

Arts Policy

1. Introduction

1.1 The arts are central to the life of Newpark. This policy aims to acknowledge this centrality and to set out a framework for the continued development of the arts in the School.

1.2 This document is a review of the previous Arts Policy, ratified by the Board of Management in 2012. The policy was created for the sustainable development of the arts both inside and outside the School timetable.

1.3 The arts in Newpark include, but are not limited to, creative activity in the fields of Artistic Performance, Creative Writing, Dance, Design, Drama, Film, Music, Sculpture, Theatre, and Visual Arts.

1.4 This policy applies to supporting these activities in Newpark in the following areas:

- As part of the national and school curriculum
- Through the provision of Arts for All in timetabled First Year and Transition Year classes.
- As part of the co-curricular life of the School.

2. Links to Ethos & Mission Statement

2.1 'Newpark is a co-educational comprehensive School. The School offers a broadly based curriculum to meet the diverse range of academic, practical, social, artistic, sporting and spiritual needs of its students.'

2.2 'All students will have a balanced, holistic, and comprehensive education which emphasizes academic, creative, practical, emotional, spiritual, sporting, and social development. The School is committed to creating an enjoyable environment in which the strengths of every person in the community are nurtured.'

2.3 'Newpark wants each student to move forward on a path in life that maintains, sustains, and challenges their skills and talents, and in doing so, encourages lifelong learning.'

3. Objectives

Through the Arts in Newpark it is aimed to:

- 3.1 Encourage creative and artistic development of students.
- 3.2 Promote the value of curricular arts subjects.
- 3.3 Inspire a passion for creative pursuits.
- 3.4 Celebrate, promote, facilitate, and value creative ability of all students through inclusive practices.
- 3.5 Use the arts to enhance and vary learning experiences across subject disciplines where appropriate, while raising awareness of the arts for the whole School community within and outside the School.
- 3.6 Provide opportunities for individual talent to develop and flourish.
- 3.7 Support and inspire students to engage in arts and participate at the highest possible level.
- 3.8 Strive for excellence.
- 3.9 Create a School community which celebrates participation in the arts.
- 3.10 Welcome the wider Newpark community (parents, past students, and staff) to share and contribute to the cultural and artistic life of the School.
- 3.11 Enrich our whole School community through showcasing across the arts, creating opportunities for maximum exposure, engagement, appreciation and critique, creativity, beauty, joy and pride in the arts.

4. Implementation of the Arts

The School will work to:

- 4.1 Maximise opportunities for students to study arts with the national and School curriculum at Junior and Senior Cycle
- 4.2 Continue Arts for All through Transition Year and First Year programmes and seek ways to expand such provision to other year groups.
- 4.3 Facilitate continuing professional development of staff in the arts and creativity.
- 4.4 Encourage staff and students to share experience and expertise to develop best practices in Newpark arts.
- 4.5 Support co-curricular arts provision, arts projects, events, trips, and workshops
- 4.6 Invite visiting artists, professionals, and the wider School community to share expertise and work with students and staff, where appropriate.
- 4.7 Maintain links with Newpark Academy of Music arts professionals through the Schlinks programme.

4.8 Foster dynamic links and relationships with the arts support networks in the wider community.

4.9 Raise awareness and access to arts events and agencies through all school communications.

4.10 Create space, time, and opportunities for individual, collaborative and student led arts projects.

4.11 To seek new and innovative arts projects and opportunities.

4.12 To continually improve the arts facilities through state funding, donations and fundraising events.

5. Newport Arts Committee & Cultural Council

5.1 The Cultural Council is a group of student leaders of co-curricular clubs and societies in the School.

5.2 The Newport Arts Committee is voluntary group charged with overseeing the practical implementation of this policy. It is to be made up of representatives of:

- Students
- Relevant leaders of the Cultural Council.
- Parents
- Teachers
- Past pupils
- Arts professionals

5.3 The Newport Arts Committee will have an elected Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

5.4 Representatives of the Arts Committee will meet with School management for a planning meeting and a review meeting on an annual basis.

5.5 The Arts Committee will be reconstituted on an annual basis.

This policy was reviewed in the 2023/2024 academic year and will be reviewed again as required, in line with changing information, guidelines, legislation and/or feedback from School stakeholders.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management, Newport Comprehensive School at its meeting on 6th March 2024.