



John Scottus Primary School Old Conna

Student Teacher Placement Policy

Introduction

The Board of Management of John Scottus Primary School Old Conna acknowledges the following regarding initial teacher education and the role of school placement in this process:

- Positive school placement experiences are critical to ensuring appropriate initial teacher education for all student teachers.
- Close collaboration between schools and (Higher Education Institutes) HEIs is essential to positive and meaningful school placement experiences for student teachers.
- It is desirable that schools host student teachers for placement and, in doing so, provide student teachers with the opportunity to observe teaching and to teach classes independently, in collaboration with suitably qualified practicing teachers.
- In the course of school placement, student teachers require the support of the whole-school community in their journey towards professional competence.
- Hosting student teachers on placement is enriching for the learners in a school, student teachers, class teachers, the wider school community and HEIs. In particular, learners benefit from a greater variety of teaching, learning and co-curricular experiences through the structured participation of student teachers in the school. Furthermore, the school gains access to a variety of newer approaches to teaching and learning through its engagement with student teachers and HEI staff.
- HEI placement tutors benefit from partnership experiences with schools and from being in the actual setting of a school during visits to student teachers.

Development of Policy

This policy was developed by the Board of Management following consultations with the staff and parents.

Commitment to hosting student teachers

John Scottus Primary School Old Conna is committed to hosting student teachers for school placement and, in this context, adopts without modification as part of this school placement policy the [Guidelines on School Placement developed by the Teaching Council](#) in consultation with all relevant education partners.

Implications for the school hosting student teachers on placement

Hosting a student teacher on placement will, among other things, involve the student teacher observing classes being taught by members of the school's teaching staff. It will also involve student teachers teaching classes, in the first instance, while being observed and supported by the teacher with primary responsibility for the welfare and educational progress of the class. Then, as the student teacher's competence develops, the student teacher will move to teaching classes independently in line with HEI requirements and the student teacher's particular stage of development on the initial teacher training programme.

Scheduling of student teachers on placement

The principal, will allocate student teachers to class teachers and classes, having regard for:

- the stage the student teacher is at in his/her initial teacher education programme
- the particular needs of the learners in a particular class
- the requirement for the student teacher to experience an appropriate range of placement contexts
- any special circumstances of which the class teacher has an awareness.

The principal will endeavour to ensure that the student teacher has an awareness of and a commitment to our school ethos.

Induction of student teachers on placement

Student teachers will, prior to commencing their placement, be given guidance as to the ethos and values of the school as well as the school's policies and procedures. All student teachers will be provided with an information pack that will include details of key school policies, in particular the school's Code of Behaviour, Child Safeguarding Statement, Health and Safety Statement, Anti-Bullying Policy and Student Teacher Placement Policies.

Supports for the student teacher

The school community is committed to supporting positively and sensitively the student teacher in accordance with the Guidelines on School Placement developed by the Teaching Council in consultation with all relevant education partners. Furthermore, the school is committed to allocating the student teacher to (an) appropriate class teacher(s) and to the classes essential to him/ her undertaking his/her school placement successfully. The school will also provide the student teacher with the teaching facilities and resources necessary to his/her work during the placement.

Continuing professional development for staff involved in supporting/ facilitating student teacher placement

The school management authority and the school's senior management are committed to promoting and facilitating the participation of school staff in continuing professional development programmes essential to ensuring the successful operation of student teacher placement in the school.

Ratification and Review

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management in 2022. It will be reviewed annually.