



PME Placement / Student Teacher Policy.

Introduction

Our Lady of Mercy College is a Catholic, all girls, voluntary secondary school which caters for students of all religions and backgrounds in accordance with current equal status legislation.

Mission Statement

The core values of Our Lady of Mercy College are respect for all and the nurturing of individual potential, academically, spiritually, and culturally, as a member of the school community and in the spirit of Mercy Ethos.

The Mercy Ethos

Mercy Education is committed to ongoing whole-school development in collaboration and partnership with the Board of Management, Staff, Pupils, Parents and the wider community. Our school was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1967 and became part of CEIST in 2007. Our current student population is approx 380



CEIST (Catholic Education, an Irish Schools Trust) was established by five Catholic Religious Congregations – Daughters of Charity, Presentation Sisters, Sisters of the Christian Retreat, Sisters of Mercy, and Missionaries of the Sacred Heart – to provide a sustainable moral and legal trustee framework for post-primary Catholic education in Ireland. Rooted in the founding vision of its Congregations, CEIST emphasises the dignity and rights of individuals, empowers the vulnerable, and prepares young people to be agents of social transformation. The Trust is dedicated to

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fostering inclusive, hospitable, excellent, and compassionate learning environments inspired by Gospel values and the wisdom of its Founders. CEIST promotes collaborative school faith communities, supports staff in their essential roles, and addresses the evolving needs of youth. Engaging in ecumenical dialogue, CEIST values its Catholic identity while working with other Christian traditions and all people of goodwill to advocate for the poor, justice, and environmental stewardship, respecting diversity.

Our Lady of Mercy College is under CEIST Trusteeship. The core values of CEIST are intended to support and nourish the lives of the people at the heart of our school: students, staff and parent. Its key principles focus on:

- Promoting spiritual and human development.
- Achieving quality in teaching and learning.
- Showing respect for every person.
- Creating community.
- Being just and responsible

Inspired by the vision of Catherine McAuley, Our Lady of Mercy College provides the conditions and experiences which will promote the development of the full potential of each person including the spiritual, moral, physical, social, aesthetic, intellectual and vocational development.

We strive to ensure that every member of the school community is held in very high regard and their dignity, worth and individuality is respected. We aim to build a sense of community based on Christian values.



1. Introduction

Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont recognises the need for the next generation of teachers to be facilitated in their teacher training, and is willing to be part of that process, within the parameters of this policy, as approved by the Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont.

The Board of Management of Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont 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.
- It is desirable that the college 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 students in the college, student teachers, co-operating teachers, the wider college community. In particular, learners benefit from a greater variety of teaching, learning and co-curricular experiences through the structured participation of student teachers. Furthermore, the college gains access



to a variety of newer approaches to teaching and learning through its engagement with student teachers.

2. Application for Placement

- Student teachers must apply for placement to the Board of Management via the Principal/nominated Deputy Principal.
- Each student teacher should send a cover letter, placement requirements and a copy of their CV. to the Principal/nominated Deputy Principal.
- A student teacher will only be given a placement if the required subject can be facilitated in the college for the required academic year.
- Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont should be advised of any vetting procedures that the Higher Education Institutions have carried out before the student teacher commences placement.

*Please note - It is the responsibility of each student teacher to have their vetting confirmed by their Teacher Training College **before** a school placement commences.*

- Our Lady of Mercy College reserves the right to cancel a placement if the Board of Management consider it appropriate.
- Student teachers are expected to complete an induction programme with the college before their placement begins.
- As a members of staff the student teacher should be aware of the Codes of Professional Conduct for Teachers, published by 'The Teaching



Council (2007) and drawn up in accordance with 'The Teaching Council Act 2001'

- The student teacher is expected to support established procedures, ethos and policies of the college.
- The student teacher is expected to be available throughout their placement for the duration of the school day. She/he is expected to support the college in an appropriate manner, according to the wishes of Senior Management.

3. Commitment to hosting student teachers

Our Lady of Mercy College Beaumont 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.

4. Implications for the school hosting student teachers on placement.

Hosting a student teacher on placement will, inter alia, involve the student teacher undertaking the following:

- a. Observing classes being taught by members of the college teaching staff where appropriate and necessary.
- b. Teaching classes where appropriate and necessary.

5. Induction of student teachers on placement



Student teachers are expected to attend college provided induction and orientation in order to on-board in a timely and practical manner prior to commencing their placement.

6. Supports for the student teacher

- The college is committed to positively supporting the student teacher in accordance with the 'Guidelines on School Placement' developed by 'The Teaching Council' and in consultation with all relevant education partners.
- The college is committed to allocating the student teacher to classes essential to him/her undertaking his/her school placement successfully.
- The college will also provide the student teacher with the teaching facilities and resources necessary to his/her work during this placement.

7. Policy reviews

This policy will be reviewed by Senior Management periodically.

This Statement was ratified on September 20th 2024