CYPSC
COISTE NA SEIRBHÍSÍ DO LEANAÍ & DO DHAOINE ÓGA
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
Baile Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin

# What Next?

## Early School Leaving Resource for South Dublin



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# The Education System



# 1. The Education System

Navigating the education system can feel overwhelming, but everyone's education journey looks different. In Ireland, education is structured so that you can step in, step out, or pick back up at any age. Whether you left school early, completed your Junior Cycle, or are exploring your options there are clear, flexible pathways to help you build skills, gain qualifications, and reach your goals at your own pace (Figure 1).

## Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE)

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Programme is a free two-year preschool scheme in Ireland that provides eligible children with access to early learning and development opportunities.

## Primary Education

Children usually start primary school between the ages of 4 and 5 and it is an eight-year cycle of education consisting of:

- Junior Infants
- Senior Infants
- First Class to Sixth Class

## Post-Primary (Secondary) Education

Secondary school generally caters for students aged 12 to 18 years and is divided into:

i) Junior Cycle (3 years), ending with the Junior Cycle examination.

ii) Senior Cycle (2 to 3 years), usually beginning after an optional Transition Year (TY).

Senior Cycle Options Students can choose one of the following pathways:

- Leaving Certificate (Established)
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)
- Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

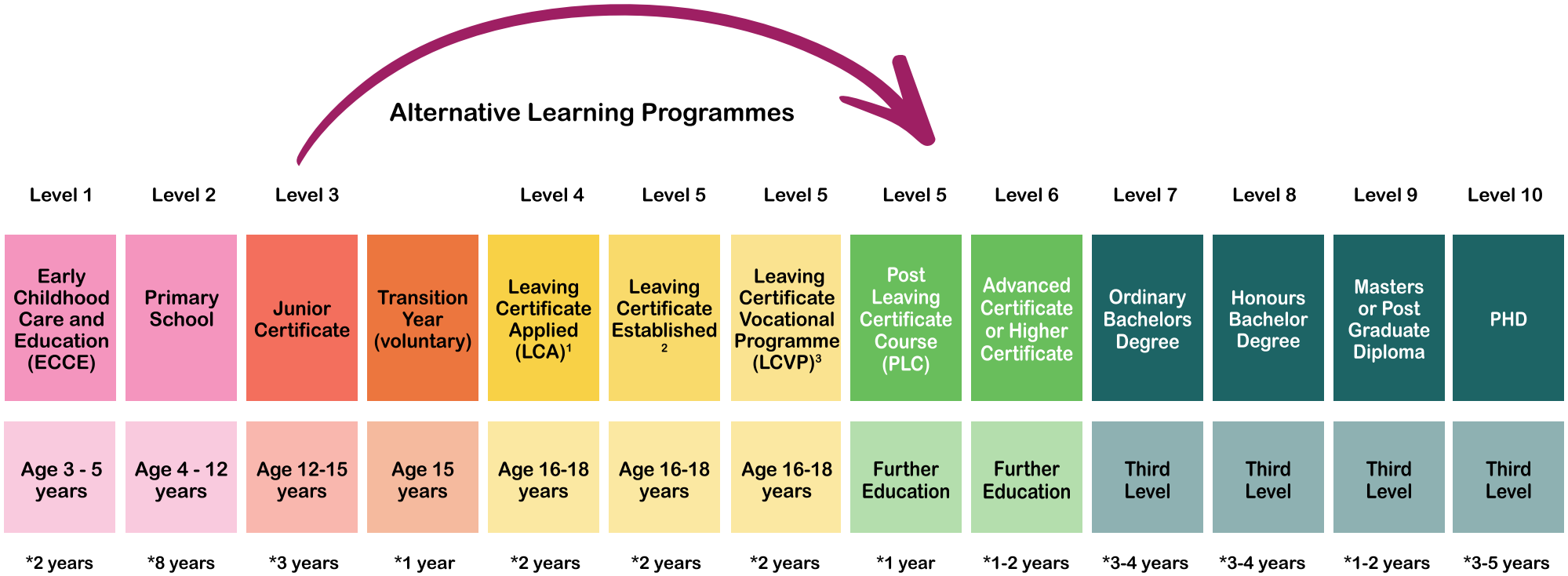



**Figure 1** The Irish Education System

* Length of years to complete the level

[1] Students who complete the Leaving Certificate Applied (Level 4) need to complete a PLC course first, which can then open the door to third level (Level 6 & 7) through the CAO

[2] Students who complete the Leaving Certificate (Level 5) can apply either directly to third-level college through the CAO, or first take a Post-Leaving Cert (PLC) course for more learning.

[3] Students who complete the LCVP (Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme) are treated the same as standard Leaving Certificate students for college applications and can apply either directly to third-level college through the CAO, or first take a Post-Leaving Cert (PLC) course for more learning.

## Alternative Education

For young people who have left school early there are Alternative Education Programmes (see page 22) designed for 15–20-year-olds who left school early. It offers basic education, work experience, and QQI Level 3 – 4 qualifications in a non-school environment.

Level 3 or 4 award (from Youthreach or other alternative education) is equivalent to Junior or Leaving Cert standards and opens the exact same doors to Level 5/6 PLCs and university.

## Further Education Pathways

Students who complete the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) can progress to a Post-Leaving Certificate (PLC) course, which typically leads to a Level 5 qualification.

A Level 5 qualification can lead to:

- A Level 6 Advanced Certificate or Higher Certificate
- Progression to higher education through established pathways

## Higher Education Pathways

Students who complete the Leaving Certificate (Established) can apply directly to higher education programmes through the Central Applications Office (CAO). Students with Level 5 or Level 6 qualifications, including those progressing from LCA or LCVP routes, may also access higher education through the Central Applications Office (CAO).

For more **information** on Higher Education Pathways see Crosscare information on Education Progression Routes



## Progression through education in Ireland

Progression and transitions are important parts of the Irish education system. They refer to how children and young people move from one stage of education to the next.

Children typically move from early childhood education (such as the ECCE) to primary school, then to post-primary school and/or secondary school, and for many, on to further or higher education, training, or employment. Every transition is designed to support children's learning and wellbeing as they move into a new educational environment.

There are supports available for students as they transition between different stages of education, particularly from primary school to secondary school. These supports include:

- **Induction Days:** Most secondary schools host incoming 1st year visit days, orientation sessions, or peer mentoring programs to help students get used to new timetables and buildings.
- **Education Passport:** Primary schools complete this National Council for Curriculum and Assessment profile with 6th class students to share learning progress, achievements, and support needs with the new secondary school.
- **Special Educational Needs (SEN):** Primary and secondary staff coordinate the transfer of clinical reports, support plans, and Special Needs Assistant (SNA) requirements ahead of time.

**For more information on supports transitioning from Primary to Secondary school please see:**

| **Website:** www.cho7cdnt.ie
(CHO7 Children's Disability Network Teams)

# Early School Leaving



# 2. Early school leaving

If you have this document it is probably because you are thinking about leaving school early this could be for any number of reasons. You may also be finding school really difficult at the moment and wondering where to go for support or help.

Before you leave, there are a few things that might be good to know and worth considering;

- The legal age for leaving school is 16 or after your Junior Cert whichever is later.
- There can be fewer options for those who leave before 16 (although there are some).
- The risk of unemployment and low paid work can often be higher for young people who leave school early.
- However (and this is really important to know!) formal education isn't an absolute necessity to a successful life. There are many ways to succeed and many ways to educate yourself.

## Tips

- It can help to listen to your parents point of view because they usually want the best options for you.
- Tell them about your feelings and concerns honestly.
- If you have a plan (such as training, an apprenticeship, or a job), share it with them.
- If you feel you can't have this conversation alone, ask someone you trust like a youth worker, teacher, or guidance counsellor to support you when talking to your parents.

# FAQs*

Remember if you are unhappy in school. There are people who are willing to help and offer you support and advice on how best to improve your school experience or discuss what other options are out there.

### I am being bullied in school – who can help?
Your school should have an anti-bullying policy that states what will be done if someone is being bullied. Tell your parents and / or a teacher in school what is happening. Don't try to cope with this issue alone.

### I'm pregnant – do I have to leave school?
No, there is no need for you to leave school. There are supports available in the school and outside school to help you like Home Tuition.

### What is Home Tuition?
If you are still in secondary school you may be entitled to a Home Tuition Grant. This scheme is to provide you with home tuition if you are studying for your Junior Cert or Leaving Cert and if your education is being disrupted. Under this Scheme you can get 90 hours of Home Tuition spread over 6 months according to your needs.

### How do I change schools?
You need to apply in writing to the school of your choice, including your age and year to which you are applying. Also request a copy of the school's admission policy. The school should then give you a decision in writing within 21 days.

### My local school won't let me enrol, what now?
If a school has refused you a school place and you are not happy with that decision, you can appeal it, under what is called a Section 29 Appeal.

### I've been suspended (20 days or more) / expelled – what happens now?
Your school must notify the Educational Welfare Services. If you are not happy with this decision your parents (or you if you are 18+) have a right to appeal under what is called a Section 29 Appeal.

### What is a Section 29 appeal?
Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 gives parents (& students who have reached the age of 18) the right to appeal certain decisions made by a school's board of management. This includes decisions to exclude, suspend and refuse enrolment. You can do this by filling in an Appeals form which is available on request from the school or downloadable from the Dept. of Education and Skills website.
If you attend an ETB school, you must first appeal to the ETB – your school will give you a form.

***Source:** Crosscare Youth Information

# Before you make any decisions…

## Telling Your Parents

- If you decide to leave school early, it can cause conflict but having the right support can make a big difference.
- Your parents might have doubts with your idea of leaving school.
- They may be concerned that you are passing up opportunities for your future.
- They may feel disappointed because, in their eyes, you are giving up chances they may not have had themselves.
- They may not fully understand or may have forgotten the pressures involved with school today. There is often much more pressure on young people now to achieve than there was in the past.



- They may also be worried about your ability to find a job.

## Your Viewpoint

- You may feel overwhelmed by school pressures or believe that another path would suit you better.
- You might already have ideas about work, training, or alternative education.
- You may feel that your parents don't fully understand how you feel.

## A Supportive Person Can Help

If you are finding it hard to talk to your parents, think of another trusted adult can support you. For example a coach or youth worker, could help you explain your thoughts clearly and calmly. They can act as a neutral person who listens to both sides and helps everyone understand each other better.

## School attendance and avoidance

If you miss 20 days or more in one school year, your school is legally required to tell Tusla (the Child and Family Agency).

If you are missing a lot of school, you might meet someone called an Educational Welfare Officer (EWO). They are there to help figure out why it's hard for you to get to school and to support you and your family in getting back on track.

Going to schools regularly is important because you want to make sure you don't miss out on your education, friendships, and opportunities. It is also hard to catch up on your studies if you missed how the teacher explained how to do something in school.

For more information on school attendance and avoidance please see these links:


Understanding School Avoidance



CDI-NOVA-Toolkit

## Support to stay in school

There are supports available for young people and their parents to encourage students to stay in school. These include:

- School Completion Programme
- Home School Liaison Officer
- Education Welfare Officer

### School Completion Programme

The School Completion Programme (SCP) is here to support young people in primary and secondary school who might find school tough or who are at risk of leaving early. It is part of the DEIS programme and is funded by Tusla Education Support Services.

SCP's whole purpose is to help you stay in school, feel supported, and have the best chance to finish your Leaving Cert or another qualification that suits you. That way, you're in a strong position to move on to further education, training, or work.

If you are ever finding school challenging, feeling disconnected, or unsure about your next steps, SCP is there to help you stay on track and find the path that works for you. For more information on the areas that the SCP is available please see this link.

## Home School Liaison Officer

**What is the support?**
The HSCL Coordinator is someone in the school whose job is to help students and their families stay connected to school. They work to make sure young people feel supported, understood, and not on their own.

They might visit your home to meet your parent or guardian and get to know your family better. This helps build trust between home and school and makes it easier to sort out any problems that might be getting in the way of school, like attendance, learning, or stress.

HSCL Coordinator can help with:

- Getting back on track with school attendance.
- Supporting your learning if you're finding school difficult.
- Explaining supports like the School Completion Programme (SCP).
- Making sure you and your family know about help and services in the community.

They might visit when you first start school, or later to check in, offer support, or talk about how things are going.

**Where is it?**

Home School Community Liaison Scheme,
Dublin West Education Centre,
Old Blessington Road,
Tallaght, Dublin 24 **D24 PX58**

**Phone:** 01 525 2166 | **Website**: tusla.ie

## Education Welfare Officers

When you are not in school, your parent or guardian must let the school know why you are absent. They need to do this in writing so the school can keep proper records.

In Ireland, going to school is the law for everyone aged 6 to 16. If a parent doesn't make sure their child is attending school, the Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) can step in. In serious cases, they can even take legal action under the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.

The EWO service works with every school in the country (DEIS and non DEIS, primary and secondary) to make sure young people are supported to attend

school regularly and get the education they're entitled to.

The main goal of this service is to make sure every young person either goes to school regularly or gets the minimum education they're entitled to. Basically, it's there to protect your right to an education.

Educational Welfare Officers (EWOs) work with you and your family in a supportive, child centred way. Their job is to help you deal with whatever is getting in the way of going to school, taking part, or staying in school. They also link in with schools, support services, and other agencies to sort out attendance issues and make things better for you and your family.

**Address:**Tusla Educational Welfare Service,
Child and Family Agency,
South Dublin County Council Offices,
County Hall, Block 3,Tallaght,
Dublin 24 **D24A3XC**

**Phone:** 01 525 2166 | **Email:** tess.dml@tusla.ie | **Website:** tusla.ie

| Name | Area | Email | Phone |
|---|---|---|---|
| Gary Harding | Dublin 4, Dublin 2, Dublin 6 & Dublin 6W | gary.harding@tusla.ie | 087 174 6270 |
| Marion Mannion | Dublin 8 | marion.mannion@tusla.ie | 087 287 1331 |
| Francisca O Kelly | Adamstown/Lucan | franciscaokelly@tusla.ie | 087 134 8625 |
| Amy White | Dublin 12 | amy.white@tusla.ie | 087 720 7743 |
| Eamonn Regan | Clondalkin | eamonn.regan@tusla.ie | 087 682 5293 |
| Neasa Henry | Lucan | neasa.henry@tusla.ie | 087 181 9307 |

**If you can't go into school there are some options:**

## Home tuition

**Website**: gov.ie

The Home Tuition Grant Scheme is there to support young people who can't go to school for specific reasons. It provides funding so you can get teaching at home when school isn't possible for you.

It's important to know that home tuition isn't meant to replace school long term. It's only offered in very limited situations where there's no other option.

There are three main reasons someone might get home tuition:

- Special educational needs or medical reasons
- Other exceptional reasons that aren't medical
- Special educational needs related like when a student is out of school because of maternity related absences

***Talk to your school/your child's school to see about accessing this and to get support to access to find a tutor and access a grant.***

## iScoil

iScoil is an online learning service that helps young people get back into education in a way that feels safe, flexible and supportive. It gives you a chance to learn at your own pace, earn recognised QQI qualifications, and move on to further education, training or work.

iScoil creates a learning plan that's built around you and your interests, your strengths, and the way you learn best. You're not just handed work and left alone. You get guidance from mentors and tutors who support you, answer questions, and help you stay on track. As you work through your courses, you build up a portfolio that's assessed for your QQI accreditation. Everything is designed to help you progress step by step.

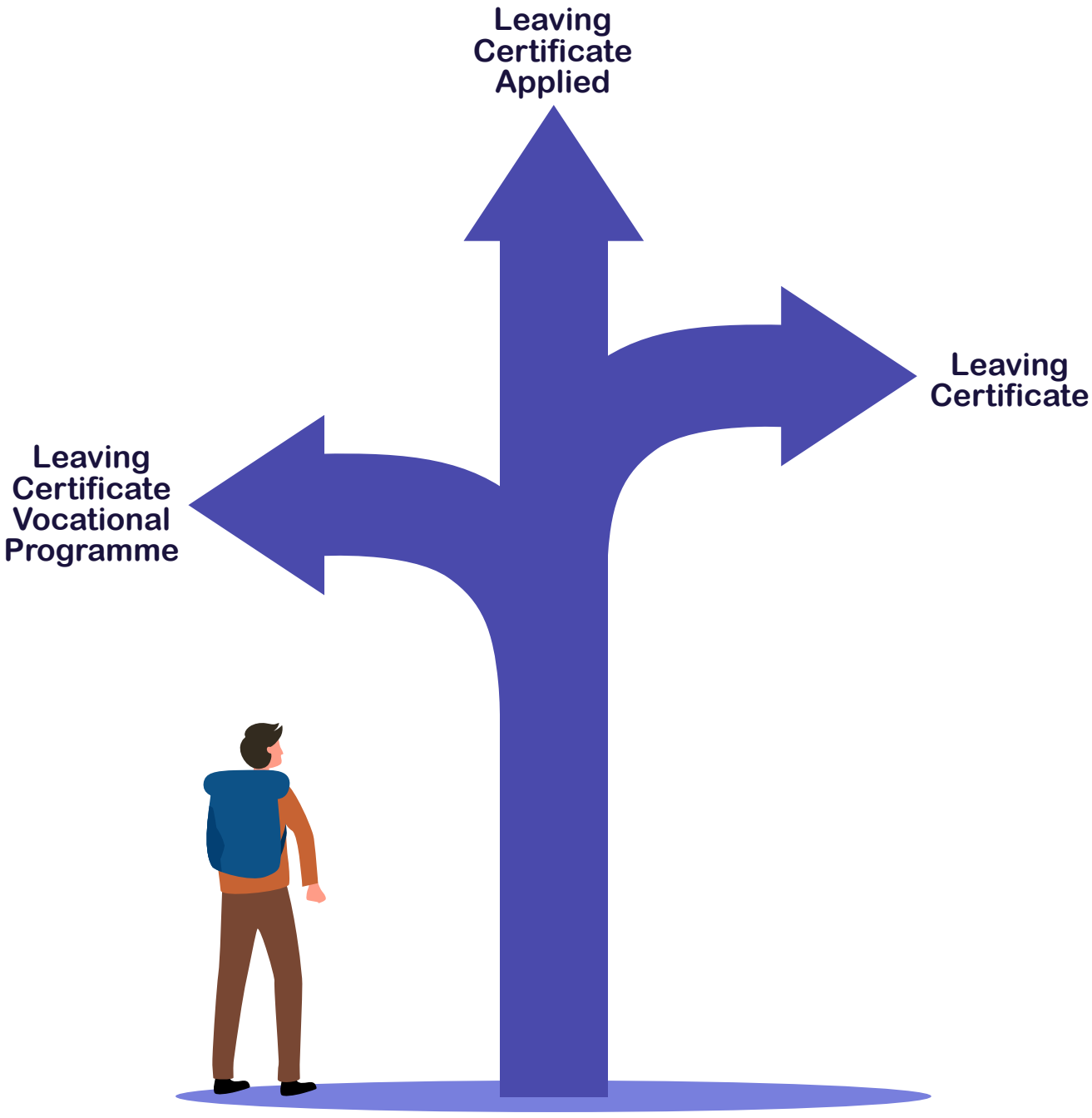
iScoil is flexible too. You can work from home or from a local blended learning centre, and you can move at a pace that suits your life and your needs.

To be considered for iScoil please talk to your school and you must be: To qualify for iScoil you must be:

- Aged 13 – 16 years (inclusive)
- Junior Cycle not completed
- Absent from mainstream education for at least 6 months
- All efforts and other interventions have been exhausted

**Phone:** 01 453 757 | **Email:** info@iscoil.ie | **Website:** iscoil.ie
Or talk to your local Education Welfare Officer

# Different types of Leaving Certificate Programmes



# 3. Different types of Leaving Certificates

The Leaving Certificate is the traditional route through secondary education in Ireland, but it is not the right fit for every young person. Some students may find the structure, pace, or exam-focused nature of mainstream schooling challenging, particularly if they have disengaged from education, are experiencing personal difficulties, or simply learn in different ways.

There are two other options available and they include

- Leaving Certificate Established
- Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)

## Leaving Certificate Established

Most Senior Cycle students choose the established Leaving Certificate programme. This 2-year programme covers a wide range of subjects. In general, students take 5 or more subjects (usually 7) for examination and it is carried out in all secondary schools in South Dublin.

List of all secondary schools in South Dublin (Find a school).

## Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA):

The Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) is a 2-year, practical senior cycle programme designed for adult and working life, focusing on continuous assessment rather than exams. Split into four sessions, it awards credits for project work, interviews, and tasks, with only one-third of marks from final exams. It prepares students for further education (PLCs) or employment. **For a list of schools in South Dublin that run the Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA) see the Appendix).**

## Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP):

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme has a focus on learning by doing instead of just sitting in classes, you're hands-on like welding, coding, cooking, styling hair, or working with computers. This requires students to take a recognised subject grouping and a "Link Modules" component that develops skills for the workplace. **For a list of schools in South Dublin that run the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) see the Appendix).**

## Accessibility and inclusion




Accessibility and inclusion in the Irish Leaving Certificate are primarily managed through the Reasonable Accommodations at Certificate Examinations (RACE) scheme, operated by the State Examinations Commission (SEC). This scheme provides supports like;

- Scribes - trained person who writes down a student's answers exactly as the student dictates them.
- Reading assistants - reads the examination paper aloud to the student.
- Braille - examination papers are provided for students who are blind or have a severe visual impairment.
- Assistive technology - refers to specialised equipment or software that helps a student access and complete the exam like screen readers or laptops.

These supports can be offered to students with special educational needs, ensuring they can demonstrate their knowledge without compromising fairness. This also continues onto third level education.

### Reasonable Accommodation at Certificate Examinations scheme (RACE)

Under the Reasonable Accommodation at Certificate Examinations scheme (RACE), post-primary students with disabilities may receive special arrangements while sitting state examinations. For example, assistive technology, access to a scribe, an exemption from the aural part of the exam, and so on. In school, testing is used to determine eligibility for Reasonable Accommodation at Certificate Examinations, in line with the State Exams Commission protocols.

For more information please discuss with your School Principal and/or Special Education Needs Coordinator.

### Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)

Disability Access Route to Education is a third level alternative admissions scheme. Disability Access Route to Education can sometimes offer reduced points places to school leavers who, because of disability, have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education. The Disability Access Route to Education is for school leavers with a disability aged 23 or under. School leavers with physical and sensory disabilities (hearing and/or vision impairment) are prioritised under the Disability Access Route to Education scheme.

Please discuss the eligibility criteria with your School Principal and/or Special Educational Needs Organiser Coordinator.

### The Higher Education Access Route (HEAR)

The Higher Education Access Route is a third level alternative admissions scheme which offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers who are resident in the Republic of Ireland and are under-represented at Higher Education due to their socio-economic circumstances. The Higher Education Access Route is for school leavers aged 23 or under. An applicant who is eligible for this scheme will be given priority when allocating reduced points places. An applicant who is eligible for the Disability Access Route to Education and the Higher Education Access Route will be given priority when allocating reduced points places. Applications for both schemes are made through the Central Applications Office (CAO).

## TU Dublin Access Office

The TU Dublin Access Officer provides comprehensive, tailored support to students from under-represented groups who enter via our four primary routes: HEAR, Access TU Dublin, QQI Access, and the Access Foundation Programme (AFP).

Their goal is to create an inclusive and equitable learning experience by removing the barriers that can hinder student success. They aim to support Access students as they transition into university life and provide the necessary framework to ensure every student progresses steadily toward earning their degree.

The access office can provide financial supports such as:

- Student Assistance Funds: Assisting with applications for emergency or essential financial aid.
- Scholarships: Connecting eligible students with specific Access-based funding opportunities.
- Budgeting: Providing advice on managing finances throughout the academic year.
- One-to-One Advisory: Providing a safe space for personal meetings to discuss any challenges you face.
- Peer Networking: Creating opportunities to meet other Access students and build a strong community.

- Advocacy: Acting as a liaison between you and the wider university to ensure your voice is heard.

**Address:** TU Dublin Access Support, LH 223, Lower House, Grangegorman Lower, Dublin 7, **D07 N6R2**

**Phone:** 01 220 857 | **Email**: access.supports@tudublin.ie

**National Learning Network**

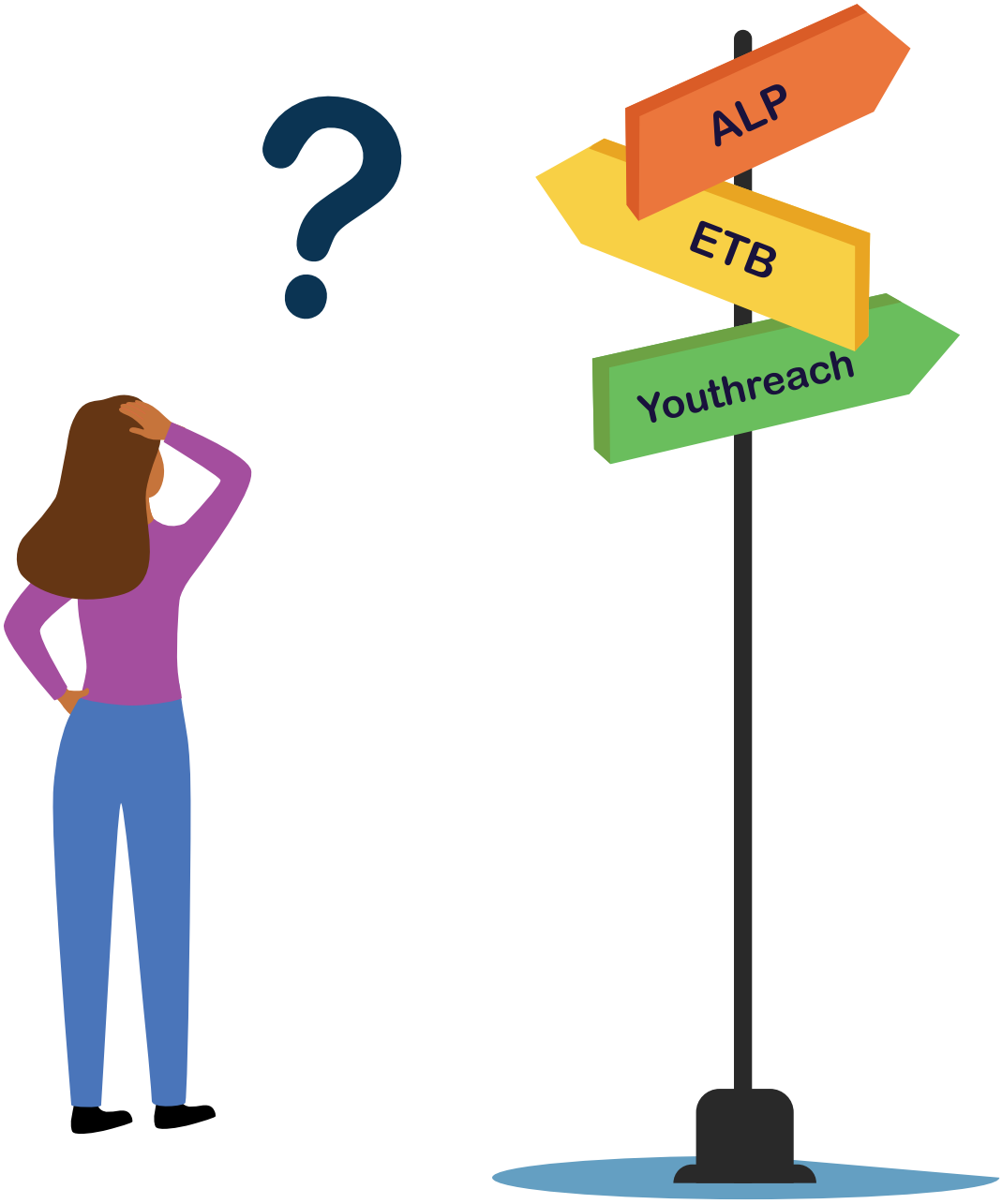
At NLN in Tallaght we provide a range of free courses to people who have had an accident, illness, injury or have a disability and extra support needs.

Our courses are tailored to each student's needs, to help them to build their confidence while getting practical job-seeking skills to help them get a job or go on to further training.

For more information on courses available at NLN at our Tallaght centre see below or call the centre today.

**Contact:** Sean Adams
**Address:** 77 Broomhill Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24
**Phone:** 01 452 5777 | **Email:** tallaght@nln.ie
| **Website:** rehab.ie

# Alternative Education



# 4. Alternative Education

Mainstream secondary school with its big classes, long days, and high-pressure exams isn't for everyone. And that is okay. Alternative education is all about learning in a way that works for you. It's a different way to get your qualifications, build your confidence, and get ready for a career without the stress of a traditional classroom. Instead of trying to fit into a box, these programmes adapt to fit who you are.

**What makes alternative education different?**

- Small Groups, Big Support: Classes are small, so your tutors have time to help you when you're stuck.
- Progress as You Go: You often earn credits through continuous assessment.
- Life-skills: You get to focus on things you're interested in like coding, cooking, music, or trades alongside life skills like budgeting and wellbeing.
- Supportive environment: Many centres offer extra help with things like mental health and career planning, making it feel more like a community than a school.

**Dara's story:**



Dara is 16 and attending a large post-primary school. Dara struggled with the strict structure and the large class sizes. Over time, Dara felt very anxious about school, which led to Dara not going to school regularly. The mainstream curriculum is focused on the Leaving Certificate's exams, Dara was falling behind and lost interest. Along with the Guidance Counsellor and Dara's parents, it was decided that a more flexible environment was needed. Dara left mainstream school after completing the Junior Certificate and enrolled in Youth Reach.

- Instead of 30 students, Dara is in a group of 10.
- Dara earns QQI credits throughout the year.
- Dara studies practical subjects like Woodwork and IT, alongside the basics.
- A dedicated tutor helps Dara manage anxiety and plan their next steps.
- Dara receives a weekly training allowance.
- Dara's goal is to complete a QQI Level 4 certificate (the equivalent of a Leaving Cert in terms of progression).

From there, the Youthreach staff will help Dara transition directly into an Apprenticeship or a Post-Leaving Cert (PLC) course.

# Alternative Learning Programme for young people under 16 years

## Alternative Learning Programme (ALP)

The Alternative Learning Programme (ALP) was set up by DDLETB to support young people under 16 who aren't currently in school and don't have many education options.

In the ALP, young people get the chance to explore things like going back to school, moving on to further education or training, and thinking about future career paths. They also get support to build the skills they need to stay involved in education, training, or work. The Alternative Learning Programme is located in Clondalkin and Tallaght.

**Address:** Collinstown Park Sports Complex, Rowlagh, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
**Phone:** 01 452 9600 | **Email:** alp@ddletb.ie

PDF ALP-Booklet

## Carline

Peter McVerry Trust Learning Centres provide young people with a high-quality education programme. Our Learning Centres work with young people who cannot access mainstream education. This may be due to many reasons such as educational, emotional, social or behavioural challenges. The Carline Centre provides a social care service, an education programme and a psychological service.

All our young people study all or some of the following subjects up to Junior Certificate level.

**Address:** Ninth Lock Rd, Kishoge, Lucan, Co. Dublin
**Phone:** 01 624 9965 | **Email:** referrals@pmvtrust.ie

**Referrals:** The Learning Centres accept referrals continuously during the year.

PDF **More information:**
Carline Learning Centres

# Alternative Learning Programme over 16 years

## Youthreach

Youthreach is a full time education, training and work skills programme for young people aged 16 – 20 who have left school early. It's designed to help you figure out what you want to do in the future, build your confidence, and earn recognised certificates along the way.

If school didn't work out for you and you're looking for a different way to learn, Youthreach could be a good fit. It gives you the chance to return to education in a more relaxed, supportive environment where you can learn new skills, gain qualifications, and work towards getting a job or moving on to further training.

To join Youthreach, you need to:

- Be between 16 and 20 (please contact centre if you are younger)
- Have left mainstream school early
- Want to continue your education and be ready to commit to the programme

Youthreach gives you the chance to earn real qualifications while learning in a more relaxed, supportive environment.

Every Youthreach centre is a bit different, and the subjects you do will depend on your level, your interests, and what's available in your local centre.

### Sample of subjects offered in Youthreach

- Communications
- Computers
- Personal effectiveness
- Woodwork
- Hairdressing
- Sports
- Career planning
- Childcare
- Work experience
- Maths or using numbers
- Art, design, photography or other creative subjects
- Retail skills

Youthreach courses are free, and you also get a training allowance while you're there. The amount you're paid depends on your age. There are also extra supports available for young parents who are taking part in the programme.

There are five Youthreaches in South Dublin

| Centre | Contact | Address | Phone | Email | Website |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Youthreach Clondalkin | Derek McGrath | Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin D22T9K3 | 01 459 3750 | derekmcgrath@clondalkinyr.ie | ddletb.ie |
| Youthreach Lucan | Fergus Farrell | Lucan Education Centre. Newlands Road, Esker Hill, Lucan, Co. Dublin K78Y2Y3 | 01 628 3851 | fergusfarrell@lucanyr.ie | ddletb.ie |
| Youthreach Tallaght | Eimear O'Rourke | Whitestown Industrial Estate, Killinarden, Tallaght D24 KX50 | 01 452 3411 | eimearorourke@tallaghtyr.ie | ddletb.ie |
| Youthreach YES Centre (Neilstown) | Mags Doyle | Unit 1A, Weatherwell Business Park, Neilstown Rd, Neillstown, Dublin D22 Y273 | 01 457 9444 | magsdoyle@ddletb.ie | ddletb.ie |
| Priory Youthreach | Paul Curtis | Greenhills Rd, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 VR64 | 01 451 5292 | priory@ddletb.ie | ddletb.ie |

**Greenhills College** (Dublin College FET Greenhills) offers a foundational **Pre-Level 5 Access Course** (QQI Level 4) designed to help adult learners and early school leavers build their study skills, gain confidence, and transition smoothly into Further Education or employment.

- Transition preparation, career exploration, and fundamental academic skills (organisation, drafting, and study techniques).
- Ideal for those transitioning from second-level school or looking for a stepping stone before taking on advanced QQI Level 5 or 6 programs.
- All programs are fully certified by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

**Address:** Limekiln Avenue, Walkinstown, Dublin 12.
| **Website:** greenhillscollege.ie

# Community Training

## Y.E.S. - Youth Education and Support

Y.E.S. centre offers Employability Skills in QQI accredited courses Level 3 and 4 in a small group setting. All subjects are project based and students work at their own pace to completed the course. A training allowance based on attendance is available to each student.

**Address:** Y.E.S. Centre, A1 Weather Well Business Park, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
**Phone:** 01 457 9444 | **Email:** magsdoyle@yescentre.ie

## Youth Horizons

Youth Horizons run Leaving Cert programme for two years (5th and 6th Year) for early school leavers that struggle in mainstream school. The service operates during the academic year from September to June. They support everyone that attends the service try to help those facing complex challenges in their lives.

Youth Horizons removes the barriers of educational attainment and allows graduates to access further education, apprenticeships, university of the world of work. They also offer

- Counselling services
- Mentoring
- Career Guidance
- Cooking and Nutrition
- Life skills, wellbeing and travel opportunities

There is also a creche which gives some of the students who have children the opportunity to return to education.

**Contact person:** Geraldine
**Address:** 1 Sundale Rd, Kiltalown, Dublin, **D24 YD71**
**Phone:** 01 462 7021 | **Email:** youthhorizons2@gmail.com | **Website:** youthhorizons.ie

## City Wise Education

If you have left school or feel stuck about what to do next, Citywise works with young people to help figure out the next step.

Citywise runs education and support programmes for young people aged 8 to 24 in West Tallaght. They work both in the community with young people that are going to school and not going to school.

### What Citywise does is

- Support young people one to one and in small groups.
- Help young people get back into education, training, or college.
- Build confidence, skills, and belief in yourself.
- Support to set goals and work towards a future that suits you.
- They understand that leaving school can happen for lots of reasons pressure at home, money worries, bad school experiences, or just feeling disconnected.

**Address:** The Durkan Centre Fortunestown Way **D24 W284**
**Phone:** 01 404 9736 | **Email:** info@citywise.ie
| **Website:** citywise.ie

## Fettercairn Youth Horse Project

A community-based horse riding and training centre situated right beside the Fettercairn Red Line Luas Stop in Tallaght. FYHP also provide Equine Assisted Learning and Equine Therapy, for children on the Autism Spectrum, children with disabilities, visual and hearing impairments. FYHP also offers a comprehensive accredited training programme for people wishing to work in the Equine Industry. We run public and private horse-riding lessons as well as pony camps for all ages.

**Address:** 24 Fettercairn Rd, Whitehall, Dublin 24
**Phone:** 01 462 7214 | **Email:** fettercairnhorseproject@gmail.com
| **Facebook:** Fettercairn Horse Project

# Traveller Specific Programmes



# 5. Traveller specific supports

**Clondalkin Traveller Development Group**
Clondalkin Traveller Training Enterprise Education Development is a community organisation that supports Travellers in the South Dublin area with training, education and opportunities to build skills for the future. Their work is all about helping people learn, grow and access the supports they need.

Services and supports provided:

- Information and advice
- Key working and case management supports
- Mentoring
- Supports for family members
- Education, training and employment supports
- Health and personal development support

**Address:** St Olivers Education & Training Centre, Cloverhill Rd, Clondalkin, Dublin, **D22 YY51**
**Phone:** 01 457 5124
| **Facebook:** Clondalkin Travellers Development Group

**Crosscare Travellers Programme**
Tallaght Travellers Youth Service works with members of the Traveller community in the Greater Tallaght and Lucan Road areas, running educational and developmental programmes rooted in the five core principles of youth work. These help young Travellers build confidence, learn new skills, and grow as individuals.

They also offer needs-based learning supports and life skills programmes for adult Travellers, alongside a drop-in information service where community members can get support on a range of issues and services.

Their programmes are regularly reviewed and updated to meet the changing needs of the people they serve.

**Address:** Presbytery 2, St Thomas the Apostle Church Grounds, Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24, **D24XD0F**
**Phone:** 01 459 6692 | **Email:** tlanigan@crosscare.ie
| **Website:** crosscare.ie

# Youth Services and Supports



# 6. Youth Services & Supports

Youth services are structured, community-based, or statutory supports designed to support the personal, social, and educational development of young people (typically aged 10–25).

These services provide safe spaces, mentorship, and targeted programs like mental health support, employability training, and recreational activities to promote empowerment, inclusion, and positive life outcomes among young people.

## Crosscare

Crosscare is the social support agency of the Catholic Archdiocese of Dublin, providing social care, homeless services, and youth programs. In South Dublin Crosscare provides a:

- Youth Information Service
- Travellers Programme
- Youth Services

### Crosscare Clondalkin Youth Information Service

Crosscare Youth Information Service is a free, confidential, professional Youth Information service for 15 – 25 year olds and those working with them.

We cater for all kind of queries including school, education, training, apprenticeships, alternative learning options, going to college, CV and interview preparation and much more.

We signpost and actively refer young people and families to other key services in the area to ensure that they get the additional specialists supports that they need.

**Contact person:** Susan Scott
**Address:** Crosscare, The Old Tech, Monastery Rd, Clondalkin, Dublin, **D22 R7F2**
**Phone:** 086 130 4629 & 01 459 4666 | **Email:** cysinfo@crosscare.ie | **Website:** crosscare.ie

## Crosscare Travellers Programme

Tallaght Travellers Youth Service works with members of the Traveller community in the Greater Tallaght and Lucan Road areas, running educational and developmental programmes rooted in the five core principles of youth work. These help young Travellers build confidence, learn new skills, and grow as individuals.

They also offer needs-based learning supports and life skills programmes for adult Travellers, alongside a drop-in information service where community members can get support on a range of issues and services. Their programmes are regularly reviewed and updated to meet the changing needs of the people they serve.

**Address:** Presbytery 2, St Thomas the Apostle Church Grounds, Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24, **D24XD0F**
**Phone:** 01 459 6692 | **Email:** tlanigan@crosscare.ie | **Website:** crosscare.ie

## Crosscare Youth Service

Local Crosscare Youth Services in Clondalkin provide a wide range of activities and supports for young people aged 10 to 25 including: Art based activities; Sports based activities; Outdoor Learning activities; Drop In's; Music; Issue based activities; Young Women's & Men's groups; Outreach; Street work; Mentoring; Games & recreational activities. Crosscare has three different locations around South Dublin.

### Clondalkin

**Contact person:** Emma Tyrell
**Address:** Crosscare, The Old Tech, Monastery Rd, Clondalkin, Dublin, **D22 R7F2**
**Phone:** 01 459 4666 (Monastery Road), 01 891 3080 (Bawnogue), 01 891 3090 (Knockmitten) | **Email:** cys@crosscare.ie | **Website:** crosscare.ie

### Ronanstown

**Contact person:** Martina Byrne
**Address:** Neilstown Village Centre, Neilstown Rd, Clondalkin, D22
**Phone:** 01 457 0363/457 3859 | **Website:** crosscare.ie

### Lucan

**Contact person:** Emma Boggans
**Address:** Griffeen Glen, Griffeen, Lucan, Co Dublin, **K78AH75**
**Phone:** 01 621 7640 | **Website:** crosscare.ie

## Foróige

Foróige offer a broad range of universal and targeted programmes for young people aged between 10 and 24 in Tallaght and across Dublin South. Targeted Youth Work services support young people to deal with issues associated with social exclusion, poverty and marginalisation, including under-achievement at school, early school leaving, youth crime, substance misuse and family difficulties. Foróige staff and volunteers create safe, friendly spaces where young people can feel welcomed and heard in their own communities and be themselves. Foróige believes in access to youth work for all young people. Our universal services, including Foróige Volunteer led youth clubs operate in communities in Dublin South West and throughout Ireland.

### Foroige Tallaght

**Address:** Foroige, Main Road, Tallaght,
Dublin 24, Dublin, **D24YK2T**
**Phone:** 01 451 6322 | **Email:** tys@foroige.ie
| **Website:** foroige.ie

## YMCA

The YMCA in Ireland is a voluntary organisation that works with children, young people, families and the community, with particular regard to those who are disadvantaged and disaffected. Underpinned by Christian principles, each YMCA responds to local needs and seeks to share and learn from being a part of a national and international movement. YMCA West Dublin provides Youth Services and community based services across South Dublin

### West Dublin

**Address:** West Dublin YMCA, YMCA,
16A Brookfield Enterprise Centre, Rossfield Avenue,
Tallaght, Dublin
**Phone:** 087 771 2899 | **Email:** norma@ymca-ireland.net
| **Website:** ymca-ireland.net

### City West

**Address:** : YMCA Dublin Community Room,
Citywest Shopping Centre, Citywest, Co Dublin,
**D24KOYT**
**Phone:** 01 478 2607 | **Email:** sharon.farrell@ymca-ireland.net
| **Website:** ymca-ireland.net

# Family Resource and Community Centres

Family Resource Centres (FRCs) support young people through grassroots, early-intervention programs focused on mental health, personal development. They work directly with young people by providing targeted services including therapeutic counselling, youth groups, and after-school activities. For details on the Family Resource Centres in South Dublin please see below.

### Killinarden Community Centre

**Address:** Killinarden Heights, Tallaght, Dublin 24, **D24 WV6V**
**Phone:** 01 452 6617 | Email: killinardencommunitydev@gmail.com | **Website:** killinardencoco.ie/

### Quarryvale Community Centre

**Address:** Greenfort Gardens, Clondalkin, Dublin, **D22 NW54**
**Phone:** 01 626 9151 | **Email:** info@quarryvalefrc.ie | **Website:** quarryvalerfc.ie

### Deansrath Family Resource Centre

**Address:** St. Cuthberts Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22
**Phone:** 01 457 4069 | **Email:** info@deansrathfamily.ie | **Website:** deansrathfamily.ie

### Saint Kevin's Family Resource Centre

**Address:** St. Kevin's Girls' School, Kilnamanagh, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 R6PT
**Phone:** 01 462 7149 | **Email:** info@stkevinsfrc.ie | **Website:** stkevinsfrc.ie

### Glenshane Resource Centre

**Address:**16 Glenshane Lawns, Brookfield, Tallaght, Dublin 24
**Phone:** 01 452 2533 | **Email:** receptionrc@sdcpartnership.ie | **Website:** sdcpartnership.ie

**Knockmitten Youth & Community Centre**

**Address:** Monksfield Lawns, Clondalkin, Dublin
**Phone:** 01 411 1511 | **Email:** manager@kycc.ie
**| Website:** Facebook page

# Return to Education and Adult Training



# 7. Return to Education and Adult Training

Wherever you are on your learning journey, both Education and Training Boards (ETBs) and the Community Education sector have options to help you move forward and find the path that suits you No matter what stage you're at, there's a pathway for you from early education and primary school, to post primary, Further Education and Training, apprenticeships, traineeships.

## Education and Training Boards (ETBs)

Education and Training Boards (ETBs) DDLETB stands for Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board. The organisation provides education, training, and youth services. Service for adults returning to education include:

- Adult Guidance
- National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA)

### Adult Guidance Service

The DDLETB (Dublin and Dún Laoghaire Education and Training Board) Adult Guidance and Information Service provides free, confidential, and impartial support to help adults make informed education, training, and career choices. It is specifically designed to support those returning to education, the unemployed, and early school leavers. The Guidance Service is:

- Free of charge
- Confidential
- Friendly and supportive

**Phone:** 01 451 5733 | **Email:** carolineduffy@ddletbaes.ie
**| Website:** dublinadulteducation.ie

## National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA)
## Adult Literacy Service

Each service runs free adult learning courses on reading, writing, spelling, maths, technology and computers. You can attend your local service and work with trained tutors on a one-to-one basis or in small groups.Below is a list of centres that provide adult literacy services.

| Training Centre | Contact | Address |
|---|---|---|
| Lucan Adult Basic Education Centre | Phone: 01 462 7127<br>Email: helencleary@ddletbaes.ie | L.I.F.E. Centre, Esker Hill, Lucan Village, Co Dublin |
| CAYEC Clondalkin Adult Education Service | Phone: 01 462 7127<br>Email: helencleary@ddletbaes.ie | CAYEC Clondalkin Adult Education Service, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 |
| Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB | Phone: 01 462 7127<br>Email: helencleary@ddletbaes.ie | Dublin and Dun Laoghaire ETB, Tallaght |
| Adult Education Service (South West) | Phone: 01 462 7127<br>Email: helencleary@ddletbaes.ie | Adult Education Service (South West), Priorsgate, 1B Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, D24 YP48 |

### Schemes to support adults return to the education include:

- Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS)
- Back to Education Allowance (BTEA)

### VTOS

The Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme (VTOS) is a government initiative that allows unemployed adults to return to full-time education or training without losing their social welfare benefits.

To qualify for VTOS, you must meet the following criteria:

- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Be unemployed for at least 6 months.
- Be in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment (e.g., Jobseeker's Allowance, Jobseeker's Benefit, Disability Allowance, or One-Parent Family Payment).

VTOS courses are generally full-time (about 30 hours per week) and can last up to 2 years. They range from basic education up to advanced levels, leading to qualifications such as the Junior Certificate, Leaving Certificate, and QQI Levels 3 to 6 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

You can search for available courses and apply through the Qualifax website or contact your local ETB or INTREO Centre directly. **Course Finder**

Below is a list of Training Centres that provide VTOS courses.

| Training Centre | Contact | Address |
|---|---|---|
| Clondalkin Adult Education Service | Phone: 01 467 0043<br>Email: elainegahan@ddletbaes.ie<br>patrickstewart@ddletbaes.ie | Clondalkin Education Centre, Monastery Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, D12V6V0 |
| Tallaght Adult Education Service | Phone: 01 451 5733<br>Email: anndurrran@ddletbaes.ie<br>patrickstewart@ddletbaes.ie | Tallaght Enterprise Centre, Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 22 |
| Lucan Adult Education Service | Phone: 01 628 3557<br>Email: lucan@ddletbaes.ie | Lucan Education Centre, Esker Hill, Lucan, Dublin |
| Adult Education Service - Tallaght Enterprise | Phone: 01 451 5733<br>Email: tallaght@ddletbaes.ie | Tallaght Enterprise Centre, Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 2 |
| Adult Education Service - Tallaght Priorsgate | Phone: 01 427 5400<br>Email: tallaghtrct@ddletb.ie | 1B Main Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 |
| Tallaght Training Centre | Phone:01 427 5400<br>Email: tallaghtrct@ddletb.ie<br>Website: tallaghttrainingcentre.ie | DDLETB, Cookstown Industrial Estate, Tallaght, Dublin 24 |

## Back to Education Allowance (BTEA)

The Back to Education Allowance (BTEA) is an Irish scheme that lets people on qualifying social welfare payments return to full-time education while continuing to receive income support. It replaces your standard social welfare payment and pays an equivalent weekly amount.

- Be 21 years of age or older.
- Be unemployed for at least 3 months.
- Be in receipt of a qualifying social welfare payment (e.g., Jobseeker's Allowance, Jobseeker's Benefit, Disability Allowance, or One-Parent Family Payment).
- Education Progression: The course must lead to a recognised qualification (QQI Level 5 up to Level 8) and represent an educational step up from what you already have.

You can attend a Further Level Education course of education at any:

- Secondary school
- Community school or college

- Comprehensive school
- Vocational school
- Education Training Board (ETB)
- College of Further Education
- Institute of Technology or Technological University

The course must be full-time and lead to a certificate up to Level 6, as recognised by the Department of Education and Youth or approved by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).

**For more information go to**
| **Website:** citizensinformation.ie

## Community Education Sector

### South Dublin County Partnership – ASPIRE Programme

Training for 16-25 year-olds living in the South Dublin County area who are not in education, employment or training (NEET). Our services include one-to-one guidance, mentoring, and practical support to help young people identify their goals, develop confidence and skills, access training opportunities, and progress into employment, further education, or other positive pathways. We deliver programmes and workshops that promote personal development, wellbeing, and social inclusion. Previous courses and training programmes we have delivered include:

- Introduction to Barbering
- Introduction to Beauty
- Construction Career Preparation (including Manual Handling, Abrasive Wheels, and Safe Pass training)
- Hospitality Skills
- General Operative Skills

**Address:** Unit D, Nangor Road Business Park, Nangor Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22, **D12V6V0**
**Phone:** 01 450 8748 086 107 4599
| **Email:** lauren.gannon@sdcpartnership.ie
| **Website:** aspireproject.ie

## An Cosán

An Cosán is Ireland's largest provider of community education, offering a range of courses face-to-face and online from access to degree level. An Cosán started in 1986 by providing education for women and children in West Tallaght but has since grown into a national organisation with a network of over 220 community partners across Ireland. An Cosán believes in the transformative power of education – that by educating women, in particular, families and communities can break the cycle of poverty and look forward to a brighter future. An Cosán is an inclusive organisation that holds empowerment and equality at its core. We strongly believe in diversity and respect and caring for the whole person and their family. We constantly strive to find new ways to break down barriers for people to access education and to achieve their full potential.

**Address:** Jobstown, Dublin, **D24 R3PN**
**Phone:** 01 462 8488 | **Email:** info@ancosan.ie
| **Website:** ancosan.ie

# 8. Appendix

## Leaving Certificate Applied

### 8.1 List of Schools in South Dublin providing Leaving Certificate Applied

| Roll Number | School Name | Address | Eircode |
|---|---|---|---|
| 60121B | Moyle Park College | Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | D22V072 |
| 60122D | Coláiste Bríde | New Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | D22C6Y2 |
| 60341P | Sancta Maria College | Ballyroan Crescent, Rathfarnham, Dublin 16 | D16V389 |
| 60860Q | Our Ladys School | Templeogue Road, Terenure, Dublin 6W | D6WKF44 |
| 60902G | St Pauls Secondary School | Greenhills, Dublin 12 | D12E544 |
| 68307J | Firhouse Educate Together Secondary School | Oldcourt Road, Ballycullen, Firhouse, Dublin 24 | D24NY6R |
| 70040H | Dublin College Clondalkin - Deansrath | Westbourne Rise, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | D22RY77 |
| 70041J | Dublin College Clondalkin - Collinstown Park | Neilstown Rd., Rowlagh, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | D22X458 |
| 70042L | Dublin College Fonthill Road - St Kevin's | Fonthill Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | D22K314 |
| 70080T | Lucan Community College | Esker Drive, Lucan, Co Dublin | K78TF67 |
| 70130I | Dublin College - Greenhills | Limekiln Avenue, Greenhills, Dublin 12 | D12DP8W |
| 70140L | Firhouse Community College | Firhouse Road, Dublin 24 | D24HY03 |
| 70141N | Mount Seskin Community College | Jobstown, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | D24K033 |
| 76097U | Adamstown Community College | Station Rd, Adamstown, Lucan, Co. Dublin | K78WP89 |
| 76152C | Kishoge Community College | Thomas Omer Way, Lucan, Co. Dublin | K78DC89 |
| 76293U | Kingswood Community College | Ballymount Road, Kingswood Heights, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | D24HYN2 |
| 76454S | Griffeen Community College | c/o Kishogue Community College, Thomas Omar Way, Lucan, Co. Dublin | K78DC89 |
| 91301D | Holy Family Community School | Kilteel Road, Rathcoole, Co Dublin | D24FT54 |
| 91302F | Phobailscoil Iosolde | Oak Court Avenue, Palmerstown, Dublin 20 | D20P236 |
| 91332O | St Marks Community School | Cookstown Rd, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | D24VW22 |
| 91335U | Tallaght Community School | Balrothery, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | D24X759 |
| 91336W | Old Bawn Community School | Old Bawn, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | D24HP38 |
| 91337B | Killinarden Community School | Killinarden, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | D24RF70 |
| 91338D | St Aidan's Community School | Brookfield, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | D24XA46 |

## **8.2** List of schools in South Dublin providing Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

| School | Address | Phone Number |
|---|---|---|
| Firhouse Community College | Firhouse, Dublin 24 | 01 452 5807 |
| St. Kevin's Community College | Limekiln Avenue, Greenhills, Dublin 12 | 01 626 6277 |
| Collinstown Park Community College | Fonthill Road, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | 01 457 2300 |
| Lucan Community College | Rowlagh, Clondalkin, Dublin 22 | 01 628 2077 |
| Coláiste Phádraig C.B.S. | Esker, Lucan, Co Dublin | 01 628 2299 |
| St. Mark's Community School | Roselawn, Lucan, Co Dublin | 01 451 9399 |
| Moyle Park College | Palmerstown, Dublin 20 | 01 457 4837 |
| Mountseskin Community College (Youth Horizons) | Lucan, Co Dublin | 01 452 5788 |
| Kingswood Community College | Cookstown Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24 | 01 451 7400 |

CYPSC
COISTE NA SEIRBHÍSÍ DO LEANAÍ & DO DHAOINE ÓGA
CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEE
Baile Átha Cliath Theas
South Dublin

South Dublin CYPSC brings together the organisations that work with children, young people and families across South Dublin including Tusla, the HSE, South Dublin County Council, schools, youth services, and community groups. Together, we plan and work to improve the lives of all children and young people aged 0 to 24 in our area.

This booklet was developed by South Dublin CYPSC to make sure young people and families know about the supports and options available to them locally.

To find out more, visit cypsc.ie

*The information included in this booklet was collected in early 2026 and was accurate at the time of publication. This booklet will be updated. Please check online for the most up to date version.*