



St Joseph's CBS Fairview

A Pathway to the Digital Economy



1918 Photo taken Anthony's CBS Fairview (taken on 23rd January 2016) Photographed Leo "George" Dewitt

Secondary School



Gerry Cullen, Principal

Choosing what secondary school to send your son to is a very important decision. The transition from primary to secondary is huge, from one teacher a day up to nine; up to 15 subjects in a week; a different room every 40 minutes; and getting used to the timetable. Secondary schools are often very large in terms of student numbers with up to and over a thousand students not uncommon. St. Joseph's, with 300 students offers small classes in which students become known very quickly. Our prevailing ethos is that of care – students who come to “Joey’s” are looked after. Part of the reason for our good results is our Evening Study Scheme – two hours solid work in silence which can be very difficult to get at home. We have Homework Club for the younger students, where they can get help. These schemes instil good habits. But schools do much more important work than getting students over the line in exams.

Year Heads who give so much time to looking after their relevant year group; Care Team which meets every week; SNAs (Special Needs Assistants) who do such great work with the students who need it most; and the accessibility of staff to parents all adds up to students very quickly developing a sense of belonging to the school. ????? contribute to good school results. We also enjoy the support of our Parents’ Council who have raised lots of funds over the years for the boys.

In relation to curriculum, students who come to Joey’s have an incredibly wide choice of subjects. In first year every student gets to try every subject, with choices then made as the student approaches second year. A couple of exciting new developments in relation to curriculum are the addition of the subject “Technology” with the building of a specialised room due to begin very shortly. Most exciting of all is a new course - P-Tech - Pathways to Technology, which we see as a pathway for our students to a career in the digital economy. I hope you enjoy reading about the P-Tech programme elsewhere in this brochure.

The spirit in our school, the quality of teaching, the behaviour of students, the support of parents and past pupils is something we are very proud of. Student Leadership is something we encourage here in St. Joseph's and our students are active in areas of teenage mental health and initiatives in the community such as the annual party for senior citizens, held in conjunction with the local St. Vincent de Paul society. Our students are active on the sportsfield, with soccer and basketball prominent while still competing in our traditional games of hurling and football for which the school is justly famous.

Primary School

Welcome to St. Joseph's C.B.S. Primary School or just Joey's as it has been fondly known by generations of Dubliners. We are a small (126 pupil) boys school located in Marino, Dublin. We have classes from 2nd through to 6th (ages approx. 7 to 12) and three Outreach classes which cater for children with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder). We are committed to providing a happy, secure environment in which all our children can develop to their full potential.

The school provides a wide range of subjects, activities, sports and supports to help our students learn and thrive. We have a strong tradition in providing After school or extra curricular activities. The dedicated and experienced staff in our school provide these activities on a voluntary basis. We operate a subsidised school book rental scheme and all our students are provided with a free, delicious and healthy school meal. We recognise the value of, and actively work towards, excellent home-school communication and have a dedicated Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) teacher to help achieve this. We also participate in the School Completion Programme to ensure that our pupils get the best possible start in their education.

We have launched a new plan for the school called "Joey's 2020". We have identified four areas for development and hope to work on these over the coming three school years.

The four areas are;

- Environment (Upgrading/decorating/maintaining school buildings and yard).
- Teaching and Learning (Working on Literacy and numeracy, ICT, professional development/training for staff).
- Community (Parent's Association/building links with community/getting involved in local events).
- Daily Practice (Wellbeing promotion/attendance and punctuality/achieving personal goals of students).

Over the years, here at Joey's, there has been a lot of work done on many of the above areas. Our aim is to continue to develop in all areas of school life, which will only benefit the boys.

In order for this to be a success, we will need everyone working together.

This year has seen an increase in parental involvement in the school, which has been extremely positive. There has also been an increase in links with local businesses. A number of initiatives such as Time to Read, Junior Achievement, Suas literacy and numeracy, fitness for kids, coding have started in the school. This brought local businesses and their employees into the school and given our young students exposure to different working environments. We would hope this would start them thinking about their future and the important part that school and in particular, Joey's can play in shaping that future!

Developing these stronger links with the community, along with increased involvement from parents, we have been able to see changes and improvements in many of our targeted areas of Joey's 2020!

P-TECH Ireland

Goals:

- Provide young people with an innovative and highly relevant education opportunity that enables them to earn a third-level qualification, along with the skills required to enter the workforce or continue their education.
- Address the “skills gap” and strengthen the economy by building a workforce with the technical and professional skills required for 21st Century jobs.

**The 2018 FIT ICT Skills Audit identified over 12,000 current vacancies in the sector offering quality job opportunities at entry, competent as well as expert levels. (<https://fit.ie/about/skills-audit/>)*

The Student Experience:

- Take regular second-level courses required to earn normal secondary qualifications.
- Take third-level courses while at secondary school as early as Transition Year.
- Participate in structured work experiences to learn teamwork and develop the skills needed for the 21st century workplace.
- Receive one-to-one mentoring from industry staff, and explore various careers through paid internships and workplace experiences provided by industry.
- Graduate with traditional second-level qualification and a third level qualification directly aligned to job opportunities in digital technology related roles.
- On completion, be ‘first in line’ for jobs with industry partners, subject to availability and standard interview and hiring processes. Or continue in education e.g. applying to other third-level courses.

P-TECH How it works

Year 1 of Secondary School

Students follow the normal Junior Cycle program and participate in P-TECH taster activities, such as industry talks, demonstrations, workshops etc. Students are invited to enroll for P-TECH.

P-TECH Year 3 (Transition Year)

Students commence third-level modules, workplace-related learning, talks, mentoring engagement with industry continues. Industry partners provide paid summer internship program for students at the end of Year Three.

P-TECH Year 6 (post Leaving Certificate)

Students take further third-level modules, mentoring and internship opportunities, graduating with a third level qualification.

P-TECH Years 1-2 (2nd and 3rd year of secondary school)

Enrolled students start P-TECH, taking specially developed Short Courses as part of the Junior Cycle, e.g. Robotics or Coding. Every student is assigned a mentor from industry. Workplace learning, site visits, industry talks, visits to 3rd level colleges.

P-TECH Years 4-5 (5th and 6th Year of secondary school)

Students in participating schools will, as usual, pursue a second level qualification, together with third-level modules, mentoring and internship opportunities as part of the P-Tech Programme.

Graduation from P-TECH

At the end of Year 6, or earlier if the student has achieved the educational goals, successful graduates may apply for any suitable jobs with the industry partner, but may also choose a different job or to continue in education e.g. to complete a bachelor's degree.

There may be revisions to 'How it Works' during the implementation year 2018-2019 while the program is be refined.

Achievements of Joey's Past Pupils and what we currently do for pupils:

St. Joseph's CBS Fairview has had many distinguished past pupils, including 2 Taoisigh, Government Ministers, TDs, sports personalities and prominent personalities in business, community life and the world of entertainment.

These include Taoisigh John A Costello and Charles Haughey, Government Ministers, George Colley & Kevin Boland, TD Eugene Timmons, Politician Royston Brady, Dublin GAA stars such as Des & Lar Foley, Des Ferguson, Kevin Heffernan, Tony Hanahoe, Jimmy Keaveney, Soccer star Curtis Fleming, Economist Colm McCarthy, Actor Brendan Gleeson, Broadcaster Aonghus McAnally, Hip Hop Musician Sean Walsh, Businessmen such as John Teeling, John Kennedy, Larry Thorpe, Leo Crawford and Ciaran Mulligan.

Joeys Alumni or Past Pupils' Union (PPU) is a network of over 4,000 living past pupils of St. Joseph's CBS, Fairview. Membership is available to all past pupils. The PPU was originally set up to raise funds for the school and to run events for former pupils. Working with the Board of Management and the Principal, we are currently enhancing our ability to support the school and its pupils, past, present and future.

Present priorities include practical curriculum improvements such as the P-Tech programme, initiated by Joeys Alumni to provide a pathway to careers in the digital economy. We are also engaged in fundraising from private and public sources, business networking and mentoring, holding social events, etc.

Context – The School & its Community:

The vast majority of Joeys students are drawn from the Fairview to North City Centre community. As in the past, Joeys is keeping relevant to the needs of its current community and pupils.

In common with other urban schools, Joeys comes within the Department of Education's social inclusion strategy for Delivering Equality of Opportunity in Schools (DEIS) to help children and young people who are at risk of or who are experiencing educational disadvantage. This helps overcome some but not all barriers to equal education opportunities through additional funding, smaller class sizes, etc.

Joeys Alumni is pro-actively working with the Board of Management and the Principal to improve funding and other support for the school from Government, past pupils and business.

Edmund Rice School's Trust

We part of the Edmund Rice School's Trust. For more information on the E.R.S.T and what they do please visit their website here. Below is an overview of what the E.R.S.T is about...

Inspired by the Five Key Elements of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter our schools are responding to a changing world and supporting the leaders of the future to work in partnership, to care for the environment, to equally look after themselves and others and to be inspirational and responsible citizens.

The Five Key Elements of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter are:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values;
- Promoting partnership;
- Excelling in teaching and learning;
- Creating a caring school community;
- Inspiring transformational leadership.

Our schools promote equality of access and participation - in other words, children of any faith, or none, of any nationality or ethnic grouping are all welcome in our schools. All of our schools are encouraged to recognise the uniqueness of each individual in caring communities where holistic development is nurtured.

St Joseph's CBS Fairview

FIRST SCHOOL IN IRELAND USING P-TECH PROGRAMME

THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE WITH **P-TECH**

The P-TECH model was developed by IBM, along with the New York City Department of Education and The City University of New York. The first P-TECH school was launched in Brooklyn, NY in September 2011. Today, more than 110 schools are operating across the U.S. Australia, Morocco, and Taiwan, serving tens of thousands of students. More than 550 large, medium and small companies are partnering with schools across a wide range of STEM disciplines, including IT, healthcare and advanced manufacturing.

By summer 2018, more than 150 students had graduated from IBM P-TECH schools in four U.S. cities. These students graduated with both their high school and a post high school degree allowing them to start entry level positions in partner companies or continue to a bachelor's degree. Many of the students have completed the six-year program early – some in under four years – and many will be the first in their family to earn a college degree.