



LEIXLIP

Educate Together National School

STUDENT TEACHER PLACEMENT POLICY

Introduction

Leixlip Educate Together National School is a primary school providing primary education to pupils from Junior Infants to Sixth Class (Junior Infants and Senior Infants only 2020-2021). In accordance with section 11 of the Children First Act 2015 and with the requirement of Chapter 8 of the *Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post-Primary Schools 2017*, the school has carried out a Risk Assessment. The need to develop a policy on one-to-one teaching was identified. This policy was formulated following consultation with staff, parents and the Board of Management of Leixlip Educate Together National School, and follows the best guidelines as recommended by the Professional Development Service for Teachers (PDST)'s *Guidance for Schools, Child Abuse Prevention Programme*.

The Board of Management of Leixlip ETNS 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

Leixlip ETNS 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; and 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 as underpinned by the core principles and values of Educate Together.

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 Positive 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.

Communication of school placement policy to school community A copy of the school placement policy is made available to school personnel and the policy is readily accessible to parents on request. In particular, a copy of the policy shall be published on the school website.

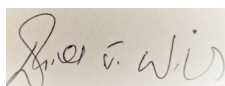
Implications of Covid 19 Leixlip ETNS will follow the guidance provided by the [Teaching Council](#) in relation to placements during the 2020-2021 school year.

Policy reviews

This policy will be reviewed in every two years.

Date of policy adoption

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management on



Signed: _____
Chairperson of Board of Management



Principal

20th January 2021

Date: _____

20th January 2021

Date: _____

Date of next review: **January 2023**