**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 studying Irish. If your child has been granted 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** |
| 1st Year | €50 per annum | €50 deposit |
| 2nd Year | €50 per annum |  |
| 3rd Year | €50 per annum | Deposit returned\* |
| Transition Year | TY book fees are included in the annual TY fee. |  |
| 5th Year | €50 per annum | €50 deposit |
| 6th 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 is serves hot food and drinks during both breaks and there is a free ‘Breakfast Club’. 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. | Second Class begins. |
| 10.15 AM | Third Class begins. |
| 10.55 A.M. | Morning Break |
| 11.05 A.M. | Morning Break – First Year students get out of class five minutes early. |
| 11.15 A.M | Fourth Class begins. |
| 11.55 P.M. | Fifth Class begins. |
| 12.35 P.M | Sixth Class begins. |
| 1.15 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 (usually their Wellbeing teacher, 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, [www.lackencross.ie](http://www.lackencross.ie)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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?**

The 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?**

Yes, we plan to hold a restricted ‘open Night’ on Wednesday 9th February next between 5.30 pm and 8 pm. If this date does not suit you, please contact the school and we will try to arrange a visit at another time.

**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. This test helps us to highlight areas and subjects that you child has potential in and helps you and your child in choosing subjects after the taster programme.

**How will I find out how my child is doing at school?**

Our students sit class tests or exams every eleven weeks and their results and comments from teachers are available on the school’s VS Ware system. All parents get a log in code which allows them to view these results. If you prefer to get your child’s results by post, just let us know and we are happy to do this.

If a parent has any concerns about how school is progressing for their child, they can contact the school and we will be very happy to help them with any issues that they may have.

**Does St Patrick’s College have a school app?**

Yes, the school uses an app connected to the VS Ware system. You can use this app to view your child’s test results and to explain or book absences e.g., dental appointments or illnesses.