

City Connects Supports & Services for Your Child

The City Connects Coordinator works closely with school personnel and community agencies to learn about a wide range of programmes, services, and enrichment opportunities that can benefit students. The Coordinator also works with school staff to develop creative ways to provide in-school support for students. Some examples of the types of services that the Coordinator can help connect students to, include:

- After-school programmes
- Academic support or tutoring
- Enrichment opportunities, e.g., sports, music, art, drama
- Summer programmes
- Counselling/ therapeutic and interventions
- Mentoring
- Youth groups
- Special Interest Groups, e.g., film- making, creative writing, science
- Health care services, e.g., sight, hearing, dental services
- Approaches to support positive behaviour in school
- Cultural experiences in museums, art galleries and theatres
- Opportunities to develop life skills, such as, cooking and swimming



How can I get my child connected?

City Connects Coordinators are always happy to meet with families and share resources that can help support students. The Coordinator in the school is available to talk with you about how you can work together to ensure that your child is receiving what they need to succeed in school.

Questions? Talk to your school principal or City Connects Coordinator



**National Centre
for City Connects
Ireland**

at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick
in partnership with Boston College



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Seirbhís Tacafochta
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For more information,
please visit linktr.ee/cityconnects



**City Connects
system of student
support**

What is City Connects?

Secondary School is a critical time for young people as they grow and develop, and prepare for life after school, college and/or career success. This school offers a comprehensive student support programme called City Connects that ensures each and every student receives the services and resources they need to be academically successful and to thrive in school and beyond.

A City Connects Coordinator reviews the strengths, needs, and interests of each student through conversations with teachers, school staff, and when possible, with the students themselves. Students are then connected to a tailored set of supports, services and enrichment opportunities in the school or community, addressing their particular strengths, needs and interests. Enrichment activities can include, for example, sports, arts, and music. Services range from in-school supports, to after-school programmes delivered both in- school and in the community as well as, tutoring, mentoring, weekend

and holiday provision.

The personalised set of activities and services is designed to help each student reach their full potential and help them prepare for college and career success.

City Connects was developed in 2001 at Boston College in collaboration with schools, families, and community-based organisations. By leveraging the resources in a city's community, City Connects can offer many types of opportunities to every student.

The National Centre for City Connects Ireland (NCCCI) was established in Mary Immaculate College in 2024 in collaboration with Boston College and is funded by the Government of Ireland's Department of Education and Youth (DEY). City Connects has been delivered in Dublin's North-East Inner City primary schools since 2020. Principals, teachers, parents and community partners all acknowledge the significant benefits to the students, schools, families and local communities who have participated in City Connects to date. In 2025, City Connects is extending to 8 post-primary schools in Dublin.



How City Connects Works

The City Connects Coordinator follows a three-step student support process: Review, Plan, and Follow-up.

Review: With parental permission and in collaboration with school staff, the Coordinator leads a comprehensive discussion about every students' strengths and needs across five areas: academics, social/emotional/behavioural, health, family, and college/career development and readiness. When possible, the Coordinator will meet with each student to get their input prior to and after their tailored set of services and enrichment activities is developed.

Plan: After a student's strengths and needs are identified, the City Connects Coordinator makes recommendations to families and caregivers about a tailored set of services and enrichment activities. A core aspect of the Coordinator's role is to develop and maintain partnerships with community-based organisations that provide an array of supports, services and enrichments.

Follow-up: To evaluate the effectiveness of referrals, the City Connects Coordinator communicates regularly with parents/caregivers, school staff, and service providers.

City Connects Coordinators play a significant role in:

- Recommending and connecting you to services that may support your child
- Providing information on school processes and service options

