

Prospectus



Malahide Community School

Pobalscoil Íosa





SCHOOL VISION

“Malahide Community School aspires to engage, inspire and enthuse learners. We are a school that believes in creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration in order to develop an understanding of the world. We encourage lifelong learning to prepare the whole school community for change and innovation as 21st century citizens.”

ETHOS

Malahide School Community school is a co-educational, multi-denominational post-primary school under the joint patronage of the Archdiocese of Dublin and Dublin Dún Laoghaire ETB.

The core values of Malahide Community School are care, respect, community, inclusion, equality, justice and fairness. These values combine to provide and support an atmosphere which is conducive to excellence in teaching and learning. We endeavour to assist each student to reach his/her full potential in a calm, caring and creative environment.

Our values are reflected in how we live as a school community. All are treated equally, regardless of race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, marital status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability, disability or socio-economic status. All students are given equal opportunity for enrolment, in line with the Education (Admission to Schools) Act (2018). Once enrolled, our school provides all of our students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum, school life and the local community.

In Malahide Community School, we celebrate the partnership, collaboration and empathy which nurtures and develops our young people in a community where the essence of our ethos is care and respect for self, others and our environment.

STUDENT VOICE

Students should find in our school an environment that promotes all types of abilities, talents and diversity. They should also find and develop the opportunities to make a positive contribution to their own education through their involvement and support for responsible and democratic processes and systems such as Student Voice, the Prefect system and the Student Council.

COVID-19 POLICY STATEMENT

Malahide Community School is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for all of our staff and a safe learning environment for all of our students. To ensure this, we have developed our COVID-19 Response Plan. The Board of Management and all school staff are responsible for the implementation of this plan and a combined effort will help contain the spread of the virus.

We will continue to monitor our COVID-19 response and to amend this plan.

WELLBEING

We recognise that our journey to Wellbeing is never complete. We work hard to address the wellbeing needs of students and staff. By placing the journey to Wellbeing at the centre of our policies, we build and maintain a culture where all students feel they belong.

PASTORAL ORGANISATION

A school's care and compassion for its students is shown in the concern and effort it makes to promote their general well-being as well as their intellectual development.

The pastoral care of students is an integral part of their education: it is a vital aspect of the process which helps them to develop respect for themselves and for others, and enables them to acquire the personal and social skills so vitally necessary for responsible and effective adulthood.

In order to facilitate the school's caring role, its organisational structure is based on the tutor and year head system, with the tutor assigned to a class group and the Year Head in overall charge of the year group.

This is complemented by the services of three guidance counsellors and a school chaplain. The school has a strict Anti-Bullying Policy in place and any allegation of bullying we investigate fully.



THE SUPPORT DEPARTMENT / SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

As an inclusive school, we welcome students with Special Educational Needs. The school is committed to helping all students reach their full potential.

Resource teaching and learning support are offered to students who are allocated resource hours in accordance with the General Allocation Model. Within our resources we do our best to meet the learning needs of students with a specific learning difficulty.

PARENTS' ROLE

Malahide Community School has an active parents association. The AGM of this association takes place in autumn term each year.

Parents / guardians play a crucial role in shaping the attitude which produces good behaviour in our school.

This favourable disposition will mean that the student has a greater chance to maximise his / her potential.

Malahide Community School seeks the active involvement and co-operation of the parents / guardians of all of our students. This active co-operation will be sought at an early stage. If a problem arises, parents / guardians are encouraged to participate with the school in its resolution.

Our parents have two nominees on the school's Board of Management.

HOME-SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Communication with parents / guardians is given a high priority. Reports are issued four times a year. Year heads and tutors contact parents / guardians regularly to check on absences and unsatisfactory punctuality.

The School Journal, which every student must have, provides an important means of communication between home and school.

Malahide Community School uses an App as the centre piece in our home/school communication. The App is free to download and links Parents/Guardians directly to their child in the school. The App is designed to make all communication between the home and the school as convenient as possible.

All school notices will be sent out through the App only.

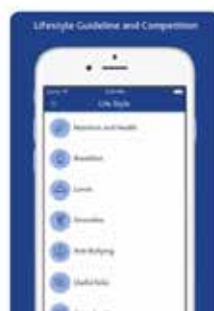


Malahide Community...

Education

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STUDENT LEARNING

The school curriculum and allocation of students to subjects

JUNIOR CYCLE

A new Junior Cycle commenced for all students in 2014. By September 2020, all new specifications will have commenced. Our new intake is assessed in January of their final year in primary school. The results of this assessment are used to create gender-balanced, mixed-ability core classes in first year. First years follow a curriculum which is divided into a mandatory set of core subjects and a set of optional subjects.

The core subjects are:

Irish	English	Maths
History	Science	Computers
Religious Education	CSPE (Civic, Social and Political Education)	
Physical Education	SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education)	

First years study all of these subjects, unless exempt from Irish.

The optional subjects are:

Art	Business Studies	French
German	Spanish	Home Economics
Metalwork	Music	Technical Graphics
Woodwork	Technology	Geography

Students take three of these subjects to Junior Cycle. They have the opportunity to sample some of these subjects before making choices at October mid-term in first year.

SENIOR CYCLE

During Transition Year, students are informed about the various subject options at Senior Cycle. A final choice of subject options is made in March of each year. Parents / guardians are invited to an Options Night, at which the various choices are explained.

TRANSITION YEAR

Students are assigned to class groups in Transition Year in a way which ensures gender balance and mixed ability. They follow a curriculum of twelve subjects - seven core and five options.

The core subjects are:

Irish	Computers	Life Skills
English	Religious Education	Maths
Physical Education	Modern Foreign Languages (French, German, Spanish)	

The range of optional subjects varies from year to year depending on availability of staff. The following is a sample list of subject modules:

Drama	Local History	Environmental Studies
Heritage Studies	Exploring Science	Mini-Company
Art	Film Studies	Music Appreciation
Business Technology	Fitness	Philosophy
C.A.D.	GAA Coaching	Public Speaking
Ceramics	Golf	School Show
Greek and Roman Civilisation	Set Design	Cycling
Social Studies	School Link	Cookery
Chinese Studies		

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

Students are assigned to registration class groups in Leaving Certificate (fifth and sixth years) in a way that ensures gender balance and mixed ability. The following subjects are taught in these class groups:

Religious Education	Careers
Physical Education	

Core Subjects

All students study Irish, English and Maths (unless exempt from Irish). Students are assigned to appropriate levels in these subjects at the end of Transition Year.

Teachers of Irish, English and Maths assign students to appropriate levels in these subjects for fifth year. Junior Cycle results and performance during Transition Year are taken into account when being assigned.

Optional Subjects

The table below lists the optional subjects available to students beginning fifth year.

Accounting	Art (with Design option)	Biology
Business	Chemistry	Construction Studies
DCG	Economics	Engineering
French	Geography	Politics and Society
German	History	Home Economics (New Syllabus)
Music	Physics	Spanish
Technology	LC Computer Science	LC PE

MCS introduced LC PE and Computer Science in September 2020.

IPADS FOR LEARNING IN MALAHIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOL:

Malahide Community School introduced the use of iPads to students and teachers in 2012. Since then, use of technology has enhanced the learning experience of our students and provides them with the opportunity to develop 21st century learning skills.

We work with our technology partner Wriggle to provide safe and managed use of iPads for students in an age appropriate way. We support both parents and students throughout this journey with training and regular communication.

We are happy to report that our students who have completed their Leaving Certificate since the introduction of the iPad have excelled academically and have reported back that they were very well prepared for the technological demands of 3rd level.

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

Both teachers and students have rights and responsibilities and it is integral to the ethos of the school as a caring community that mutual respect and tolerance should characterise all relationships in our school.

In general, we aim to encourage our students to develop a sense of responsibility for themselves and towards others. This should be reflected in their attitude towards work and their behaviour in school. We expect students to conduct themselves with respect for the worth, self-esteem and reputation of themselves and of others. Students should behave at all times in a manner appropriate to the ethos of our school. They are expected to be positive and cooperative in their dealings with all members of the school community.

Anyone who studies in, works for or visits our school should be dealt with in a courteous manner. All our school rules may be summarised in three simple phrases: **Respect yourself, Respect others and Respect your environment.**

Acceptance of a school place requires the acceptance of the school's Code of Behaviour, which is available to parents / guardians.

- Junior students are not allowed to leave the school campus during break times or lunchtimes.
- Students are required to wear the prescribed school uniforms for all school-related activities. (This includes PE.)



ORIGINS

Malahide Community School / Pobalscoil Íosa originally began as the Stella Maris School for Girls and was founded in 1958 by Mrs. Catherine Dowling. The school was then taken over in the same year by the Sisters of the Holy Infant Jesus. The school became a community school in 1976 and was renamed Pobalscoil Íosa. From its enrolment of 512 students in 1976, the school has increased to over 1200 pupils in recent years.

As a community school, Pobalscoil Íosa is the property of the Minister for Education and Skills but is vested in trustees. A Board of Management, representing the trustees, the parents and the teachers, governs the school. The Board is a voluntary body with executive responsibility. It is accountable to the Department of Education and Skills for the governance and direction of the school.



MCS VOICE AND STUDENT COUNCIL

The educational experience at MCS is enhanced by the inclusion of the student voice. The Student Council is a body that represents all of the students in the school and which liaises with the staff and management on issues that affect students. It also organises events for students, such as Fun Days, Pride Weeks and the Open Forum. The Student Council operates from the Student Council office, located on the ground floor.

When student opinions are heard and are taken into account, students experience better relationships with their teachers and an increased sense of belonging and connection to their school. This, in turn, impacts on student attainment and achievement.

INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT)

The use of ICT is part of everyday life in Malahide Community School. All classrooms are equipped with an iMac computer and a data projector. Students and staff also use iPads to enhance the learning and teaching experience.

There are computer suites for Computer Science at Leaving Certificate and a Design and Communication Graphics lab. Computer science classes, digital citizenship and coding are provided to all students in First Year and TY.

Malahide Community School is currently working towards becoming an Apple Distinguished School for innovation in learning and teaching.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Monday - Friday

- Students must arrive at 08.35.
- Tutorial begins at 08:45.
- Classes begin at 08:55 and finish at 15:50.
- Classes finish at 13:10 on a Wednesday.
- Classes are 60 minutes in duration.
- Small break is from 10:55-11:10.
- Lunchtime is from 13:10-13:50.
- No student is allowed to leave the premises at the 10.55 break.

The school's new Admissions Policy is available on request and is on the school website.

All students are encouraged both inside and outside of school time to become involved in the extended life of the school and to contribute to the school.

ADULT EDUCATION

Malahide Community School has a thriving Adult Education Department offering over 80 classes and activities from September to May, every school year. Courses range from Art to Yoga, Astronomy to Spanish, Book-Keeping to Pilates and lots more besides.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SPORT

Cricket	Tennis	Hockey
Golf	Swimming	Gaelic Football
Hurling	Soccer	Basketball
Athletics	Rugby	Badminton

ART/CULTURAL

School Musical	Creative Engagement	Quizzes
Debating	Art Competitions	Drama
Battle of the Bands	Variety Show	Theatre Visits
Visits to art galleries/museums	The Young Scientist	Student Exchange

SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

Gaisce Awards	Prefect System	Buddy System
Library	Student Council	European Youth Parliament
The School Link Programme		The Green School



Malahide Community School

Pobalscoil Íosa

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