

### **Information for Parents/Guardians First Year 2024 2025**

Coláiste Muire promotes academic excellence and offers a wide variety of subjects.

The school is offering five core 1st Yr 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 and Religion. Religion is an examination subject for Junior Certificate.

**Wellbeing:** SPHE (Social and Personal Health Education), and 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 covering Digital Safety, Digital Literacy, Healthy Living and the Learning to Learn Programme.

**Junior Cycle:** The Department of Education (DE) has completed the process of changing the Junior Certificate to the Junior Cycle (1st to 3rd Year), on a subject by subject basis. They will still have State examinations at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> year and Classroom Based Assessments (CBAs). CBAs test students' ability to research, to present and to work in teams. They are project based and are given a descriptor. This is printed on a certificate (Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement) alongside their marks for the Examinations as well as any other areas of learning/achievement outside the classroom.

**Optional Subjects:** Prior to a student's entry into First Year, they will be asked to select three optional subjects. This is done on the schools Management Information System, called **Vsware**. Students will choose a language (French, German, Spanish) and two subjects from Visual Art, Business, Home Economics, Materials Technology (Wood), Music, and Graphics, when subject choice is chosen online in Spring 2024.

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.

**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.

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:** Three fully equipped science labs, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, specialist Home Economics, Art, Woodwork Rooms. The Technical Drawing/ Design Communication Graphics Room has 25 PCs equipped with SolidWorks CAD. There is a Prayer Room, a Dining/Assembly, two computer rooms with 30PCs per room. All classrooms and labs are equipped with a digital projector, which connects with a teacher's laptop. There are excellent sports facilities both indoors & outdoors, for a full PE programme and for extra-curricular sports. The school uses the Microsoft Office 365 platform and all students are given unique @colaistemuire.com password which allows teachers to share work online.

**Extra-Curricular and Co-Curricular Activities:**

- The Student Council represents students from all year groups.
- Meitheal team a group of 5th Year students supports the integration of First Year students.
- Faith Friends assist with Confirmation classes in local primary schools.
- The Green School Committee is involved in raising environmental awareness and working towards green flags.
- The Social Justice Group raises awareness of local and global issues.
- The Debating Club is actively involved in debating competitions with other schools, including the Concern Debating Competition.
- The Leaving Certificate Graduation Ball, is run by the 6th year Reunion 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 (boys and girls), Gaelic Football, Rugby (boys) Camogie, and Basketball.

Transition Year Students have the opportunity to participate in a Musical, or Young Enterprise, or Young Social Enterprise.

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

School tours to Andorra (Skiing), Paris and Berlin took place recently. Due to demand, these tours are being planned for 2024.

**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.

**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 Team Leaders play an important role in supporting and actively promoting the caring and respectful ethos.

**Financial Contributions:** A voluntary financial contribution is requested to cover the cost of enrolment expenses, activities, photocopying, and exam question papers for the Christmas, Summer and Pre-Exams. Parents/guardians of students from 1st Year to 3rd Year may opt to join a Book Rental Scheme. The school uses a DE 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 Cert) need to plan for extra expenses during the exam year, i.e pre-exams and past papers. The Department of Education waived the fee for the state examinations in recent years.

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

**Parents' Council :** The Parents' Council is composed of parents/guardians of students currently enrolled in the school and is seen as a partner in education. The Council is involved in policy

development and policy review. It advises school management and fundraises.

**Checklist for Completion of Application:**

- All questions answered on Enrolment Form including PPS of applicant?
- Copy of Birth Cert included?
- A photograph?
- Declaration re Eldest Child, if applicable?
- Consent to Transfer of Data?
- Adherence to Ethos & Policies of Coláiste Muire? (Back of Enrolment Form)?
- Reports from Educational Psychologists (if applicable)

*School Policies are available from [colaistemuire.com](http://colaistemuire.com)*

*Please note that no payment is required until the applicant has been offered a place*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Year Payment Breakdown 2024/2025

1st Instalment (on acceptance of a place)		2nd Instalment (by May 31st 2023)		total
	<u>€160</u>		<u>€90</u>	<u>€250</u>
Book Rental	€80	Book Rental	€60	<u>€140</u>
Journal	€15			<u>€15</u>
Locker	€10			<u>€10</u>
24hr Insurance	€15			<u>€15</u>
Voluntary Contribution for Activities	€40	Voluntary Contribution for Activities	€30	<u>€70</u>

*Note: This is the breakdown of the payments for all students (1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> year). The contribution is for all students is €70*

### Important Dates

1.	The school will commence accepting applications for admission from	<b>9am Monday 2nd October 2023</b>
2.	The school will cease accepting applications for admission from	<b>4pm, Monday 23rd October 2023</b>
3.	Applicants will be notified in writing of the decision on their application by letter posted <b>on or before</b>	<b>10th November 2023</b>
4.	Applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission by	<b>4pm, 17<sup>th</sup> November 2024</b>
5.	Meeting of parents of students enrolled in 1st year (notice by text and VS Ware email)	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Term 2024</b>
6.	1st Year Assessment Tests. This is held on a Saturday morning. It has no bearing on class placement. Optional subjects will be selected online, using VSWare	<b>Spring 2024</b>
7.	Last day for payment of 2 <sup>nd</sup> Instalment. Confirmation of optional subjects will be posted in June. Most parents purchase uniforms during the summer.	<b>31<sup>st</sup> May 2024</b>
8.	Book Rental Books available for collection by parents/guardians. Advance notice will be given by text/Vsware email.	<b>August 2024</b>