



Ratoath College

Incoming First Year Parents

Presentation

Speaking this evening

Principal: Seamus Meehan

**Deputy Principal with responsibility for
Junior students: Donna Kelly**

Incoming First Year Moltóir: Ciara Casey



About Us

Ratoath College is a co-educational, multi-denominational 'designated' Community College founded in 2005 to cater for the second-level educational needs of the parishes of Ratoath and Curragha under the joint trusteeship of the [Louth and Meath Education and Training Board \(LMETB\)](#) and the Catholic Bishop of Meath. The patron of our school is LMETB.

The [Board of Management](#) of Ratoath College together with LMETB manages the school.

The school has a population of approximately 1200 students and a [staff of over 100](#), including teachers, SNAs, secretaries, caretakers and ancillary staff members. Due to its size the school has three Deputy Principals.

The school includes [Ionad Arkle](#), our special class for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

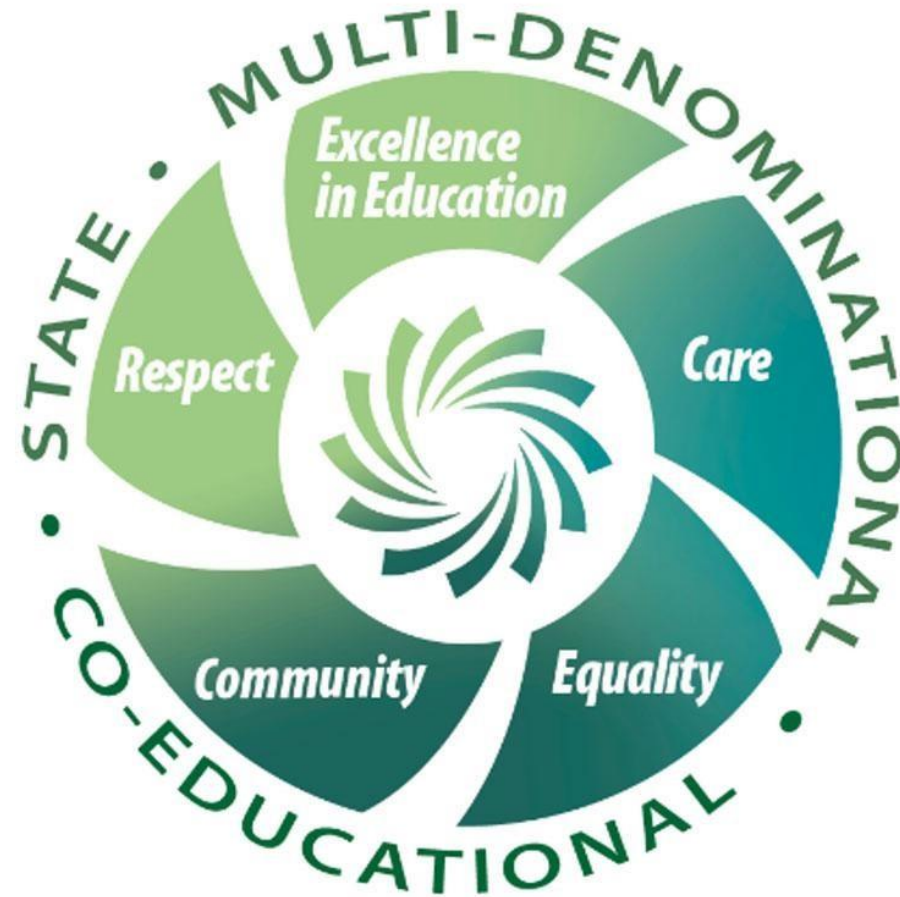
We endeavour to provide an education for all our students that develops all aspects of the individual – aesthetic, creative, inquisitive, cultural, emotional, intellectual, moral, physical, political, religious, social and spiritual – for personal and family life, for working-life, for living in the community and for leisure.



What is an ETB school?

Ratoath College is part of LMETB

- State run school
- Multi-denominational
- Co-educational



Our Schools ethos and Motto

Mol an Óige agus tíocfaidh sí

“Praise young people and they will flourish”.

We aim to live this motto on a daily basis.



Our Mission Statement

We in Ratoath College are a partnership of students, staff, parents and the community.

We foster personal development and learning through hard work, creativity and commitment.

Each individual is given the opportunity to realise their full potential in a community that is inclusive, respectful, caring and positive.

**In all our pursuits we embrace the spirit of
“Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí”.**



Mol an Óige in Practice

- ▶ Ratoath College is an environment of high praise and achievement.
- ▶ We strive to ensure our students reach their full potential.
- ▶ We hold “Student of the Month” competitions for each year group as well as prizes days based on the points classes have accumulated.
- ▶ We have two full school prize giving days each year, one in Christmas and one in the summer to collectively celebrate our achievements.



Challenges for 1st Years & Moving from Primary School

- ▶ Longer school day
- ▶ Tiredness
- ▶ Larger building
- ▶ New teachers
- ▶ Different teachers for every subject
- ▶ Separate class timetables
- ▶ New subjects
- ▶ Class and room change
- ▶ Larger group
- ▶ Names
- ▶ Larger class sizes
- ▶ Fast Pace
- ▶ New extra-curricular
- ▶ New friends
- ▶ Missing Primary School friends
- ▶ New rules
- ▶ New routines
- ▶ Mixed emotions
- ▶ Foreign Language
- ▶ Management of homework

Time for Transition



What Can Parents Do

- ▶ Talk to your child about 1st Year
- ▶ Acknowledge that 1st Year can be difficult
- ▶ Encourage your son /daughter to get involved in school life
- ▶ Encourage a healthy lifestyle (sleep, diet, exercise)
- ▶ Address problems immediately (regarding homework, friends, behaviour) and communicate with the school ASAP if there is a problem
- ▶ Encourage them to look for solutions and build resilience
- ▶ Parents are encouraged to disclose to SEN Department in school if your child has learning difficulties

What the school does to help our First Year students settle in

- ▶ Timetabled Induction Programme with a focus on:
 - ▶ Organisation and study skills
 - ▶ R.C School Culture and Ethos-Mol an Óige
 - ▶ Developing Friendships
 - ▶ Extra Curricular Fair
 - ▶ Clear Expectations -Code of Behaviour/ Anti Bullying
 - ▶ Cinnirí
 - ▶ Pastoral Support



Our Pastoral Care Team

- ▶ Ratoath College has a dedicated Pastoral Care team consisting of our Guidance Counsellors, Chaplain and SEN Co-ordinator.
- ▶ This Team meets weekly with the Senior Management team in a Care Team meeting
- ▶ Our Care Team deal with any issues in relation to our student's wellbeing in school.



First Year Team

- **Principal – Mr Meehan**
- **Deputy Principals - Ms Kelly (Junior Cycle)**
Mr Connolly (Senior Cycle)
Mr McCarthy (Admin)
- **Moltóir – Ms. Casey**
- **Caomhnóirí (Class tutors)**
- **Chaplain- Ms. Martin**
- **Guidance**
- **SENCO – Ms. English**



Role of the Moltóir

- ▶ Our Moltóirí (Yearheads) have responsibility for a Year Group.
- ▶ They are the “Principal” of their Year Group
- ▶ Moltóirí deal with discipline issues and also play a huge role in student affirmation and praise.
- ▶ Moltóirí track student's progress and where possible put strategies in place to ensure all students meet their full potential
- ▶ Moltóirí also monitor student punctuality and attendance
- ▶ If issues arise, the Moltóir will contact home to speak to parents or to schedule a meeting
- ▶ If a Parent want to discuss an issue or their child’s progress , it is the Moltóir they contact.



Role of the Caomhnóirí in our School

- ▶ Each class in Ratoath College has a Caomhnóir.
- ▶ Caomhnóirí are students first port of call and deal with students' day to day issues.
- ▶ Each Caomhnóirí has a base classroom with their class's lockers. Students are allowed access these rooms at breaktimes and at the end of the day.
- ▶ Students start everyday with their **Caomhnóir @ 8:40 to 8:50** in an assembly in their base classroom.
- ▶ After 8:50 students proceed to their first class and follow their timetables
- ▶ Caomhnóirí check students Dialanns and correspondence from home, discuss student's positive or negative comments
- ▶ If issues arise Caomhnóirí will contact home to make Parents aware
- ▶ On Wednesday mornings, our Caomhnóirí have tutorial class with their group. This time is used to collate points, and to check in with their students.



Role of the Deputy Principal

- ▶ Ms. Kelly is our Deputy Principal with responsibility for Junior students in Ratoath College.
- ▶ Ms. Kelly liaises with our Moltóirí on a daily basis, monitoring student behaviour and attainment.
- ▶ Ms. Kelly works closely with our SEN team to ensure students needing extra supports receive them
- ▶ Ms. Kelly manages student timetables, subject choice and subject levels
- ▶ Liaise with outside agencies (NEPS/TUSLA/EWO)

Structure of our School Day

- ▶ Students must **be in school for 8:30am** each morning and go to their base class/access locker
- ▶ **Assembly** begins at **08.40** with Caomhnóir.
- ▶ **First class** begins at **8:50am**
- ▶ Classes are **50 minutes** in duration
- ▶ There are **7 class periods** Monday to Thursday
- ▶ **Small break** is from 11:15am to 11:35am Monday to Thursday
- ▶ **Big break** is from 1:15pm to 1:50pm Monday to Thursday
- ▶ School ends at **3:30pm** Monday to Thursday
- ▶ We have a ½ day on **Friday** with school ending at **1:15pm**

Code of Behaviour

We strive to promote positive behaviour in our College in an environment of mutual respect between all of our stakeholders

Our Ladder of referral

- ▶ Class Teacher
- ▶ Caomhnóirí
- ▶ Moltóirí
- ▶ Deputy Principals
- ▶ Principal



Communication via Compass and Dialann

- ▶ It's similar to "Aladdin" that you may have used to in Primary school.
- ▶ We use Compass to communicate with you and track our students progress, attendance and punctuality
- ▶ Early excuse notes/ absence notes/ term reports
- ▶ **Dialann** - Main form of communication between your child's teachers, Caomhnóirí and Moltóirí.
- ▶ Parents are asked to check and sign the Dialann at least once a week (Yellow pages and homework section).
- ▶ Dialann contains records of homework, positive comments, Commendation slips, postcards and negative comments.



Our School Uniform

- ▶ We take great pride in our school uniform and ask that all students wear their full uniform everyday.
- ▶ We've worked hard with our Student Council, Parents Association and Board of Management to design a comfortable uniform for our students.
- ▶ Students who don't wear their uniform will be sent home to change.
- ▶ PE uniform is only to be worn on days we have PE or if students are travelling to a match.
- ▶ Black school shoes must be worn
- ▶ The school jacket is the only jacket permitted into school
- ▶ Uniform items can be purchased online from "Uniforms Direct" or in the village from "Blondelles"



School Uniform

Ratoath College Tracksuit Bottoms



Junior Cycle Jumper



Ratoath College Skirt



Ratoath College Polo T-shirt



Senior Cycle Jumper



Ratoath Blouse Revere White



Ratoath College Boys Navy Trousers



Junior Half-Zip PE Top



Ratoath College Girls Navy Trousers



Senior Half-Zip PE Top



Pre-order

School Shoes

The following types of shoes are permitted to be worn by students:



The following types of shoes are not permitted to be worn by students:



The above list of shoes is not exhaustive. Please contact the school if you are unsure before purchasing footwear.

Mobile Phones

- ▶ Mobile phones and wearables are not permitted and must be switched off during the school day from 8:40am to 3:30pm
- ▶ Any student caught with a phone on will have it confiscated
- ▶ **First offence:** they collect it at 3:30pm from the main office
- ▶ **Second offence:** A parent/guardian must collect it from the main office
- ▶ **Third offence:** meeting held with student and parent and a plan will be put in place to ensure student doesn't have a phone during the day.
- ▶ Since introducing this policy we've seen a drop in online bullying, distraction and have observed greater engagement and communication with their peers from our students.

Anti-Bullying (including cyber-bullying)

- School Anti-bullying policy available on school website – recently updated 2023.
- Aim is to reform student involved in this type of behaviour and prevent it from re-occurring.
- Every student should feel free from bullying and intimidation.

Preventative Strategies

- SPHE classes
- Anti-bullying focus week
- Building positive relationships programme



Social Media

- ▶ Students must NOT photograph, video, manufacture or edit any images or content from school, which brings the school into disrepute.
- ▶ Students in breach of this are breaking the law under General Data Protection Regulation 2018.
- ▶ Students who share any material without the express permission of the school authority is liable to sanction within the school's Code of Behaviour.

New Junior Cycle

► New Junior Cycle (NJC)

8 Key Skills to be taught by all teachers in all subjects and Short Courses

Allows students to

- Be more active engaged with learning
- Take greater ownership of their learning
- Have a critical engagement with digital technology
- Be encouraged to problem solve and think critically and creatively



New Junior Cycle

Subjects:

- ✓ Students will study a maximum of ten subjects for assessment by the State Examinations Commission (SEC).
- ✓ **English, Irish and Mathematics** will be a central part of the Junior cycle programme for all students. These subjects will be offered at two levels-higher and ordinary.
- ✓ **Wellbeing:** Wellbeing will provide learning opportunities to enhance the physical, mental, emotional and social wellbeing and resilience of students, and to enable students to build life-skills and to develop a strong sense of connectedness to the school and to their community.

Subjects for Junior Cycle

- ▶ English
 - ▶ Irish
 - ▶ Maths
 - ▶ History
 - ▶ Geography
 - ▶ Science
 - ▶ Modern Language
 - ▶ 2 Option Subjects
 - ▶ Digital short course over 2 years
- ▶ Wellbeing including:
 - ✓ Social Personal & Health Education (SPHE)
 - ✓ Physical Education (PE)
 - ✓ Civic Social and Political Education (CSPE)
 - ✓ Wednesday tutorial
 - ✓ Morning Assembly

Changes to Assessment

- Subject State Examination = 90%
- Assessment Task = 10% (in school)
- Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs)(in school)
- Other Learning Experiences

All of these will feature on your daughter's
JCPA: Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement

STATE CERTIFIED FINAL EXAMINATIONS		Classroom-Based Assessments - English	
Examination number:	60001	Oral Communication:	In line with expectations
English (O) 1 st	Distracted	Collection of Texts:	Yet to meet expectations
Classroom-Based Assessments - Short Courses			
Irish (O) 1 st	A	Coding:	In line with expectations
Mathematics (H) 1 st	B	Physical Education:	Yet to meet expectations
History (H) 1 st	C	Arts Performance:	In line with expectations
Geography (H) 1 st	D	Philosophy:	Yet to meet expectations
French (O) 1 st	F		
Business Studies (H) 1 st	NC		
Science (H) 1 st	NC		
C.S.P.E. (C) 1 st	B		

Other Areas of Learning

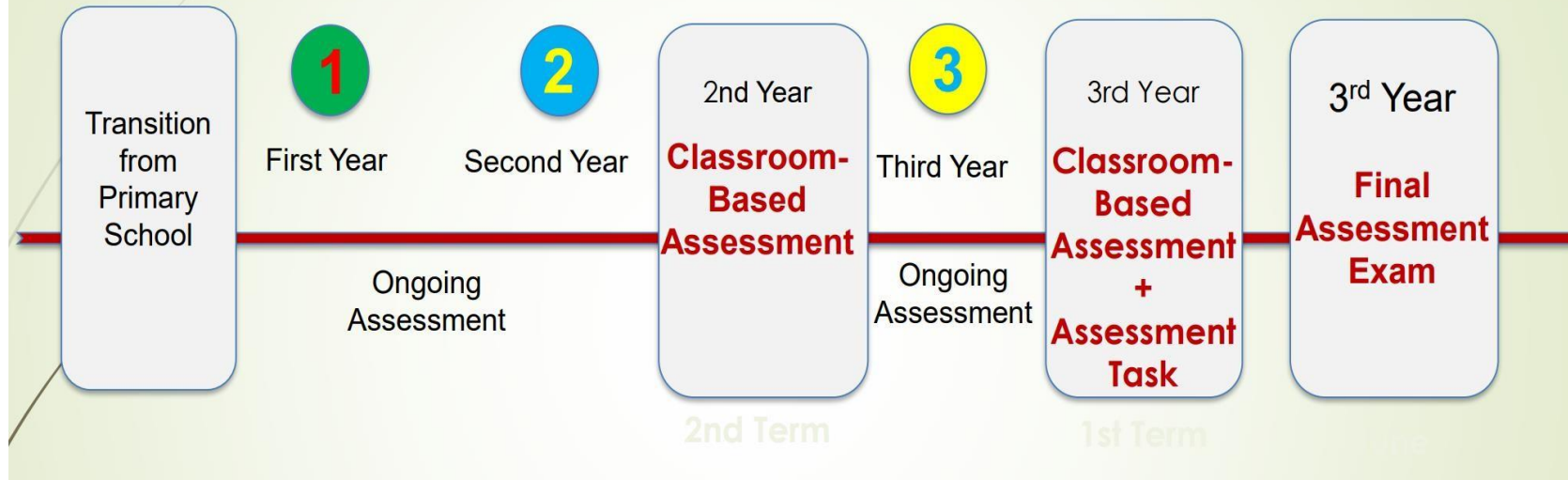
The school has flexibility to report on other learning experiences/activities that the student has participated in outside the formal timetable/curriculum such as:

- Engagement with co-curricular or extra-curricular activities such as a science fair, school sporting activities or debating.
- Specific learning opportunities that do not form part of subjects or short courses, i.e. leadership training, activities relating to guidance, membership of school clubs or societies, membership of school's student council.
- Engagements that form part of the formal timetable/curriculum but not reported on in other sections of the JCPA, i.e. engagement with a school's own religious education programme or with members of the PE, SPHE, citizenship and CPRE.

Principal: Year Head: Roll Number: 000002



One Subject's Journey



Ongoing assessment that supports student learning



New Junior Cycle Grading System

Grade	New Grade Bands
Distinction	≥ 85 to 100
Higher Merit	≥ 70 and < 85
Merit	≥ 55 and < 70
Achieved	≥ 40 and < 55
Partially Achieved	≥ 20 and < 40
Non-Graded	≥ 0 and < 20