



Wesley College Dublin

Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.



Historical Background and Present Location

Wesley College was founded in 1845 on St. Stephen's Green, Dublin. Having started as a school for boys the College became co-educational in 1911. In 1969 it relocated to its present location in Ballinteer. It is situated on an exceptional 50-acre site close to the Dublin Mountains and to the M50 motorway. There is accommodation for over 900 pupils, with boarding facilities for up to 70 boys and 70 girls.



Ethos

The motto of the College is “Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good” (1 Thessalonians, chap.5, v.21).

The College is a Methodist Foundation and the Conference of the Methodist Church acts as Patron and appoints the Governors. Central to its ethos is the belief that all the work and activities of the College fall under God’s guidance. Worship is an important aspect of College life, seen through daily assemblies and special services held during each school year. While it is the policy of the College to give priority to accepting pupils of Methodist and other Protestant denominations, those of other traditions and faiths are welcome.



The College gives emphasis to the unique value and worth of each pupil. It sees itself as a learning community both for its pupils and for its staff and is committed to the pursuit of academic excellence. At the same time it sees education as an all-embracing process concerned with the development of the whole person. It aims to provide a broad education which will enable its pupils to identify and develop their strengths to the highest level of which they are capable. In terms of personal development the aim is to develop each pupil intellectually, socially, physically, morally and spiritually, well prepared to live confident and productive lives as caring and committed members of society.





Pastoral Care

The College endeavours to provide a caring and safe environment for its pupils and to foster a firm sense of community. There is a strong pastoral care structure involving Year Heads, Class Tutors, Guidance Counsellors, Heads of Boarding and Day Pupils, Nurses and Chaplain. It is important that pupils feel happy and comfortable at school. The Code of Behaviour sets out the arrangements for a fair but firm disciplinary system designed to ensure good order, sound moral training and a happy and secure environment for all.

The College places great importance on having good relations with parents. Both formal and informal meetings are arranged each year and the Parent-Teacher Association plays an important role in the College. The aim is to ensure that home and school will work in harmony towards promoting the best interests of each pupil.



Curriculum

The College curriculum is designed to meet the needs of students of all abilities. The College employs approximately 80 well qualified and committed teachers, including two guidance counsellors, a chaplain and special needs teachers. The Junior Cycle comprises Years 1 to 3. All pupils in Year 4 take the Transition Year Programme and the Leaving Certificate Examinations are taken at the end of Year 6. There is also a Preparatory Class for pupils in their last year of primary education.

A broad range of subjects is offered. Pupils in junior years are taught in mixed-ability classes, except for Irish and Mathematics where “setting” applies. Subjects available include the Humanities, Languages (Irish, French, German and Spanish), Mathematics, the Sciences and the Arts, as well as technical subjects and business related disciplines.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The academic work of the College is complemented by a range of extra-curricular activities. Physical Education is an integral part of the curriculum. Outside class hours pupils may pursue a range of sports, including hockey, rugby, athletics, cricket, badminton, net ball and tennis. College teams have achieved many successes in the major sports, frequently winning cup and league trophies. Many pupils and former pupils have been prominent at international level in hockey, rugby, athletics, cricket and badminton.



The College has also achieved great success in Music. There are a number of choirs, and orchestra and instrumental groups which have performed in the National Concert Hall, the Feis Ceoil, and other venues. Tuition is available in a range of instruments. An annual Interschools' Music Festival is organised and hosted by the College with over 500 students attending each year.



Pupils may also join a number of clubs and societies such as Model United Nations, the Arts and Crafts Club, Christian Union and Clubs promoting Woodwork, Music Technology, Drama, Debating and Public Speaking.



Boarding

The College has a long tradition of welcoming pupils as boarders. Boarding contributes to the development of the pupil and to the character of the College. We aim to provide a friendly, caring and homely atmosphere for approximately 100 pupils. The majority of boarders come from different parts of Ireland and, in addition, pupils from other countries and of different nationalities are welcomed. The attractive setting of the College, close to the mountains yet within easy reach of the cultural opportunities offered by Dublin city centre, guarantees a rich educational environment in which to study and learn. Living within the College grounds allows for on-the-spot access throughout the whole week to all of the excellent facilities available.

Embury (Boys) – are each under the care of a Head of House with the support of a number of resident staff. In recent years the dormitory accommodation has been extensively enhanced with small rooms for 2,3 or 4 pupils being provided.

Boarding is available on a five-day or full week basis with flexible arrangements for visits home. The Boarding Houses: Epworth (Girls) and



Facilities

The College buildings have been designed in a “campus style” with an Administration Building comprising the Assembly Hall, Dining Hall and Home Economics classrooms as well as the College offices and Staff rooms. There is a Mathematics Centre, a Science Centre, Music & Arts Building, Technology Centre, a Learning Resources Centre (incorporating a well-stocked Library and Computer Room), a General Classroom Block, a Sports Hall, Gym, two boarding residences and a Sports Pavilion. The Campus is wifi accessible and all classrooms are equipped with the latest ICT facilities.

Sports facilities include 4 rugby pitches, 2 astro-turf floodlit hockey pitches, 2 all-weather hockey pitches, astro-turf tennis courts, 2 netball courts, a gymnasium with weights area, and badminton courts.

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