



iScoil

Hosting a Blended Learning Centre


“The marriage between iScoil and School Completion Programme is a match made in heaven, you have the structures and we have the students!”

Jonna Malone, Coordinator, STEPS School Completion Programme

About iScoil

iScoil is a specialist education 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. iScoil only accepts referrals from Educational Welfare Officers in the Tusla Education Support Service.

iScoil understands that all young people learn differently. Our team develops individual education plans for each student, and our approach is tailored to the needs, interests and circumstances of each young person. All students are assigned an iScoil mentor, who provides guidance and support. Students work through their learning plan and submit coursework at their own pace. This work is assessed by course tutors and added to each student’s online QQI folder. All tutors are registered with the Teaching Council.



QQI Level 3 Courses Include:

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

More information about iScoil courses [is available here.](#)

What is a Blended Learning Centre?

iScoil works in partnership with agencies, youth services, and School Completion Programmes nationally to provide blended learning opportunities for young people who have disengaged from mainstream education. Blended learning centres are youth-friendly, safe spaces where students log on and receive a combination of digital instruction from tutors and face-to-face support from designated centre-based staff, known as support workers. Support workers monitor and follow-up on student attendance and engagement, and identify and support student progression. Students attend blended learning centres at set times. iScoil provides 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, including educational engagement, accreditation, and progression
- Provide an alternative learning pathway, when mainstream education is not a viable option

Roles & Responsibilities

Providing a quality education to each student requires effective collaboration between iScoil and partner agencies. 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">• Support worker training• On-going support and guidance• Personalised learning for each student• A mentor for each student• QQI Level 3 and QQI Level 4 accreditation• Course tutors (registered with the Teaching Council)• Multiple modes of learning and assessment• Interest-led and project-based learning• Literacy and numeracy resources• Student forums and a book club• Synchronous support• Weekly progress reports• Certificates of Achievement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff time• Designated support worker(s)• Computer (desktop or laptop)• Internet access• An appropriate quiet, safe, and student-friendly environment• A minimum of three timetabled sessions per week• Child safeguarding policy, including appropriate policies and procedures for safeguarding young people online• Appropriate insurance policy• Service Level Agreement signed annually

The Support Worker Role

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

Responsibilities	Competencies
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Complete support worker training• Provide face-to-face support and encouragement to students• Monitor and support student attendance and engagement• Communicate and provide regular feedback to iScoil on student engagement• 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 mentors on student learning plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ability to build rapport with students• Experience working with young people with complex needs in an education setting• Student-centred approach• Positive mind-set• Professionalism• Solution-focused• Excellent communication skills• Collaboration and teamwork

Further Information

For more information contact iScoil on 01- 4537570 or iScoil.ie.