



Stratford College
Co-educational Secondary School

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide a teaching and learning community committed to quality and excellence in education.

We educate our students in an inclusive academic environment which fosters a sense of personal and academic achievement, respect for diversity and service to the community.

Welcome to Stratford College

Thank you for considering Stratford College for your child.

Stratford College is a co-educational, fee-paying secondary school in Rathgar, Dublin 6. We welcome students on both a multi-denominational and no-faith basis, ensuring we have a diverse student population that reflects Ireland today.

Stratford's key qualities are reflected in the atmosphere of 'kindness and tolerance' recognised in a recent inspection by the Department of Education and Skills (DES). Here, our students are valued as uniquely talented while also being taught the values of inclusiveness and a love of learning.

Stratford is a progressive and innovative school where we work to promote the highest standards of teaching and learning. Our staff embrace new teaching methodologies, curriculum reform and educational initiatives for the benefit of our students. They are passionate about their subjects and their profession.

A love of learning permeates the school - the DES found 'the emergence of a holistic learning community is tangible' in Stratford. Here students are encouraged to actively participate in their own learning and achieve the highest academic standards. A broad range of co and extra-curricular activities further develops our students' creative, sporting and intellectual interests.

Finally, school life in Stratford is vibrant and dynamic where staff, parents and students all play an important role.

We see this when we look at the range of events that our students enjoy and when we hear from our past pupils from over 60 years who are proud of their time at Stratford and who are confident and competent in their working and personal lives. We celebrate our contribution to their success.

We would be delighted to welcome you to the school for a visit as you make this important decision about the next stage of your child's development and education.



Patricia Gordon
Principal



Teaching and Learning

Stratford College offers a broad academic curriculum over a six-year period leading to the Leaving Certificate Examination. With average class sizes of 20 pupils, the highest academic standards are promoted.

Staff are committed to active teaching methodologies, with students encouraged to be self-motivated and take responsibility for their learning. Participation, teamwork, self and peer assessment and the ability to undertake independent research and learning are all core elements of our lesson planning and delivery.

Teachers embrace new developments within education theory, undertake continuous professional development and use digital technology within their classes.

This approach delivers strong academic results - an overwhelming majority of our students attend third level education. Importantly, by encouraging self-directed learning and participation, students have the skills required for success in further education and for life.

“Features of exemplary practice were noted in many lessons... In such cases teachers prioritised the junior cycle key skills of managing information and working with others through purposeful and progressive tasks.”

Department of Education & Skills
Whole School Evaluation 2014

Campus and Facilities

The Stratford College campus in Rathgar is a modern learning environment within the grandeur of a Victorian period house. The intimate setting helps build a strong sense of community, a particular benefit for students joining in First Year.

Dedicated class tutors and excellent supports are in place to advocate for and address students' concerns, while staff strive to create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

There are specialist subject rooms within the school for Art, Science and Computers; a library with a full-time librarian; a Career Guidance office and sports grounds on-site for football, basketball and track and field.

“The role of the class tutor is student centred and comprehensive... Student support structures are highly developed with a caring and effective system in place. The school buildings, specialist rooms and grounds are maintained to a high standard.”

Department of Education & Skills
Whole School Evaluation 2014



Virtual Learning Environment

Stratford College invests in eLearning - high speed Wi-Fi access in all classrooms; on-line resources; upgraded IT facilities; additional interactive whiteboards and cloud capability.

To ensure an interactive experience, we utilise:

eBooks You Tube
Mobile devices moodle

Students and teachers develop subject blogs and podcasts. They produce digital presentations like Prezi and Vimeos and write/direct their own short films - actively applying the concepts they have learnt using stimulating and creative means.

“ICT was effectively used in a majority of lessons to stimulate students’ interest, assist their learning and to provide graphic, video or auditory examples.”

Department of Education & Skills
Whole School Evaluation 2014

Well-Being

Being healthy, creative and staying connected with the community are vital for positive development. Participation builds resilience, pride and a sense of shared responsibility.

During themed weeks students engage with social issues, from anti-bullying initiatives to active citizenship. The Student Council, An Gaisce and public speaking facilitate leadership development.

A range of extra and co-curricular activities also enable students to develop their interests:

Basketball	Skiing	Model United Nations
Music	Athletics	Sailing
Art	Yoga	Tennis
Film Studies	Drama/Musicals	Self-defence
Photography	Debating	European Youth Parliament

Our Transition Year programme is varied and includes volunteering, adventure sports, law and creative writing.

All activity is underpinned by the guidance and support of our teachers.

“Alongside the recognition of academic achievement, holistic achievement and progress is rewarded across a broad diversity of areas, abilities and individual social and personal development.

A very good variety of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities enable students to discover their academic, artistic and sporting interests.”

Department of Education & Skills
Whole School Evaluation 2014



Whole School Evaluation

In February 2014 the Department of Education and Skills (DES) undertook a whole school evaluation of Stratford College focused on management, leadership and learning within the school.

Extensive interviews with parents, students and teachers, as well as on-site reviews of lessons and materials, were undertaken and the key findings were:

- Highly organised and motivated Board of Management.
- Emergence of a holistic, professional learning community is tangible within the school.
- The principal demonstrates highly dynamic leadership including engagement and leadership in educational innovation.
- The principal and deputy principal work closely together as a cohesive senior management team with high levels of collaboration and ownership of the school's educational priorities.
- Both parents and students confirmed that the atmosphere and ethos of the school are permeated by key principles of kindness and tolerance.
- Teachers are highly committed, motivated and enthusiastic and have engaged effectively with up-to-date professional development.
- Student support structures are very good and features of exemplary practice noted in the support of students welfare and well-being.
- Overall the quality of teaching and learning observed was very good and some excellent practice noted.

To find out more information
about Stratford College visit
www.stratfordcollege.ie



Stratford College

Co-educational Secondary School

1 Zion Road, Rathgar, Dublin 6, Ireland.

Tel: +353 1 492 2315

E-mail: admin@stratfordcollege.ie

www.stratfordcollege.ie