Leaving Certificate Applied

What is the Leaving Certificate Applied?

It is a distinct, self-contained two-year Leaving Certificate programme aimed at preparing learners for adult and working life.

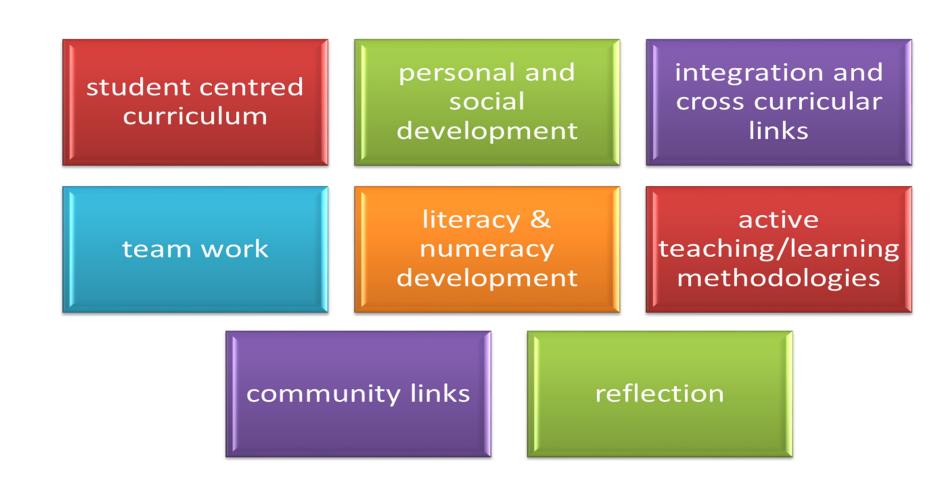
It emphasises forms of achievement and excellence which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past.

It offers learners specific opportunity to prepare for and progress to further education and training.

Rationale for Leaving Certificate Applied

- Prepares learners for the demanding transition to adult and working life.
- Recognises talents of all learners programme responsive to aptitudes, abilities, needs and interests.
- Provides opportunity to develop in terms of responsibility, selfesteem and self-knowledge.
- Develops communication and decision making skills.
- Helps learners achieve a more independent and enterprising approach to learning and to life.

Key Underlying Principles



Parent Perspective

"The way LCA is structured suits students very well; they work from session to session and don't have the burden of everything depending on exams at the end of two years. Also, students know where they stand as they get results at the end of each session."

"Leaving Cert Applied allows for students of different learning styles/strengths to achieve and receive recognition for their learning."

Smyth, McCoy and Banks (2019, p.45)

Student Perspective

"I like the way that we're continuously assessed and it's not all just down to a couple of exams, that we've already earned a certain amount of credits before we even go in, because I feel like, if I had done the Leaving Cert [Established], the pressure of it I wouldn't have been able to handle."

Smyth, McCoy and Banks (2019, p.69)

Teachers Perspective

"It is a great programme for students who like hands on and they can see they are progressing and achieving as they complete tasks immediately, not after two years of work. Certain subjects have a mix of project, short questions and long questions assessment. This allows everyone to achieve and succeed. It allows students to gain marks before they go into the exam, taking the pressure off."

"Students who might not have experienced success in JC [junior cycle] do in LCA as a result of its structure and content."

Smyth, McCoy and Banks (2019, p.19)

Curriculum

Vocational Preparation	•	Vocational Preparation &
	•	English & Communication

Vocational

Education

General Education

- & Guidance ns
- **Mathematical Applications**
- **Vocational Specialisms**
- **Information Communication Technology**

- **Arts Education** Social Education Languages
- Leisure & Recreation
- **Religious Education**
- Science

LCA Modes of Assessment

Satisfactory completion of modules + 90% attendance	62 credits
• Evidence of completion of 4 key assignments for each module	Credits
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 One credit per course module in which there is a final exam •Two credits per course module in which there is NO final exam

7 Student tasks @ 10 credits each

Vocational Preparation *Vocational Education (x2)* General Education Personal Reflection Practical Achievement Contemporary Issue

35%

31%

Communication

Total

12 credits

English & Vocational Languages (x2) Social

Mathematical Education **Applications** 10 credits 10 credits

34%

100%

200

credits

70 credits 68 credits Specialisms (x2) 12 credits each 6 credits each

Final examinations

LCA Certification

Certificate awarded at 3 levels			
Pass	120 - 139 credits	60-69%	
Merit	140 - 169 credits	70-84%	
Distinction	170 - 200 credits	85-100%	

Students who acquire less than 120 credits or who leave the programme early will receive a "Record of Experience".