitored daily. Don't forget to save eca@stepasideetns.ie as a safe address to avoid messages entering your spam/junk folder.

At the start of each term, you will receive a link to join our information-only WhatsApp group. This group is for quickly sending broadcast messages to our parents. You can't reply to messages, which keeps the thread from unnecessary clutter.

Do you offer refunds?

We want to make ECA enjoyable for everyone involved while giving children the opportunity to try new things. We understand that children may change their minds or not enjoy a class as much as they had hoped. ECA is a fundraiser for the school, and all monies collected are allocated to the school for upkeep and the purchase of much-needed equipment and supplies.

Below is our refund policy.

- If, within the first two weeks, your child is unhappy. They may drop the class, and upon request, we will issue a refund for the remaining courses.
- If the child is unhappy after two weeks, we may offer a spot in another ECA class if space is available.
- If no spaces are available, you may request we apply a credit for the remaining classes in the next term.
- ***Please note: The 1:10 Club is run by outside providers, and we cannot make changes once the term begins; we cannot offer any refunds if your child opts out of the class. However, we can offer a spot in another ECA if space is available, or offer a credit toward the next term.***

Is there an ECA Supervisor on Duty?

We will have a part-time ECA supervisor. They may not be available every day, but we are in constant communication with our ECA Providers. They are well able to monitor your child during the ECA hour.

My child has an SNA in school, can they join the activities?

For pupils who have been assigned an SNA during the school day, it is acknowledged that they may need an increased level of support in extra-curricular classes also. SNA's are employed by the school, and we may only have limited access to an SNA during ECA hours. Each parent may need to provide their own SNA or be present for lessons if the child needs extra assistance. Each provider will be accommodating and inclusive of all pupils; however, if issues arise, the Provider will speak to the parents and discuss the best course of action.

My child got a place in Term 1, will preference be given to us next term?

No. After reviewing our ECA Policy and in line with our school's ethos, if your child is given a place in Term 1, there is no guarantee they will get a place in the same class in Term 2. Each term will be a fresh start to give all students a fair opportunity to take part in the ECA programme.

I've already informed the school about my child's specific circumstances; do I need to inform the ECA provider also?

Extracurricular activities happen outside of school hours and operate under their own policies and practices. Under GDPR rules and regulations, the school cannot, under any circumstances, share contact information, medical information, or information about children's personal circumstances with the PAC or an ECA provider. Parents are responsible for informing the ECA Provider, supervisor, or coordinator of any special circumstances.

Class descriptions:

1:10 CLUB
The "1.10 Club" is held Monday-Thursday and facilitated by "Explorers Afterschool." The children will spend most of their time outdoors, playing in the yard. On days with inclement weather, the club will move indoors, where your child will be given a variety of activities, including building blocks, colouring, and games.
Class Note: A minimum of two days is required. Once the term has begun, no changes or cancellations can be made.

ARTS & CRAFTS (Jr/Sr Infants)
Arts and Crafts for our JNR and SNR Infants is led by parents and PAC members Emma McKenna and Laura Peters, who each run their own craft businesses.

Each week, the children will enjoy a fun, hands-on art session designed to encourage creativity, imagination, and self-expression while developing their fine motor skills. The sessions also offer opportunities to build social skills by sharing materials, working alongside others, and enjoying the creative process together.

With music playing in the background to create a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere, the children will explore a variety of exciting make-and-do projects and experiment with different materials. Activities will often be inspired by different themes throughout the year, including the seasons, celebrations and festivals, with the children creating something special to take home each week.

BOOK CLUB (1st-6th)
Book Club is divided into two classes: teacher Clara (1st class) teaches the 1st-3rd children, and teacher Emma Smith (Stepping Stones) teaches 4th-6th students.
Our book club's main focus is helping children discover the joy of reading in a fun, relaxed environment. We'll explore several different stories, characters, and genres while giving children the freedom to discover what they love.
A class may include a shared story, fun reading activities, games, creative challenges, character discussions, book recommendations, and time to chat about the books they're enjoying.

CHESS CLUB (1st-6th)
Chess Club is led by teachers Eve (Sr. Infants) and Eva (Jr. Infants). The children will learn basic rules and strategies while practicing their skills each week. They learn, play, and have fun with chess, developing problem-solving, concentration, and strategic thinking while enjoying friendly games. Older children will also have the opportunity to support and teach younger players, encouraging teamwork and confidence.
There may also be an opportunity to go to chess competitions held at other schools, information will be sent out beforehand and permission slips signed.

CODING (4th-6th)
Coding is taught by parent Kevin Miller & teacher Olivia (Stepping Stones Senior). With the use of in-school iPads, the children learn concepts and methods of coding by utilizing block-based development tools. They are given challenges each week as they build on what they have learned.

CRAFT & CREATE CLUB (2nd-5th class)
The Craft & Create Club is led by parent and PAC member Emma McKenna, who runs her own craft business and specialises in creating personalised keepsakes and gifts.
Each week, the children will enjoy a fun, hands-on craft session where they will make beautiful handmade pieces to take home. From thoughtful gifts to treasured keepsakes, every project is designed to inspire creativity while building confidence and a sense of achievement. With music playing in the background and a welcoming atmosphere, each class promises to be a creative, enjoyable, and rewarding experience.

CREATIVE WRITING (3rd-6th class)
Unleash your imagination through stories, poetry, and creative expression. This club is a fun space to build your writing skills, explore new ideas, and share your work in a supportive, inspiring environment. Teacher Shauna (2nd class) leads this club.

CROCHET (2nd-6th class)
Crochet Creators is a fun, creative, and hands-on crochet programme designed to introduce children to the basics of crochet while encouraging creativity, patience, and confidence. Children learn step by step and make projects they can be proud of and take home. This club is led by Noor (Noor's Cute Creations), who is a constant favorite at our annual craft fair.

DRAMA (3rd-6th)
Step into the world of drama, imagination, and storytelling. Children will explore acting, role-play, movement, and performance while building confidence, creativity, communication, and teamwork in a fun and supportive environment. The drama club is led by teacher Luke (4th class).

FILM MAKING (3rd-6th)
Film making is taught by teacher Shauna (2nd class). In this class, students will learn the basics of film making. They will watch short films and learn to remake the scene shot for shot, while learning the basics of framing, editing, and working to create their own short film. Students will be have use of the school iPads and filming programs.
Note: All students will need to sign a consent form to attend this class, as they may be filmed. Any and all movies may be shared within the class and will not be shared outside the classroom or posted on social media.

GAA
Teacher Luke (4th class) brings this fun and energetic introduction to GAA, where children can enjoy being active, learning new skills, playing games, and building confidence with friends. Children will develop their kicking, passing, teamwork, and coordination through fun games and activities.

JR. ENGINEERS (1st -6th class)
This new club is taught by Emma Smith (SS Jr.). Jr. Engineers is a fun, hands-on club where young learners can explore simple coding on iPads and take on exciting concrete challenges. Children will build, create, experiment, and develop their problem-solving and teamwork skills.

LEGO CLUB (1st-6th)
LEGO Club is run by teachers Eve (Sr. Infants) and Eva (Jr. Infants). The class will focus on creativity and team building with new building ideas and challenges each week.

MANDALA ART (1st-6th class)
This club is led by parent Binish. In this club, the children will explore the colorful and calming world of Mandala Art. Our Mandala Art class is a relaxing and creative space where children

can explore a world of patterns, shapes, and colour. They'll learn how to create their own unique mandalas, building patterns step by step while experimenting with different colours and designs.

MINDFULNESS CLUB (4th-6th)
Mindfulness & Wellbeing Club is taught by teacher Roisin (1st class) and aims tto be a calm, nurturing ECA designed to support the emotional wellbeing, confidence, and life skills of children. The club's primary focus is mindfulness, helping children become more aware of their thoughts, feelings, bodies, and surroundings in a gentle, age-appropriate way.

A range of mindful activities will be used, including breathing, movement, creative activities, reflection, and mindful gardening, and allowing children to experience mindfulness in different and meaningful ways.

MIXED SPORTS (1st-6th)
Mixed Sports is run by teachers Paudie (SET) and Steven (4th class). The class will focus on specific sports in 3-4 week increments, which may include rounders, handball, basketball, and rugby, to name a few..
Class Note: Please ensure your child has proper footwear (runners) and plenty of water, as this is a very active class.

MUSIC PRODUCTION (3rd-6th class)
Teacher Luke (4th class) brings us Music Production. This class introduces recording and making music using GarageBand on iPads. Students will also learn basic music theory as they develop a deeper understanding and appreciation of music.

MUSICAL THEATRE (2nd-6th)
Musical Theatre is taught by teacher Kate Canavan (4th class). She will teach musical theatre skills, including a mix of singing, dancing, and drama.

SCIENCE CLUB (1st-6th)
Teacher Sarah Morris (3rd class) teaches Science Club. In this class, children will learn different schools of science through experiments and projects.

SOCCER (1st-6th)
Soccer is led by teachers Paudie (SET) and Roisin (1st class). The children will practice the basics of soccer, including warm-ups, drills, and a match at the end of each class.
Class Note: Please ensure your child has proper footwear (runners) and plenty of water, as this is a very active class.

SPANISH CLUB (1st-6th))
Teacher Clara teaches Spanish (1st Class). This Spanish class will teach elements of the language and culture through activities, games, songs, and dance.

TRENDING DANCE (2nd-6th)
Teacher Kate (4th class) brings us trending dance once again. In this class, the students work to replicate short dance routines currently trending. This may include watching a short clip and then practicing the same moves. Music and dance may include songs by Taylor Swift, Olivia Rodigo, Sabrina Carpenter, Harry Styles, and other popular songs of the term.

VOLLEYBALL (4th-6th)
Teacher Sarah runs volleyball (3rd class). In this active class, students will learn basic volleyball skills. Each class will include a mix of drills and matches.
Class Note: All students must come prepared with knee pads, arm guards, proper footwear (running shoes), and plenty of water, as this is an active class.

YOGA (1st-6th)
Yoga, led by Anne-Marie's Yoga Bears. Yoga is a fun way for kids to calm their racing minds and bodies through Yoga and Mindfulness activities.
Class Note: Children are encouraged to bring their own yoga mat and wear shoes they can fasten themselves. Yoga mats are provided for those who forget.

For all other questions or queries, please email: eca@stepasideetns.ie