

Leaving Cert Applied Policy

April 2014



Leaving Cert Applied Policy

Coláiste Mhuire Co- Ed, Thurles

COLÁISTE MHUIRE CO-ED.

L.C.A. POLICY

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed offers the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (L.C.A) as a two year programme post - Junior Certificate.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The aims and objectives of the L.C.A. Programme reflect those specific to the guidelines published by the Department of Education and skills, namely:

- Education that recognises the talents of all students and helps them apply what they learn in the real world.
- Education that provides opportunities for development in terms of responsibility, self-esteem and self-knowledge.

CURRICULUM FRAMEWORK

The L.C.A. Curriculum of Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed follows the L.C.A. Curriculum Framework and Module Descriptors as specified by the Department of Education and Science as follows:

VOCATIONAL PREPARATION	VPG English and Communications
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	Mathematical Applications I.C.T. (Mandatory) Vocational Specialisms (2)
GENERAL EDUCATION	Arts Education Social Education Languages Leisure and Recreation

ELECTIVE COURSES

The school will decide upon the Specialisms and Elective Modules for each year group based on student need, staff allocations and teacher expertise as well as parental expectation and local resources.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment of the L.C.A. Programme follows the Guidelines and procedures set out by the Department of Education and Science as follows:

The Leaving Certificate Applied Assessment takes place over two years under three headings:

1. Satisfactory Completion of **Modules**.
2. Performance of Students **Tasks**.
3. Performance in the **Terminal Examinations**.

MODULES

- At the end of each Session a student is credited on satisfactory completion of the appropriate **Key Assignments** for each Module **WITH 90% Attendance** for the Module.

STUDENT TASKS

- 7 Student Tasks are Completed over 4 Sessions.
- Each student is required to produce a report on the process of completing the Task.
- Student Tasks (Projects) are assessed by external Examiners appointed by the Department of Education and Science.

TERMINAL EXAMINATIONS

Terminal Examinations in the following subjects:

- English and Communications
- Mathematical Applications
- Social Education
- Language
- 2 Vocational Specialisms

CERTIFICATION

Students who successfully complete the programme will receive a Leaving Certificate from the State Examinations Commission. All credits awarded will be recorded on the Leaving Certificate Applied Parchment.

CERTIFICATE LEVELS

AWARD	RESULT	CREDITS
Pass	60-69%	120-139 credits
Merit	70-84%	140-169 credits
Distinction	85-100%	170-200 credits

Note: Candidates who acquire less than 120 credits will receive a Record of Experience. This will also apply to those who leave before the end of the Programme.

BOOKS:

The L.C.A. Booklist will be compiled annually by the L.C.A. Teachers in consultation with the School Book Scheme Co-Ordinator.

This booklist will be supplied to students taking the programme.

Students who are eligible for the School Book Rental Scheme will be supplied with the books on return to school at the start of the programme following payment of the annual School Contribution.

REVIEW:

This Policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

LCA ADMISSIONS POLICY

ADMISSION PROCEDURES:

1. An information evening for Parents and students and information seminars for Junior Cert (3rd Year) and TY students are held in the springtime of the year of entry.
2. Following the information presentation, L.C.A. Application Forms are made available to students/parents/guardians from the L.C.A. Co-Ordinator.
3. Completed Application Forms (See Appendix) must be returned to the L.C.A. Co-Ordinator by the Closing Date specified. (Late applications may not be considered.) Acceptance of the completed application form does not confirm or imply an expectation of being offered a place on the programme.
4. External Applicants may fill in the Enrolment Form for Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. and following an expression of interest in the L.C.A. Programme, may request and complete an L.C.A. Application Form and are then subject to the same admission procedures as internal applicants.
5. The L.C.A. Co-Ordinator will consult members of the Teaching Staff with respect to the L.C.A. Application List.
6. An L.C.A. Selection Committee will be established annually comprising L.C.A. Co-Ordinator, Year Head (3rdYr), Guidance Counsellor, HSCL, Deputy Principal, Principal.
7. Applicants will be interviewed by at least 2 members of the Selection Committee.

The following criteria will help ascertain suitability for the Programme:

- Level of interest displayed by the student on the application form.
- Level of interest indicated by the candidate at interview.
- Willingness to participate fully in all elements of the L.C.A. Programme.
- Student's satisfactory attendance record in school.
- Student's record of adherence to the Code of Behaviour of Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. or in the case of an external candidate, the student's previous school.
- An assessment of the student's competence and value to be derived from participation in key elements of the L.C.A. programme.
- Assessment of the contribution the applicant can make to the L.C.A. Programme.
- The applicant's age and/or pastoral care needs as communicated by the Year Head, HSCL, Guidance Counsellor and/or other professionals in the school.

The Interview will be conducted and marked according to the following Marking Scheme:

CRITERIA	MARKS
Application Form	10
Interview	20
Behaviour Record *	40
Personal Achievements to Date	10
Overall Suitability	20
Total	100

- **Behaviour Record in 3rd Year**

40 Marks are awarded for Behaviour Record with 10 marks being deducted for each period on Report as follows:

One Yellow -10

Two Yellow -20

One Red -30

Two Red -40

NOTE: The Behaviour Marks will not be deducted as above in the case of an Applicant for whom LCA has been recommended by a NEPS Psychologist.

An Applicant must achieve an overall Score of 40 or greater in order to be offered a Provisional Place on the Programme.

8. Following final selection by the Selection Committee, successful candidates will be offered a Provisional Place on the Programme and their Parents/Guardians will be informed by letter. This provisional place on the programme will be subject to their acceptance of the requirement to sign the L.C.A. Contract.(see Appendix)
9. Student's who return a signed L.C.A. Contract are considered accepted to the L.C.A. Programme of Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed.
10. A review of students' suitability will be conducted in September. Should it be deemed that students are not suitable for the programme or the programme is not suitable for the students, they will be advised to transfer to 5th/TY.

NOTE:

Parents/Guardians may appeal the decision of the Selection Committee to the Board of Management.

REVIEW:

This Policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.

APPENDIX

COLÁISTE MHUIRE CO-ED

LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED APPLICATION FORM

NAME: _____

YEAR: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME TEL. NO: _____

MOBILE NO: _____

WHY DO YOU WANT TO DO THE LEAVING CERT APPLIED COURSE?

WHAT CAREER DO YOU WISH TO TAKE UP WHEN YOU LEAVE SCHOOL?

ARE YOU PREPARED TO COMMITTO THE FOLLOWING:

(Please tick as appropriate)

- Behave appropriately and respectfully in school and at school activities Yes _____ No _____
- Have 90% Attendance for each Subject Module Yes _____ No _____
- Complete all Key Assignments for each Module Yes _____ No _____
- Complete the Tasks as required by the Programme Yes _____ No _____
- Meet all Deadlines for Key Assignments and Tasks as set by individual Teachers and the Department of Education Yes _____ No _____
- Wear the Full School Uniform every day Yes _____ No _____
- Bring all necessary equipment, books, resource materials to class every Day. Yes _____ No _____
- Take full responsibility for arriving to school and every Class on Time Yes _____ No _____
- Co-Operate with your classmates in the use of shared Facilities (Equipment, Stationary etc) Yes _____ No _____
- Be co-operative, polite, friendly and adult-like in your relationships with your fellow classmates and teachers. Yes _____ No _____

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO ON WORK EXPERIENCE AND WHY?

PLACE 1 _____

REASON _____

PLACE 2 _____

REASON _____

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN FROM DOING LEAVING CERT APPLIED-HOW DO YOU HOPE THE COURSE WILL HELP YOU (eg Academically, New Skills, Personal Development, Work Experience, Friends, Career Decision etc)

PLEASE NOTE:

THIS APPLICATION FORM IS ONE PART OF THE SELECTION PROCESS FOR THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED PROGRAMME WHICH ALSO INCLUDES DISCUSSION WITH HSCL AND CAREER GUIDANCE, EVALUATION BY LCA CORE TEAM , INTERVIEW AND APPROVAL OF THE TEACHING STAFF.

COMPLETION OF THIS FORM DOES NOT GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE ON THE COURSE.

I WISH TO APPLY FOR A PLACE ON THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE APPLIED PROGRAMME IN COLÁISTE MHUIRE CO-ED

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT: _____

DATE: _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/ GUARDIAN: _____

DATE: _____

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS ARE TO BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE OR THE LCA PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR NO LATER THAN

DATE

ACCEPTANCE LETTER TO PARENTS:

Re: L.C.A. Programme

Month, Year

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am pleased to inform you that following interview your son/daughter _____ is being offered a provisional place on the L.C.A. Programme at Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed. for the academic Year 201*/1*.

Acceptance on the programme is conditional on the Agreement to Read the Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed L.C.A. Information Leaflet and the Department of Education Circular Letter S65/09 relating to Arrangements for Certification of the Leaving Certificate Applied is also enclosed. These documents contain important information about the L.C.A. Programme and I encourage you to read them carefully and retain them for information as you may require.

Coláiste Mhuire then requires both Student and Parent/Guardian to agree to sign and return the L.C.A. Contract and return it to the Programme Co-Ordinator by DATE.

The LCA. Induction Programme will take place in the new academic year- any further information will be communicated to you as necessary.

I look forward to working with you and your son/daughter during the course of the L.C.A. Programme.

Yours Sincerely,

Programme Co-Ordinator

COLÁISTE MHUIRE CO-ED

Leaving Certificate Applied-Information Leaflet



The Leaving Certificate Applied teaching team within Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed believes there are certain attitudes and actions that are essential to the successful completion of the Leaving Certificate Applied programme.

These are outlined in this document.

We require every prospective candidate, and their parents or guardians, to read this document and if they are willing to accept the requirements set out to sign the contract. The Contract is based around the following Core Areas in L.C.A.

Attendance

A minimum 90% attendance is a basic requirement of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. **Lengthy or repeated absence must be covered by a doctor's certificate.** Any holidays taken during the course of the two year programme will not be accepted as a legitimate absence and may result in participants losing out on credits.

Application to class work

We require that every student do his or her best in relation to class work. Credit will not be given for work that is not considered to be the best that a student can do.

Work Experience

Work experience forms a core to Leaving Certificate Applied. Students must arrange their own work experience placements. The Work Experience Component of the L.C.A. Programme will take place 1 day per week. It is important that students choose their work experiences carefully. It is recommended that work experience be completed in at least 2 different career areas. Students are

not allowed to complete their work experience in a work place in which they already have a part-time job. For each work experience placement, students must complete and return their Work Experience Diary. Employer Report Cards must also be returned. Failure to return or satisfactorily complete the above two documents will result in students losing vital credits.

Students will be monitored carefully on Work Experience placements and where possible a member of the teaching staff will visit and interview both the student and their employer.

Behaviour

Pupils will be expected to adhere to the School's Code of Behaviour and rules as laid out in the School journal.

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed

COLÁISTE MHUIRE CO-ED

L.C.A. CONTRACT

I accept the offer of a place on the L.C.A. Programme in Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed and I agree to be bound by the commitments of the following contract.

- To behave appropriately and respectfully in school and at school activities.
- To have 90% Attendance for each Subject Module OR to provide a Medical Certificate in the case of any period of prolonged and/or recurring absence in order to avoid loss of Credits for Key Assignments and completion of Modules.
- To complete all Key Assignments to the best of my ability for each Module.
- To complete the Tasks as required by the Programme to the best of my ability.
- To meet all Deadlines for Key Assignments and Tasks as set by individual Teachers and the Department of Education.
- To wear the Full School Uniform every day as instructed.
- To bring all necessary equipment, books, resource materials to every class.
- To take full responsibility for arriving to school and every Class on Time.
- To co-operate with my classmates in the use of shared Facilities (Equipment, Stationary etc)
- To be co-operative, polite, friendly and adult-like in my relationships with my fellow classmates and teachers.
- To arrange and complete my Work Experience Placements to the best of my ability and to complete a Work Experience Diary.

I have read and understand the Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed Information Leaflet and L.C.A. Contract.

I understand that the Programme Co-Ordinator and/or the Management of the School reserve the right to Review my progress on the Programme.

I understand that my failure to comply with the terms of the Contract may result in my exclusion from the Programme in order to maintain the integrity of the Course and/or in my best interest or in the best interest of the other participants on the Programme.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

I have read and understand the Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed Information Leaflet and L.C.A. Contract.

I have read and understand the Department of Education Arrangements for Certification of the Leaving Certificate Applied Programme. (Circular letter S65/09)

I understand that my son/daughter's failure to comply with the terms of the L.C.A. Contract may result in his/her exclusion from the Programme in order to maintain the integrity of the Course and/or his/her best interest or in the best interest of the other participants on the Programme.

Parents/ Guardians Signature: _____

Date: _____