

Arts Policy

Our school Mission Statement

St. Aidan's C.B.S. promotes the Edmund Rice Charter through nurturing *faith*, promoting *partnership*, excelling in *teaching*, creating *community* and inspiring *leadership*.



Our school

St. Aidan's C.B.S. is a voluntary secondary school for boys. We are located in north Dublin and we currently have an enrolment of over 700 students. Our school is a Catholic school operating under the patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (E.R.S.T.). The characteristic spirit of our school is based on the vision and values of the E.R.S.T. Charter as outlined above in our mission statement. This is reflected in the operations of our school and in our school policies.

Rationale

The arts can make a significant contribution to a student-centred education. Participation in, or appreciation, of the arts can be a most enjoyable and stimulating experience. It adds a new dimension to life.

The arts offer active, hands-on learning experiences that engage students in a dynamic and stimulating way, empowering young people in a variety of means of self-expression, facilitating the expression of difficult and complex feelings and concepts.

The arts are central to the growth of the individual, developing the imagination through creative exploration. Collaborative arts projects foster appreciation and understanding as well as a sense of pride and delight in collective achievement and in the school as a whole, enriching and supporting learning across the curriculum.

Aim

It is our intention to create an "Arts Rich School". In this we are motivated by the belief that artistic expression is central to the educational, creative, moral and social development of our students. This perfectly complements our ethos as a Christian Brothers' School.

Scope

St. Aidan's CBS, the Arts Rich School strives to incorporate the arts into all corners of our educational practice, where possible and appropriate.

Links to Arts in the Community:

- DCU & UCD
- Axis Theatre
- Botanic Gardens
- IFI
- School trips to places of historical note
- IMC cinema, Omni
- Hugh Lane Gallery
- National Concert Hall
- Guest speakers (when available)
- Local primary & secondary schools
- Ballymun/ D.I.T. Music Programme
- Phoenix Park - Dublin Zoo

The Arts in practice in St. Aidan's CBS:

- Gallery Wall of paintings and photos
- 1st year history model making exhibition
- Talent Show
- Battle of the Bands
- TY play
- TY film-making
- Library readings
- Public speaking competitions
- Debating
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- European Language Day
- International Day
- Chess Club
- French Club
- Project displays of practical subjects
- S.E.A.R.
- Poster competitions
- Christmas card design
- D.I.T. music lessons

Links to the Arts in Europe:

- Cultural trips abroad
- European Ambassador Programme
- Penpals
- French Assistant
- Student exchange

Communication, involvement and dissemination

This policy was written by the Arts Centred School working group. A process of collaboration followed involving the policy co-ordinator, school management, staff, students' council, and the parents' council.

Evaluation

We are committed to monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of our school policies. Specifically important to this policy is:

- Pupil feedback
- Staff feedback
- Parental feedback

Ratification

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 28th November 2017.

Review and Development

We are also committed to the review and development of our school policies. As part of our ongoing review process, this policy will be examined to reflect feedback from our evaluation practices and also to ensure legal compliance and the maintenance of best practices.

(See *Schedule of Policies* document for dates)