

Important Dates

4 th October 2021	The school will commence accepting applications for admission
4pm, 26 th October 2021	The school will cease accepting applications for admission
18 th November 2021	Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision on their application
4pm, 26 th November 2021	Applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission
January 2021	Meeting of parents of students enrolled in 1st year (notice by text, depending on Covid restrictions)
Spring 2021	1st Year Assessment Tests. This is held on a Saturday morning. It has no bearing on class placement (depending on Covid restrictions) Optional subjects will be selected online, using VSWare
Summer 2021	Payment of €60 balance of contribution. Confirmation of optional subjects will be posted in June. Most parents purchase uniforms during the summer.
Late August 2022	Book Rental Books available for collection by parents/guardians. Advance notice will be given.

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS FIRST YEAR 2022/2023



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Checklist for Completion of Application:

- ✓ All questions answered on Enrolment Form?
- ✓ PPSN on Enrolment Form?
- ✓ Birth Cert included?
- ✓ Two photographs?
- ✓ Declaration re Eldest Child, if applicable?
- ✓ Consent to Transfer of Data?
- ✓ Adherence to Ethos & Policies of Coláiste Muire?

1st Year Payment Breakdown 2022/2023

<u>November Instalment</u>		<u>June Instalment</u>	
Book Rental	€70	Book Rental	€45
Journal	€10	Journal	0
Locker	€10	Locker	0
24hr Insurance	€10	24hr Insurance	0
Voluntary Contribution for Activities	€30	Voluntary Contribution for Activities	€15
Total	<u>€130</u>	Total	<u>€60</u>
TOTAL for 1st Year	<u>€190</u>		

Junior Cycle Subjects

Coláiste Muire promotes academic excellence and offers a wide variety of subjects. There will be five core 1st Year classes with an average of 25 pupils . The range of subjects for a First Year student at present is as follows:

Core Subjects:

The following are compulsory core subjects: Irish (In exceptional circumstances, students may qualify for an exemption from Irish), English, Maths, History, Geography, Science, Religion Religion is an examination subject for Junior Certificate.

Wellbeing:

SPHE (Social and Personal Health Education), CSPE (Civic Social and Political Education) and Physical Education (P.E.) are core subjects but not examinable in the state exam. We have added classes (1 per week in first year) in Digital Safety and in Friends for Life Programme.

Optional Subjects:

Students will choose a language (French, German, Spanish) and two subjects from Visual Art, Business, Home Economics, Materials Technology (Wood), Music, and Technical Drawing, when subject choice is chosen online in Spring 2022.

NB. These subjects will be arranged in option blocks. Every effort is made to accommodate students with their first three preferences. However, the school may need to issue a second round of choices. Core and choice subjects are continued through to the conclusion of the Junior Cycle. Further reserve choices must be selected in case of subjects clashing. The Board of Management may prescribe a minimum number of students to form a subject option class.

Junior Cycle Examination

The Department of Education & Skills has completed the process of changing the Junior Certificate to the Junior Cycle (1st to 3rd Year), on a subject by subject basis. Students will still have State Examinations at the end of 3rd year, assessment tasks worth 90% of the examination marks and Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs).

CBAs test students' ability to research, to present, to work in teams. They are project based and are given a descriptor. This is printed on a certificate alongside their marks for the Junior Cycle Examinations as well as any other areas of learning/achievement outside the classroom.

Financial Contributions

A voluntary financial contribution is requested to cover the cost of enrolment expenses, activities, photocopying, personal accident insurance, school texts, exam question papers for the Christmas, Summer and Pre-Exams. Parents/guardians of students from 1st Year to 4th Year may opt to join a Book Rental Scheme. The school uses a DES book assistance grant to support the Scheme. Due to the soaring cost of books, parents pay a contribution so that the scheme can continue to be viable. The Board of Management determines the cost of parental contribution.

State Exams

Parents/Guardians of students who are doing **state** exams (Junior Cycle/Leaving Certificate) need to plan for extra expenses during the exam year, i.e pre-exams and state exams. The Department of Education and Skills sets down a fee for state exams, usually paid in March/April. Students who hold a current full medical card or who are dependent on a parent or guardian who holds a full current medical card are exempt from the Department of Education and Skills state exam fee. (Holders of cards for G.P. visits are not eligible for this exemption)

Pastoral Care

Coláiste Muire aims to provide a caring, happy and structured environment for our students. A sense of responsibility is encouraged, together with self-discipline and motivation.

Partnership between school and home is vital to enable students to achieve a balance between study, leisure, family, friends and community commitments. Subject Teachers, Class Teachers, Year Heads, the Career Guidance/Pastoral Care Department, teachers of Religion, SPHE, the Chaplain, Principal and Deputy Principal provide pastoral support to students. All students, particularly student leadership groups such as the Student Council, Meitheal Team, Green School Committee, Social Justice Club and TY Rainbow Team Leaders, play an important role in supporting and actively promoting the caring and respectful ethos.

Anti-Bullying and Mobile Phone & Digital Media Policies are in place. There is an ABC (Anti-Bullying Committee) and the school takes a proactive role in encouraging a respectful and inclusive community.

There is a strong learning support department in the school. The school applies to the Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) for resource hours and/or Special Needs Assistant hours for pupils who qualify because of educational/psychologist reports.

The Parents' Council, composed of parents/guardians of students currently enrolled in the school, acts as one of the partners in education. The Council is involved in policy development and policy review.

Senior Cycle

Having completed the Junior Certificate Cycle, a student may opt to apply for Transition Year, or may continue to 5th Year.

Transition Year:

There is a Transition Year between junior and senior cycles. The programme provides opportunities for increased academic, personal and social development, with an emphasis on self-directed learning, on teamwork, on enterprise and on tasting a variety of subjects.

5th and 6th Year

Compulsory subjects for 5th & 6th Year are **Irish, English, Maths, Religion and P.E.** (except where students have been granted an official exemption from Irish). Students choose four additional subjects for Leaving Certificate.

Optional Subjects offered at Senior Level include: French, German, Spanish, History, Geography, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Home Economics Social & Scientific, Construction Studies, Art, Accounting, Business, Design Communication Graphics, Music, Economics and Agricultural Science. **Note:** Options may vary according to demand and organisational considerations.

School Facilities

Coláiste Muire has three fully equipped science labs, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, specialist Home Economics, Art, Woodwork and Technical Drawing Rooms. The Technical Drawing/ Design Communication Graphics Room has 25 pcs equipped with Solid Works CAD. There is a Prayer Room, a Dining/Assembly Room, a computer room with 30PCs, digital projector and printer. We have a suite of school laptops available to be used in class. All classrooms and labs are equipped with a teaching computer and a digital projector. There are excellent sports facilities both indoors & outdoors, for a full PE programme and for extra-curricular sports, including a sports pitch, astroturf, tennis court, indoor and outdoor basketball court and squash courts. The school has developed a **Teaching and Learning Hub**, via Microsoft Office 365 connected with the school website, on which subject departments place resources such as notes, syllabus, guidelines etc. which can be accessed by students from home.

All students and staff have access to student email accounts via Office 365, through which they have access to Microsoft Word, Excel, Teams etc.

Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities:

The Student Council represents students from all year groups.

Meitheal Team consists of a group of 5th Year students who receive training to support the integration of First Year students.

Faith Friends assist with Confirmation classes in local primary schools.

The Green Committee is involved in raising environmental awareness and working towards green flags.

Transition Year students run a school bank, form Rainbow Teams and Team Leaders support the members of their group.

The Social Justice Group raises awareness of local and global issues.

The Debating Club is actively involved in debating competitions with other schools.

There are two 6th Year Committees-the Reunion Committee and the Yearbook Committee

The school offers a range of sports activities at Junior and Senior Level. Students train regularly and participate at a competitive level. The school has won All Ireland, Munster and County Championships. School teams include Soccer, GAA, Hockey, Camogie, Ladies Gaelic, Tennis and Golf. Transition Year Students have the opportunity to participate in the School Musical.

The Meitheal Team co-ordinates an annual 1st Year outing. Field trips are provided for senior geography, LCVP and biology classes and for 3rd year CSPE classes. Transition Year includes outdoor pursuits, workshops, community care, retreat and various outings and activities.