



Hosting a Blended Learning Centre

About iScoil

iScoil is an online learning service that offers accreditation and learning opportunities to young people aged 13-16 years who are not in mainstream education. Students are referred to iScoil from Tusla's Educational Welfare Service. As a registered QQI provider iScoil offers a variety of courses leading to a major award at QQI Level 3. Our courses include Careers, Communications, Personal and Inter-Personal Skills, Personal Effectiveness, Digital Media, Maths, Computers, Health and Fitness, Challenging Discrimination, and Hairdressing. iScoil students have access to online tutors and an individual mentor to offer direction, support, and encouragement. We understand that all students learn differently, so we give each student an individual learning plan tailored to their needs, interests and ability. With the support of their online mentor, students work through various online tasks and submit work at their own pace. The work is reviewed and added to each student's online QQI folder at the end of each day. At the end of each term, QQI examiners assess the work and students gain accreditation.

What is a Blended Learning Centre?

iScoil works in partnership with local agencies and youth services nationally to provide blended learning opportunities for young early school leavers. Blended Learning Centres are youth-friendly, safe spaces, where iScoil students log on and receive a combination of online digital instruction from iScoil and face-to-face support from designated centre-based staff, known as Support Workers. Support Workers offer students much-needed direction, encouragement, and support. They facilitate online learning, encourage attendance, and support progression. Students attend local Blended Learning Centres at agreed times and complete both online individual work and group work projects.

Hosting a Blended Learning Centre enables the partner agency to:

- ❑ Engage early school leavers in an accredited and quality learning service
- ❑ Achieve positive and measurable outcomes based on student engagement, accreditation, and progression
- ❑ Provide an alternative learning pathway to mainstream education

Roles and Responsibilities

Collaboration between iScoil and partner agencies is vital to provide a quality service to each student. Since 2009, iScoil has worked with a range of services and agencies and has gained considerable experience identifying the key components that contribute to a successful Blended Learning Centre. The following table outlines the roles and responsibilities for iScoil and the partner agency.

iScoil	Partner Agency
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Training for Support Workers❑ On-going support and advice❑ Personalised learning programme for each student❑ QQI Level 3 accreditation❑ On-going assessment❑ Interest-led and project-based learning❑ Course Tutors❑ An online Mentor for each student❑ Synchronous Support❑ Weekly progress reports❑ Certificates of achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Designated Support Worker❑ Computer and Internet access❑ Quiet, safe, and student-friendly environment❑ Timetabled weekly sessions❑ Child safeguarding policy❑ Appropriate policies and procedures for safeguarding children online

The Support Worker Role

The face-to-face support and encouragement provided by Support Workers are vital to the successful engagement of each student. iScoil has spent a number of years working successfully with a range of partner agencies and this experience has enabled us to compile a list of Support Worker responsibilities and competencies.

Responsibilities	Competencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Complete iScoil Support Worker training❑ Monitor and support student engagement❑ Communicate and provide regular feedback to iScoil on student engagement patterns or issues❑ Identify progression routes for students❑ Facilitate group work tasks❑ Identify student needs and support iScoil to develop individual education plans, including short and medium-term goals❑ Provide feedback to iScoil on individual learning plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Experience of working with young people with complex needs in a formal or non-formal educational setting❑ Ability to build rapport with students❑ Student-centred approach❑ Positive mind-set❑ Professionalism❑ Solution-focused❑ Excellent communication skills❑ Collaboration and teamwork

Costing

For more information on hosting a Blended Learning Centre please contact iScoil on 01-4537570 or visit iScoil.ie.