

Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community September 2021

Leaving Certificate

The Board acknowledges the considerable success and achievement of students in the Leaving Certificate 2021, both in examinations and in accredited grades. A high percentage of students presented for examinations in addition to receiving accredited grades. The percentage of candidates falling into each CAO points band compares favourably with national percentages. The Board acknowledged and thanked teachers for their contribution for a second year in a row to the accredited grades process and of course for their contribution to the achievements of students in the Leaving Certificate examinations 2021.

Child Safeguarding

The Board reviewed the School's Child Safeguarding Risk Assessment and the School's Child Safeguarding Statement and adopted revised documents for the academic year 2021/2022. These documents are published on the School website - newparkschool.ie/child-protection - and on the noticeboard in the School lobby. All members of the School community are hereby notified of the updated documents. Both the Student Council and the Parent Teacher Association are invited to submit feedback in relation to the School's compliance with 'Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017'.

Admission to First Year 2022/2023

The Board has published the Annual Admission Notice in respect of admissions to the 2022/2023 school year. It is posted on the School website, along with application information for the forthcoming school year - newparkschool.ie/admissions. The School will commence accepting applications for admission to first year 2022/2023 on 1st October 2021 and cease accepting applications on 29th October 2021.

Covid-19 Response

An updated Covid-19 Response Plan (v5) was adopted by the Board and is available on the School website - newparkschool.ie/Covid-19-Response-Plan. The Board agreed corresponding School specific Covid-19 risk mitigation measures in place for the new term.

Sports Centre & Academy of Music

The Board is pleased to note progress in relation to the incremental return to normal service of the Newpark Sports Centre and the Newpark Academy of Music.

School Self-Evaluation

The School Self-Evaluation (SSE) focus for 2021/2022 is planning for Learning, Teaching and Assessment (LTA) in the context of one-hour classes.

Curriculum, 2021/2022

The development of the Junior Cycle programme in Newpark continues with the introduction of two new Junior Cycle 'short courses' as options in first year, namely Artistic Performance Visual and Film Studies. Korean has been introduced and joins Portuguese as the second language in 'Arts block' in Transition Year.

Extra-Curricular Activities

While awaiting further easing of the restrictions for extra-curricular activities towards the end of September, extra-curricular activities continue as they did during term three 2020/2021, with hockey, rugby and basketball continuing over six days, but with less frequency of training than normal. Drama and Christian Union continue to run outside at lunchtime and after school.

Department of Education Circular Letters

The following circular letters were noted since the last meeting of the Board:

CL 28/21 Cost limits for Post Primary School Buildings.

[gov.ie - Cost Limits for Post Primary School Building](#)

CL 29/21 Special Needs Assistant Allocations for the 2021/22 School Year for Mainstream Classes in Primary and Post Primary Schools

[gov.ie - Special Needs Assistant Allocations](#)

CL 30/21 Parent's Leave Scheme for Registered Teachers employed in recognised Primary and Post Primary Schools.

[gov.ie - Parent's Leave Scheme for Registered Teachers](#)

CL33/21 Arrangements for Inspectorate engagement with Post-Primary Schools and Centres for Education 2021/2022 School Year.

[gov.ie - Arrangements for Inspectorate Engagement](#)

CL34/21 Updated Entry Criteria for the Gaeltacht Entry route to the (English Medium) Primary Bachelor of Education.

[gov.ie - Updated Entry Criteria](#)

CL35/21 Parent's Leave Scheme for Special Needs Assistants.

[gov.ie - Parent's Leave Scheme for Special Needs Assistants](#)

CL37/21 Building Momentum Agreement 2021-2022.

[gov.ie - Building of Momentum Agreement](#)

CL38/21 Home Tuition Grant Scheme 2021/2022 – Special Education Component.

[gov.ie - Home Tuition Grant Scheme 2021/2022 – Special Education Component \(www.gov.ie\)](#)

CL39/21 Extended Breastfeeding Breaks for Special Needs Assistants.

[gov.ie - Extended Breastfeeding Breaks for Special Needs Assistants](#)

CL40/21 Partial return to work for Special Needs Assistants.

[gov.ie - Partial Return to Work for Special Needs Assistants](#)

CL42/21 Coronavirus (COVID-19): Arrangements for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants employed in recognised Primary and Post Primary schools.

[gov.ie - Arrangements for Teachers and Special Needs Assistants](#)

CL45/21 Covid Learning and Support Scheme.

[gov.ie - Covid Learning and Support Scheme \(www.gov.ie\)](#)