

Newpark Comprehensive School Board of Management Agreed Report for School Community May 2026

Subject Inspection, Mathematics

The school received a subject inspection in mathematics from the Department of Education in January 2026, with the associated report being issued in April 2026. The Board welcomes that the overall quality of teaching, learning and assessment, the overall quality of subject provision and whole school support and the overall quality of planning and preparation for mathematics was reported on positively in this inspection. It is to the credit of teachers and students that a pleasant and cooperative atmosphere for learning was evident in all lessons, with effective development of students' mathematical literacy skills and good levels of individual support given to students by their teachers. A link to the report is available on the school website.

Academic Calendar Year, 2026/2027

In line with Circular 0018/2026, the school must be open for 166 days in the academic year and must observe the standardised breaks at Christmas, Easter, and mid-term in the first and second terms of the school year. For the academic year 2026/2027, the school will open on Friday 28 August 2026 and close on Friday 4 June 2027. Along with the standardised breaks, the school will close on Friday 25 September 2026 and Monday 30 November 2026.

State Examinations

Leaving Certificate oral language examinations in Irish and modern foreign languages took place successfully in the school during the Easter break, from Saturday 28 March to Thursday 2 April 2026. Music practical examinations took place after the Easter break. There will be a small number of follow-up examinations conducted for students who were unable to attend due to illness, as per SEC provision. Further practical examinations, LCA task assessments and LCVP examinations are due to take place in the school during April and May. The Board acknowledges all involved in the successful facilitation of these exams. The Board wishes all students well in their forthcoming state examinations and trusts that all students who have prepared for examinations will be deservedly rewarded for their hard work.

Interculturalism Training

The *Immigrant Council of Ireland* held a number of training sessions on interculturalism in the school this term. These follow on from an earlier session in the year held for year leaders, senior leadership, and the student support team. A meeting also took place with students from the anti-racism club, focussing on the group's policy ideas, the work of the *Immigrant Council of Ireland*, the training with staff in the school this year and addressing questions from the students. The Board acknowledges all those taking part in this training and those responsible for its facilitation and coordination.

Incoming First Year Students, 2026/2027

The assessment session with incoming first-year students was held on Wednesday 22 April 2025. The Board acknowledged the Guidance Department for organising this session and all participating staff for their contribution to its success. An orientation session for incoming first year students will be held in May 2026, to include an assembly with the Year Leader and campus tour with the incoming prefects. The Board welcomes all incoming students for the forthcoming academic year and wishes them every success in their Newpark journey.

Transition Year Interview Day

The Transition Year Interview Day took place this year on 25 March 2026. It is an event from which the students gain great experience and enjoyment. The Board acknowledges members of the wider school community – past students, parents/guardians, friends – for giving of their time as interviewers. It is an invaluable and welcome contribution.

Newpark Sports Centre

The Board has sanctioned significant investment in the phased upgrade of both cardiovascular and resistance equipment in the Sports Centre gym over the current and next academic year. The Sports Centre continues to offer unparalleled facilities to both school students and the local community alike and this investment is deemed important to maintain the facility at its current high standards. The Board acknowledges the Sports Centre management team in facilitating the phased implementation of these upgrades.

Department of Education circular letters since the last meeting of the Board:

0012/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/the-special-education-teacher-set-allocation-for-202627-school-year-post-primary/>

0013/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/co-ordination-hours-to-support-schools-with-planning-and-co-ordination-of-the-special-education-teaching-supports/>

0027/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/staffing-arrangements-in-community-and-comprehensive-schools-for-the-202627-school/>

0034/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/postgraduate-certificatediploma-of-teacher-professional-learning-for-teachers-working-with-students-with-special-educational-needs-autism-2026/>

0036/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/prescribed-material-for-the-leaving-certificate-examinations-in-2028-and-a-reminder-about-the-removal-of-restrictions-on-students-studying-combinations-of-classical-studies-latin-and-ancient-greek/>

0037/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/00372026-senior-cycle-redevelopment-scr-implementation-support-measures/>

0038/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/00382026-senior-cycle-redevelopment-scr-implementation-support-measures/>

0041/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/prescribed-material-for-the-leaving-certificate-irish-examination-in-june-2027-and-june-2028/>

0042/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/understanding-behaviours-of-concern-and-responding-to-crisis-situations-update-on-training-and-monitoring-and-oversight-arrangements/>

0043/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/joint-data-controller-arrangement-between-department-of-education-youth-and-boards-of-management-principal-teachers-and-teaching-staff-of-post-primary-schools-special-schools-and-chief-executives-of-etbs/>

0045/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/deis-plus-scheme-appeal-process/>

0050/2026

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-education/circulars/implementing-the-action-plan-for-irish-in-english-medium-schools-post-primary/>

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