

What subjects are core for First Year students?

The following subjects are core at our school.

1. Irish*
2. English
3. Mathematics
4. Science
5. History
6. Physical Education (P.E.)
7. Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.)
8. Civics, Social and Personal Education (C.S.P.E.)

*Some students have an exemption from Irish. If your child has an exemption from Irish, please organise for your child's primary school to send the exemption certificate to us.

What subjects are optional at our school?

The following subjects are optional at our school. Students get a chance to try these subjects during our taster programme.

1. Business Studies
2. Engineering (Metalwork)
3. French
4. Geography
5. Home Economics
6. Music
7. Graphics (Technical Graphics)
8. Visual Art
9. Wood Technology (Woodwork)

After the taster programme, students choose four subjects from the list above.

Does St Patrick's College have a Book Rental scheme?

At St Patrick's College, we are very conscious of keeping the cost of schooling down for parents/guardians. St Patrick's College was one of the first schools in the country to have a Book Rental Scheme. All students take part in our subsidised book rental scheme. The current fees are outlined in the table below.

Year	Fee	Deposit
1 st Year	€50 per annum	€50 deposit
2 nd Year	€50 per annum	
3 rd Year	€50 per annum	Deposit returned*
Transition Year	TY book fees are included in the annual TY fee.	
5 th Year	€50 per annum	€50 deposit
6 th Year	€50 per annum	Deposit returned*

* Book deposit returned if books are returned in good order. Missing books must be replaced.

Does St Patrick's College charge any other fees?

In addition to the book rental fee, the school also charges fees for the following – School Locker, School Journal, Photocopying and Administration.

Does St Patrick's College have a canteen?

Yes, the school has a canteen which is currently run by Get Fresh Catering. The canteen serves hot food and drinks during both breaks. All students are expected to help in the cleaning up of the canteen and a cleaning Rota is created every week for this purpose.

What time does school start at and when does it finish?

A typical day at St Patrick's College looks like this.

All classes are 40 minutes long.

Time	What is Happening?
8.50 A.M.	First bell goes – collect books from locker and go to class.
8.55 A.M.	First Class begins.
9.35 A.M.	Go to tutor class. Tutor checks journal, uniform etc.
9.45 A.M.	Second Class begins.
10.25 A.M.	Third Class begins
11.05 A.M.	Morning Break – First Year students get out of class five minutes early.
11.25 A.M.	Fourth Class begins.
12.05 P.M.	Fifth Class begins.
12.45 P.M.	Sixth Class begins.
1.25 P.M.	Lunch Break - First Year students get out of class five minutes early.
2 P.M.	Seventh Class begins
2.40 P.M.	Eight Class begins
3.20 P.M.	Ninth Class begins.
4 P.M.	Home Time.

First Year students receive help from their tutors and in S.P.H.E. class with their timetable and finding their way around the school! It can be challenging at first but don't worry, they soon get the hang of it!

Is there a school uniform and where can I buy it?

Yes, the school has a set uniform. This uniform is set out in our Uniform Policy which you can find on our website.

Girls	Boys
Green Jumper with College Crest	Green Jumper with College Crest
White Blouse or White Polo Top	White Shirt or White Polo Top
Green Skirt or Grey flannel trousers	Grey flannel trouser

For more information, including a visual guide to acceptable footwear, please consult our Uniform policy.

The St Patrick's College uniform can be purchased at Toymaster Ballina or at Ivy and Bow Boutique. The school's Parents Council also has a stock of school uniform jumpers and trousers.

My child has Special Education Needs (S.E.N.). Who should I contact?

Our school works closely with all our feeder Primary schools to help children with Special Education Needs to transition successfully into secondary school, but if you have any specific questions, please contact us by email or telephone and we will be happy to answer your questions and assist you.

Can I arrange for a visit to the school before my child starts?

At the moment we are unable to organise visits to the school. Please contact the school and we will try to arrange a visit during the summer holidays.

Does my child have to sit an entrance exam?

No, we do not have an entrance exam. We do however ask all incoming First Year students to sit a test called the Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT 4). This test helps us to highlight areas and subjects that your child has potential in and helps you and your child in choosing subjects after the taster programme.