

# *Eolas don Iarratasóir*

Coláiste De Lacy

Ashbourne, Co Meath



Príomhoide: Ms Janice Corrigan

Leas-Phríomhoide: Mr David McCormack

*(June 2016)*

## **Introduction**

Coláiste De Lacy is a brand new co-educational post-primary school located in Ashbourne, Co Meath. The Coláiste opened for the first time in August 2014 with first year students under the leadership of Ms Janice Corrigan (Príomhoide). Coláiste De Lacy is a school of excellence and implements innovative educational and developmental programmes for its students.

The Coláiste operates under the patronage of the Louth Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB), a leader in educational change and the Patron of a wide range of schools, colleges and educational programmes across Meath and Louth. LMETB has a successful history of establishing start-up schools of excellence.

## **Tumoideachas i gGaelcholáiste De Lacy**

An *Aonad lán Ghaeilge* is planned for Coláiste De Lacy. The curriculum is delivered through English for the majority of students; however, the curriculum of *Gaelcholáiste De Lacy* (an *Aonad lán Ghaeilge*) will be delivered through Irish. Gaelcholáiste De Lacy is being established to cater for the strong demand throughout the locality for second level education provision through the medium of Irish. The goal of Gaelcholáiste De Lacy is to provide a comprehensive post-primary education through the medium of Irish in an environment of immersion.

Irish language and culture are extremely important throughout the whole Coláiste. Gaeilge is the working language of the Coláiste.

## **Ár n-Ainm**

Coláiste De Lacy is named after Lord Hugh De Lacy to reflect the central role played by the De Lacy family in the cultural evolution of the county. Hugh De Lacy, a Norman, donated lands for church, educational and social development throughout County Meath during the 12<sup>th</sup> Century.

## **Áras Choláiste De Lacy**

The Coláiste is currently housed in temporary accommodation; however, a DES rapid-build programme for the permanent building is planned. The permanent building will include a double ASD unit and provision for Gaelcholáiste De Lacy. The permanent building will be constructed in two phases with capacity for 450 students and an additional 550 students

respectively. This brings that total projection for Coláiste De Lacy to a school of 1000 pupils. Coláiste De Lacy will be a state of the art school designed to the latest Department of Education and Skills specifications. The Coláiste hopes to move into Phase 1 of the permanent building during 2016.

### **Ár bhFís (Our Vision)**

The school leadership and staff of Coláiste De Lacy are privileged to have such an opportunity to positively affect the quality of educational experience provided for their students. An overview of the vision for Coláiste De Lacy is outlined below:

- Student happiness, wellbeing and belonging are core
- Valuing of hard work, effort, and creativity
- Safe and respectful environment supported by good order and organisation
- Focus on positivity, responsibility, relationships and care
- Equality, inclusion and celebration of diversity
- All students experience success
- Centres of excellence and innovation for teaching and learning
- Importance of positive relationships and a positive school environment

Coláiste De Lacy is a school where students enjoy coming to school in a safe, respectful, well-structured environment. Staff; who join our team will have a determination to succeed, a desire to work as part of a team, and an appreciation for the importance of continual self-improvement. There is an incessant focus on improving teaching and learning in a positive and caring environment.

### **Curaclam agus Measúnú (Curriculum and Assessment)**

Coláiste De Lacy offers an extensive range of Department of Education and Skills subjects. The opening of the Coláiste coincides with the implementation of many initiatives including reforms to the Junior Cycle. Coláiste De Lacy has been implementing these from day one, putting the school at the forefront of curricular design, innovation and implementation. The school promotes an integrated curriculum, the development of all key skills such as learning to learn, and the use of a range of research based assessment approaches that not only measure the progress of each student but also support the learning process. There is a whole-school approach to Assessment for Learning and regular progress reports are provided to parents/guardians. All staff are Caomhnóir's and set weekly targets for the students in their clann (group). As the school's student cohort expands, the Coláiste will opt to provide the full range of DES programmes at senior cycle level.

The students of Coláiste De Lacy enjoy a growing range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. There is a particular emphasis on Music and Sporting activities. The focus is on the development of the students, teamwork and positivity. School staff are expected to assist and develop extracurricular activities in order to enrich the educational experience, support student personal growth and to foster positive relationships. The majority of extra-curricular activities occur after school.

### **Múinteoireacht agus Foghlaim (Teaching and Learning)**

Teaching and learning are the core business of schools and as such, a continual focus on the improvement of teaching and learning is a core tenet of Coláiste De Lacy. In keeping with the best national and international practice, it is our whole school policy to encourage the use of various active pedagogic strategies that further the quality of education which our students receive. The Coláiste has been working with a leading educationalist on the development of *Building Learning Power*. The staff of Coláiste De Lacy are committed to establishing it as a recognised centre of excellence and innovation.

In Coláiste De Lacy our practices include:

- An emphasis on the development of the key skills for Junior Cycle
- Thorough planning and preparation of lessons. Teachers prepare split-lesson plans (what and how they will deliver the curriculum on a class by class basis)
- The use of collaborative and active learning strategies
- High quality differentiation to facilitate all learning styles and capacities in our mixed ability classes
- Professional collaboration as members of highly organised subject departments
- Engagement in cross-curricular planning
- Innovative and effective use of ICT in order to deepen learning for students
- Content creation of all learning resources
- Facilitation of students with SENs and gifted/talented students
- Team teaching
- Demonstration of a genuine commitment to and an appreciation for Gaeilge throughout the whole school
- Communicative approach to teaching all languages
- Peer observation and sharing of best-practice with colleagues
- Continual professional development and dialogue
- Reflective practice as individual teachers
- School self-evaluation and improvement

(A draft teaching and learning policy for Coláiste De Lacy is included in Appendix A)

### **Dea-iompar (Behaviour for Learning)**

Our priority in Coláiste De Lacy is to ensure a safe, positive, supportive and optimal educational environment for all. Consequently high expectations are communicated to and required from all students and staff alike. Coláiste De Lacy is powered by positive relationships and care. The philosophical foundations of our Code of Conduct are care, respect, positivity and personal responsibility. The staff of Coláiste De Lacy encourage and actively seek out positive behaviour from our students. Sanctions are applied when absolutely necessary; however, the focus of our day to day business/engagements is on the development of growth mind-sets, rewarding good conduct and nurturing positive attitudes. A restorative practice approach will be implemented in our Coláiste.

### **Ard-Chaighdéan na Foirne**

Teachers are powerful role models for children and therefore the staff of Coláiste De Lacy are expected to exhibit the absolute highest standards of professionalism at all times. All prospective staff should be fully familiar with the Teaching Council's "*Code of Professional Conduct for Teachers*" ([www.teachingcouncil.ie](http://www.teachingcouncil.ie)). The staff of Coláiste De Lacy epitomise professionalism in our appearance, mind-set and work. The staff also model good learning habits for students. Other expectations of staff include:

- All staff are punctual and present for Tionól/Clann Time each morning (staff should be in school by 8:30am)
- All teachers plan their lessons on a daily basis
- All staff engage in peer observation and professional dialogue regarding teaching and learning
- All staff act as Caomhnóir (tutor) for a Clann (group)
- All staff actively participate in all whole school activities such as Enrichment
- All staff are committed to achieving the vision for Coláiste De Lacy
- All staff promote the Coláiste internally and externally
- All staff dress and conduct themselves in a professional manner (no jeans or trainers)

### **Conclusion**

The opportunity to work as part of a professional team to establish a start-up school is a rare and extraordinary one. Every member of the staff of Coláiste De Lacy will contribute to its development and standards. The ability to deliver excellence in teaching and learning is a significant factor in the consideration of all suitable applicants for all positions in Coláiste De Lacy.

All prospective staff should be authentic, passionate, committed, progressive and energetic educators. They should be highly skilled and fully committed to the growth and development of Coláiste De Lacy and Gaelcholáiste De Lacy. They should possess a growth mind-set and a desire to work collaboratively with colleagues as part of a team. They should be fully committed to the development of the school's curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

**All applicants should note that in a start-up school, it is necessary for staff to be completely involved in school life and school promotion.**

Further information is available on [www.colaistedelacy.ie](http://www.colaistedelacy.ie).

*Míle buíochas agus go n-éirí an tádh libh,*

*Janice Corrigan*

*Príomhoide, Coláiste De Lacy*

# *Appendix A*

**COLÁISTE DE LACY**  
**DRAFT TEACHING AND LEARNING POLICY**

*(REVIEW DATE: SUMMER 2017)*

**1. Aims**

Coláiste De Lacy aims to:

1. To encourage all young people to become lifelong learners through the strategic development of learning habits
2. To inspire young people to enjoy learning by ensuring that they are emotionally engaged, cognitively aware, socially interdependent and reflective learners
3. To enable all students to achieve their full academic potential
4. To help develop students as effective independent and interdependent learners
5. To provide a safe, stimulating and motivating learning environment for all
6. To provide a range of different teaching and learning approaches which accommodate numerous learning styles
7. To continually seek to research, innovate and improve the learning experience of Coláiste De Lacy students.

**2. Effective Learning**

In order to help them develop as effective learners, lessons at Coláiste De Lacy will ensure that students:

- are fully aware of the learning objectives and expected learning outcomes
- develop a deep, practical understanding of learning
- develop effective learning habits

- understand their potential and how to fulfil it through using a range of learning styles
- are able to find and process information independently
- can work effectively as individuals or part of a team
- develop as proficient and enthusiastic readers
- use ICT confidently, knowledgeably, responsibly and proportionately
- develop thinking skills which allow them to pose questions and solve problems
- look for the "big picture" and seek patterns in the information presented to them
- make links across the curriculum and with the wider world
- are able to focus on the key skills of literacy and numeracy
- can communicate effectively through speaking and writing
- can apply their learning in unfamiliar situations.

### **3. Responsibilities**

All members of Coláiste De Lacy's community must:

- value students as individuals and respect their entitlement to be educated in a caring, secure environment
- foster good relationships and a sense of belonging within the school
- provide a well-ordered environment in which everyone is fully aware of behavioural expectations
- ensure equality of opportunity in all aspects of school life
- encourage, praise and reinforce good relationships, behaviour and work
- work as a team, supporting and encouraging each other.

Students must:

- be punctual to lessons with the correct equipment
- complete home learning fully and promptly
- take pride in their work and always do their best
- follow the student Code of Conduct
- be reflective and take responsibility for improving their own learning
- know when to ask for help if needed
- respect the right of others to learn
- provide feedback about their learning in a positive and constructive manner.

Teachers must:

1. make lessons purposeful by:

- managing the learning process through carefully planned and well-paced lessons
- ensuring the development of the 8 key skills for Junior Cycle and learning habits
- following the agreed lesson plan which comprises of a starter, learning activities and plenary
- ensuring that students have the opportunity to activate, connect, demonstrate and consolidate learning
- organising the class into learning partners/groups
- creating a well thought out seating plan that is adhered to by all students
- making learning objectives and success criteria explicit to students and using assessment for learning strategies to evaluate and improve learning
- having appropriate expectations of all students
- evaluating all lessons to inform future learning and teaching

- delivering schemes of learning which incorporate the holistic and personal development of all students
- delivering schemes of learning which incorporate the development of young people's independent learning skills and create long lasting learning habits
- creating opportunities for students to learn collaboratively both with their learning partner and in larger groups.

2. make lessons interesting and stimulating by:

- showing enthusiasm for their subject and for learning
- having a thorough and up-to-date command of their subject
- helping students to make connections within and across subjects
- varying teaching styles, learning activities and the learning environment to meet the needs of different types of learner
- giving students the opportunity to discuss their learning with each other
- effectively using ICT and multi-media presentations when appropriate to enhance the students learning experiences and outcomes
- using praise, positive reinforcement and display of students work (Display for Learning)

3. create an orderly learning environment by:

- being consistent about class rules, including the setting and completion of home learning
- ensuring, through accurate assessment and record keeping, that learning is progressive and continuous
- ensuring that all tasks and activities performed by students are safe

4. match lesson activities to different student abilities and learning preferences by:
  - ensuring students have a clear and common understanding of the high expectations held of them individually and collectively
  - using assessment data to gauge students' individual capabilities so that lessons are well planned for all
  - using appropriate differentiated materials and tasks which ensure students' active participation in lessons, for the most able as well as for those with special educational needs
  - planning opportunities to give constructive verbal feedback for all students
  - taking action to have a full understanding of the extent to which students have met the planned learning outcomes
  - having an underachievement action plan for all students who are not making the progress that is expected of them
  
5. develop positive and productive working relationships with students by:
  - respecting students, recognising that they are individuals with different needs, treating them fairly, and giving them equal opportunity to take part in class activities
  - supporting students when necessary and appropriate outside lesson times
  - providing quality feedback, verbal and written, to move students forward in their learning
  - valuing each child as a unique individual and being familiar with the relevant equal opportunities legislation covering race, gender and disability
  
6. create further opportunities for learning by:
  - viewing themselves as learners and using action research within the classroom, as well as using professional development, observations, and dialogue to improve and share good practice
  - treating all interactions in the coláiste as learning experiences

- using enrichment activities to provide opportunities for extending learning beyond the classroom
- making sure classrooms are motivating and purposeful learning environments which consist of student work illustrating the learning process and interactive displays

Parents/Guardians must:

- ensure their child attends school regularly and punctually
- ensure their child attends school with the correct uniform, equipment and PE kit
- give due importance to home learning and support their child to develop literacy and numeracy skills
- inform the coláiste if there are matters outside school that are likely to affect their child's performance or behaviour
- provide support for *de-a-iompar* (good conduct) within the Coláiste
- be realistic about their child's abilities and promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general
- fulfil the requirements set out in the home-school agreement.

#### **4. Monitoring and Evaluation**

Teaching and learning will form part of the schools SSE monitoring and evaluation cycle. This includes formal and informal systems including lesson observation, peer observation, work sampling and feedback from school leaders and colleagues. Findings will be published in the school's annual report and in SSE Reports.

	<u>Dé Luain</u>	<u>Dé Máirt</u>	<u>Dé Céadaoin</u>	<u>Déardaoin</u>	<u>Dé hAoine</u>
8:45 - 8:57	<b>Tionól</b>				
9:00 - 10:00					
10:00 - 11:00					
11:00 - 11:15	<b>Sos</b>				
11:15 - 12:15					
12:15 - 13:15					
13:15 - 13:45	<b>Lón</b>				
12:45 - 14:45					
14:45 - 15:45	<b>CPA Hours</b>				



**Coláiste De lacy**

*“Fásann intinní óga,  
Osclaíonn croíthe ceanúla,  
Tosaíonn saol spreagúil”*

**Coláiste De Lacy**

**Ashbourne, Co Meath**

**[www.colaistedelacy.ie](http://www.colaistedelacy.ie)**

**Email: [colaistedelacy@lmetb.ie](mailto:colaistedelacy@lmetb.ie)**



***lmetb***

Bord Oideachais agus  
Oiliúna Lú agus na Mí  
Louth and Meath Education  
and Training Board