

iScoil

Hosting a Blended Learning Centre

About iScoil

iScoil is a specialist learning service available to young people aged 13-16, who, for a range of reasons, are unable to attend mainstream education. It is an evidence based, quality-assured, accredited learning service. Our vision is that every young person, irrespective of circumstance, has access to a quality education. All students are referred to iScoil from TESS (Tusla Education Support Service).

We understand that all young people learn differently and our team develops individual education plans to ensure our teaching is tailored to the needs, interests and circumstances of each young person. All students are assigned an individual mentor, who provides direction and support. Students work through their courses and submit work at their own pace. This work is assessed by course tutors and added to each student's online QQI folder.

Our QQI Level 3 courses include:

Communications	Careers
Personal and Interpersonal Skills	Personal Effectiveness
Maths	Digital Media
Computers	Health and Fitness
Challenging Discrimination	Hairdressing

What is a Blended Learning Centre?

iScoil works in partnership with local agencies and youth services nationally to provide blended learning opportunities for young people who have disengaged from mainstream education. Blended Learning Centres are youth-friendly, safe spaces, where iScoil students log on and receive a combination of digital instruction from iScoil and face-to-face support from designated centre-based

staff, known as support workers. The level of support will depend on the needs of each student. Support workers monitor and follow-up on student attendance and engagement, and identify progression opportunities. Students attend Blended Learning Centres at agreed set times and complete both individual work and some group work projects. iScoil provides full training to all support workers.

Hosting a Blended Learning Centre enables the partner agency to:

- ❑ Engage young people at-risk of educational disadvantage
- ❑ Support young people to achieve positive and measurable outcomes, based on student engagement, accreditation, and progression
- ❑ Provide an alternative learning pathway, when mainstream education is not a viable option

Roles and Responsibilities

Collaboration between iScoil and partner agencies is vital in providing 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 partnership. 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 guidance ❑ A personalised learning programme for each student ❑ QQI Level 3 and Level 4 accreditation ❑ Multiple modes of learning and assessment ❑ Interest-led and project-based learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Staff time ❑ Designated support worker ❑ Computer and Internet access ❑ An appropriate quiet, safe, and student-friendly environment ❑ A minimum of three timetabled sessions per week ❑ Child safeguarding policy ❑ Appropriate policies and procedures for safeguarding young people online ❑ Appropriate insurance policy

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Additional literacy and numeracy resources <input type="checkbox"/> Student forums and book clubs <input type="checkbox"/> Course tutors <input type="checkbox"/> A mentor for each student <input type="checkbox"/> Synchronous support <input type="checkbox"/> Weekly progress reports <input type="checkbox"/> Certificates of achievement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> SLA signed annually
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The Support Worker Role

iScoil has spent a number of years working successfully with a range of partner agencies and this experience has helped us to compile a list of support worker responsibilities and competencies. The role of the support worker is vital in supporting students' engagement, and their successful progression after iScoil. The level of support required will be unique to each student, depending on their needs. Support workers are required to allocate a number of hours each week to provide support to iScoil students. The following table outlines the key responsibilities and competencies required for the support worker role.

Responsibilities	Competencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete iScoil support worker training <input type="checkbox"/> Provide face-to-face support and encouragement to students <input type="checkbox"/> Monitor and support student attendance and engagement <input type="checkbox"/> Communicate and provide regular feedback to iScoil on student engagement patterns or issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Experience of working with young people with complex needs in an educational settings <input type="checkbox"/> Ability to build rapport with students <input type="checkbox"/> Student-centred approach <input type="checkbox"/> Positive mind-set <input type="checkbox"/> Professionalism <input type="checkbox"/> Solution-focused

<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Identify suitable progression routes for students❑ Facilitate group work tasks❑ Identify student needs and support iScoil to develop individual education plans, including short and medium-term learning goals❑ Provide feedback to iScoil on student learning plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Excellent communication skills❑ Collaboration and teamwork
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Further Information

For more information on hosting a Blended Learning Centre please contact iScoil on 01-4537570 or visit [iScoil.ie](https://www.iscoil.ie).