



STUDENT CHARTER





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SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

Student Engagement is increasingly being seen as a defining characteristic of quality teaching and learning in higher education. SNMCI acknowledges the enormous benefits to be had from engaging with students at every level. This engagement must be authentic and meaningful and value student experiences, skills and aspirations.

The Student Charter summarises SNMCI's expectations for all members of the College; staff and students. It outlines what students can expect of the College and what the College expects of students, while providing a context for collaborative, respectful and professional engagement.

The SNMCI Student Charter should be read in conjunction with the Student Engagement Policies & Procedures and Student Code of Conduct, available online [\[link\]](#).





VISION AND VALUES

VISION

Our vision is to bring excellence in Montessori education to the broader education landscape so that all young people are placed at the heart of their own educational experience and empowered to be independent, confident and creative lifelong learners (SNMCI 20-25).

WHAT INFORMS OUR PRACTICE?

St Nicholas Montessori College aspires to 'practice what it preaches' and Montessori Philosophy informs all aspects of the day to day running of the College. We are committed to the following values and beliefs, which support us in providing learning opportunities for students to direct their own learning and to realise their potential.



RESPECT FOR THE WHOLE PERSON

We value the full diversity of strengths of the whole person and we seek to nourish the development of social, emotional, behavioural, spiritual and cognitive excellence in all learners



FREEDOM

We believe in and value freedom of choice and independence in learning and in life and we seek to design personal choice and responsibility into everything that we do



INCLUSION & DIVERSITY

We believe that every learner should have access to high quality learning, and we seek to provide that opportunity to all learners regardless of race, religion, ability, location, or socioeconomic status



SOCIAL IMPACT

We believe in the transformative power of the Montessori Method and we seek to harness that power to make a positive impact on our learners, our staff, local, national and international communities



SECTION TWO

SNMCI ENVIRONMENT

Expectations of Staff and Students at St Nicholas Montessori College in Dublin and Cork

YOU CAN EXPECT FROM SNMCI

- Promote an environment of openness, equality and enjoyment
- Respect for diversity in age, ethnicity, culture, sexuality, religion, physical and mental health
- Promote an environment of autonomy, free speech, democracy, cooperation as evidenced in a unique relationship between SNMCI and you as both co-creator and partner
- Provide quality of excellence in Montessori Education
- Equal opportunities for all students from minority and disadvantaged groups or those with disabilities to participate fully in all activities at the college.
- Ensure, in partnership with the Students Union, that students are represented at all levels of the College
- Facilitate a beneficial college experience within SNMCI and the Dun Laoghaire or Cork area

WHAT SNMCI EXPECTS OF YOU

- Have initiative, communicate your needs and be committed to fostering an environment of openness, equality and enjoyment
- Be conscious of the needs of your fellow students and their diverse backgrounds
- Actively engage in your learning to develop your own professional teaching identity as co-creators and partners of SNMCI
- Be ambassadors of SNMCI and advocates of Montessori pedagogy
- Take ownership of your student representation within the College
- Make the most of your time and get involved in all aspects of life at SNMCI





SECTION THREE

TEACHING & LEARNING

SNMCI is committed to produce graduates capable of critical engagement with Montessori philosophy and motivated to promote the best practice in Montessori education and influence policy and practice in childcare provision.

SNMCI teaching and learning is aligned with the principles of Montessori in an atmosphere of quality, cooperation and excellence.

YOU CAN EXPECT FROM SNMCI

- Offer welcoming and supportive induction week to incoming students.
- Provide you with timely and constructive feedback on your learning progress and assessment so that you can make the best of your studies.
- Provide you with a highly qualified, research-active Academic staff who are also practitioners in the Early Years and Primary education field.
- Develop your critical thinking skills to assess and translate information into evidence-based practice through the various modules.
- Provide multiple teaching and learning strategies suited for all learning styles.
- Provide moderation for all assessments to guarantee the integrity, quality, appropriateness and transparency of the assessment process.
- Ensure that all confidential information will be treated in accordance with European and Irish data protection legislation (GDPR).

WHAT SNMCI EXPECTS OF YOU

- Attend the induction week and get to know the academic policies and procedures.
- Take responsibility for your own learning progress and seek any support you need.
- Attend and actively engage in lectures, placements, and all other teaching and learning activities.
- Treat all staff, peers, placement supervisors, and visitors with respect and professionalism.
- Comply with all relevant European and Irish legislation about data protection (GDPR).
- Abide by the assessment rules, policies and guidelines set to ensure fairness and equality of all students.
- Submit your academic activities on time and follow preparation instructions given by lecturers.
- Act in an ethical manner with respect to the environment and the people around you.





SECTION THREE

THE DIGITAL ENVIRONMENT

SNMCI aims to offer our students equal access to the excellent digital learning environment with innovative online learning platforms.

YOU CAN EXPECT FROM SNMCI

- Provide you with an IT Support Officer when experiencing technical difficulties
- Provide you with an effective virtual learning environment through Moodle and other tools.
- Provide you access to the library electronic database, EPSCO, to support your learning.

WHAT SNMCI EXPECTS OF YOU

- Seek IT Support for issues related to your learning technological needs in an appropriate and timely manner.
- Make use of the digital learning environment when seeking information on all Academic issues.
- Use the library electronic database, EPSCO, to access up-to-date resources to support your assignments and academic activities.





SECTION FOUR

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS

SNMCI values clear and effective communication between the college staff and students in order to build trusting and respectful relationships within the college environment.

YOU CAN EXPECT FROM SNMCI

- Maintain regular communication through email, face to face, and by telephone with Academic and Administrative staff.
- Provide a clear pathway on how to communicate your grievances in all areas that concern your learning and how they will be managed by the college.

WHAT SNMCI EXPECTS OF YOU

- Initiate and respond to regular communication through email, face to face and by telephone from Academic and Administrative staff in a respectful manner.
- Use the appropriate college channels for managing grievances and complaints rather than using public and online media platforms.





SECTION FIVE

SERVICES & SUPPORTS

SNCMI offers supports and services to guide students in their experience at the college and support students' plan and development of their future career.

YOU CAN EXPECT FROM SNMCI

- Provide referrals to local counselling services at reduced prices based on your needs.
- Provide you with personalised student cards for library and printing facilities.
- Encourage the establishment of societies, clubs or communities with shared interests in order to develop your skills and talents.
- Provide opportunities abroad through Erasmus+ programmes with other international partners.
- Provide a confidential student Learner's Support Officer for your learning needs and difficulties experienced in the college.
- Provide an active Student Engagement Officer to encourage your participation in the academic and social activities of the college.

WHAT SNMCI EXPECTS OF YOU

- Disclose any difficulties impacting your learning while at the college to the Learner's Support Officer.
- Keep your personalised student card with you and top up to access college facilities.
- Pay all remaining fees and overdue charges of accessing extra facilities of the college.
- Engage with fellow students through activities, events, societies, and class representative meetings.
- Take the incredible opportunity of having an international experience through the Erasmus+ programmes.
- Seek help from the designated Learner's Support Officer preemptively in order to avoid any unnecessary anxieties with workload throughout the year.
- Interact with the Student Engagement Officer in an ongoing basis to facilitate the formation and continuation of student representatives and a student union within the college.





LINK TO ONLINE CHARTER

[link]

DATE

23/08/19

CONTACT

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