



Academic Achievement and Progression in Sandymount Park ETSS





What we want to achieve?

At Sandymount Park ETSS, striving for excellence in teaching and learning is central to our mission. We are committed to fostering an environment where every student can reach their full academic potential. By employing evidence-informed methodologies, we ensure that our classroom practices are designed to enhance student outcomes. We monitor student progress closely and focus on developing skills that empower students to become motivated, self-directed learners.

How are we doing?

We nurture a culture of reflection, continuously seeking evidence to demonstrate the effectiveness of our practices. Our robust sources of evidence include the findings from our Whole School Evaluation (WSE) in 2024, as well as our Junior Cycle results from 2022, 2023 and 2024, and our Leaving Certificate results from 2024.

Whole School Evaluation

The Department of the Inspectorate carried out a whole school evaluation during March 2024. **The full report can be read [here](#).** The findings of the Inspectorate team were highly complementary of Sandymount Park, giving the school an evaluation of “excellent” across a range of categories

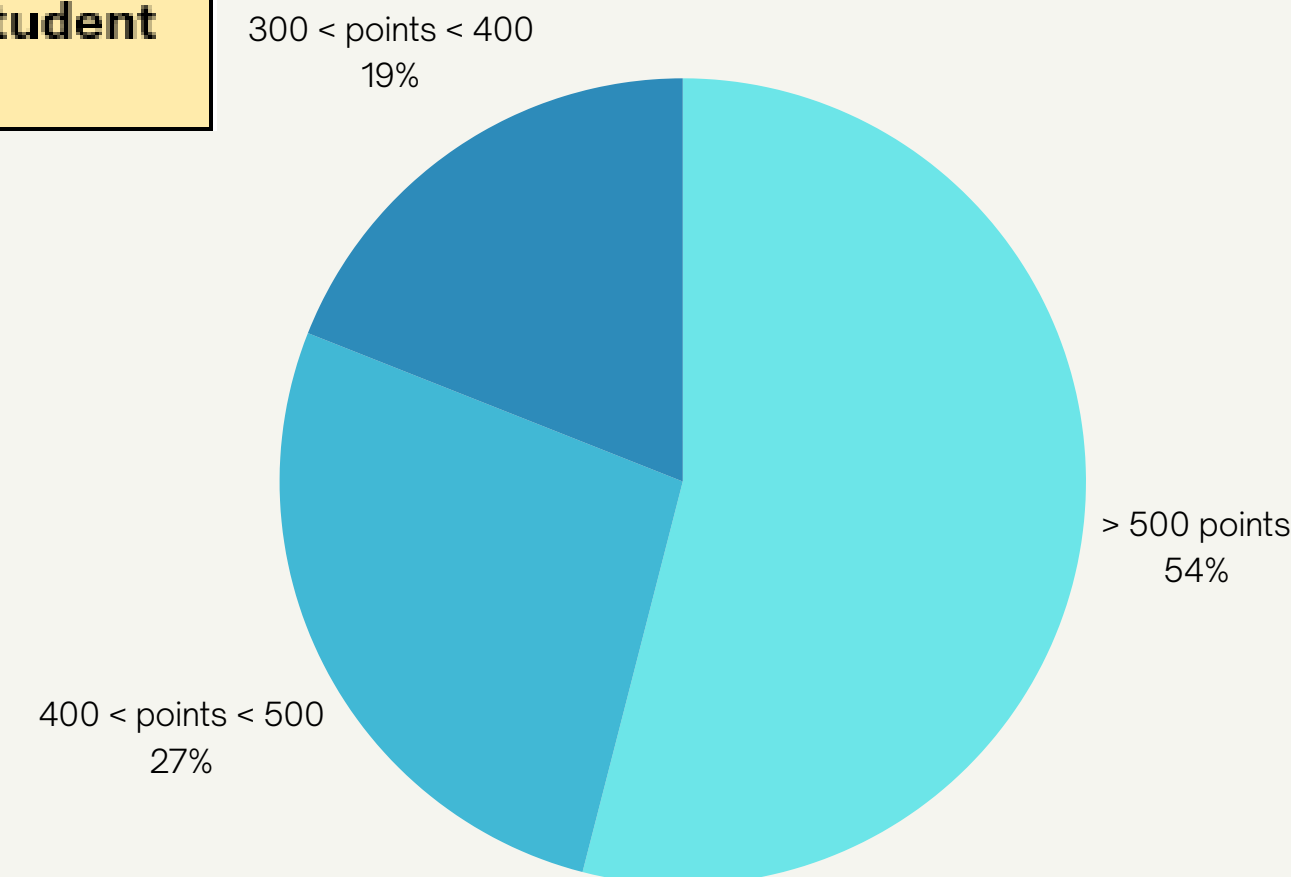
A summary of some of the main findings:

- The quality of teaching and learning was very good overall; lessons observed ranged from good to excellent.
- The overall quality of leadership and management was excellent; the highly effective board of management and senior leadership team created a culture of collaboration and reflective practice with very well-distributed leadership and very well-developed whole school structures.
- The principal's high expectations for all learners and passion for learning and teaching was palpable and this has fostered a school culture in which learning has flourished.
- School leaders have very effectively led the school community to strive for excellence and continuous improvement in all aspects of school life through the persistent and highly effective use of school self-evaluation (SSE) processes.
- The school community has developed a clearly articulated vision for the school underpinned by three core principles: excellence in teaching and learning, student voice and positive relationships; this vision was enacted in school policies and permeated daily school life.
- Rich opportunities for student leadership were evident in the school across a range of areas.
- Teachers provided a wide variety of extra-curricular learning activities for students and this had nurtured a holistic, inclusive education while cultivating a sense of belonging and community in the school.
- The overall quality of supports for student wellbeing was excellent, this created a positive learning environment for students to be happy, believe in themselves and feel acknowledged and supported.

Leaving Certificate Results 2024

Sandymount Park ETSS opened as Dublin South City ETSS in 2018. 28 of this first cohort sat their leaving certificate exams in June 2024. We were delighted with their results, a summary of which is outlined below.

A summary of some of the main findings	
4% achieved greater than 600 points	50% achieved a H1 in at least one subject
35% achieved greater than 550 points	81% achieved a H1 or H2 in at least one subject
54% achieved greater than 500 points	100% achieved a H1 or H2 or H3 in at least one subject
81% achieved greater than 400 points	
The average number of points achieved by students was 483.5 points	
The median number of points achieved by students was 508 points	
17 subjects had candidates sit papers at Higher Level - 82% of subjects had at least one student obtain a H1.	



Comparison to National Averages Leaving Certificate 2024

Our leaving certificate results compare very favourably to the national averages - some data below

Art (H)				
	Number of Students	% in SPETSS	Nat Ave	
H1	5	45.45%	15.00%	30.45%
H2	3	27.27%	24.90%	2.37%
H3	3	27.27%	25.90%	1.37%
H4	0	0.00%	20.10%	-20.10%
History (H)				
	Students	% SPETSS	Nat Ave	
H1	2	28.57%	14.00%	14.57%
H2	4	57.14%	19.10%	38.04%
H3	2	28.57%	23.40%	5.17%
H4	1	14.29%	19.60%	-5.31%
Maths (H)				
	Students	% SPETSS	Nat Ave	
H1	1	5.88%	12.60%	-6.72%
H2	4	23.53%	15.80%	7.73%
H3	5	29.41%	20.50%	8.91%
H4	4	23.53%	22.50%	1.03%
English (H)				
	Students	% SPETSS	Nat Ave	
H1	2	7.69%	6.90%	0.79%
H2	9	34.62%	17.50%	17.12%
H3	8	30.77%	29.30%	1.47%
H4	5	19.23%	28.40%	-9.17%
Biology (H)				
	Students	% SPETSS	Nat Ave	Diff
H1	3	15.79%	19.00%	-3.21%
H2	5	26.32%	16.10%	10.22%
H3	4	21.05%	15.30%	5.75%
H4	5	26.32%	15.10%	11.22%

Gaeilge (H)				
	Students	% SPETSS	Nat Ave	Diff
H1	0	0.00%	14.10%	-14.10%
H2	5	71.43%	19.90%	51.53%
H3	2	28.57%	23.70%	4.87%
H4	0	0.00%	22.50%	-22.50%
French (H)				
	Students	% SPETSS	Nat Ave	
H1	3	15.79%	16.30%	-0.51%
H2	11	57.89%	18.40%	39.49%
H3	4	21.05%	21.60%	-0.55%
H4	2	10.53%	20.70%	-10.17%
Music (H)				
	Students	% SPETSS	Nat Ave	
H1	4	50.00%	20.00%	30.00%
H2	4	50.00%	41.40%	8.60%
H3	0	0.00%	24.80%	-24.80%
H4	0	0.00%	10.20%	-10.20%
Physics (H)				
	Students	% SPETSS	Nat Ave	
H1	2	33.33%	20.70%	12.63%
H2	0	0.00%	16.70%	-16.70%
H3	2	33.33%	14.30%	19.03%
H4	1	16.67%	14.00%	2.67%
Geography (H)				
	Students	% SPETSS	Nat Ave	Diff
H1	1	14.29%	11.20%	3.09%
H2	3	42.86%	19.50%	23.36%
H3	2	28.57%	24.90%	3.67%
H4	1	14.29%	23.20%	-8.91%

Progression to Third Level

Progression Data	
UCD	8 students courses include Science Languages Linguistics and Culture Joint Honours English Linguistics Commerce Politics and International Relations English with Creative Writing Maths and Computer Science Landscape Architecture
TCD	1 student Computer Science and Linguistics
TUD	5 students courses include Marketing Dietetics and Nutraceuticals Business Computing Computer Science International Business with French and Chinese
NCI	1 student Computer Science
University of Glasgow	1 student Psychology and Economics
IADT	3 students courses include Animation Film Applied Psychology
Colleges of Further Education	8 students courses include Liberal Arts Fashion Design Art Portfolio International Relations and Development Business Science Sport and Leisure



Comparison to National Averages Junior Cycle 2024

Our junior cycle results compare very favourably to the national averages

Gaeilge (H)					History					Business				
	No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff
Distinction	0	0.00%	3.30%	-3.30%	Distinction	10	18.87%	3.70%	15.17%	Distinction	3	6.98%	3.60%	3.38%
Higher Merit	8	38.10%	22.40%	15.70%	Higher Merit	20	37.74%	24.40%	13.34%	Higher Merit	13	30.23%	27.10%	3.13%
Merit	10	47.62%	46.90%	0.72%	Merit	18	33.96%	43.20%	-9.24%	Merit	20	46.51%	43.70%	2.81%
Achieved	3	14.29%	21.60%	-7.31%	Achieved	4	7.55%	19.20%	-11.65%	Achieved	5	11.63%	16.40%	-4.77%

Gaeilge (O)					Geography					Music				
	No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff
Distinction	0	0.00%	3.00%	-3.00%	Distinction	6	15.00%	3.50%	11.50%	Distinction	0	0.00%	4.60%	-4.60%
Higher Merit	8	47.06%	24.10%	22.96%	Higher Merit	13	32.50%	23.80%	8.70%	Higher Merit	6	33.33%	39.00%	-5.67%
Merit	8	47.06%	47.40%	-0.34%	Merit	16	40.00%	45.00%	-5.00%	Merit	9	50.00%	37.80%	12.20%
Achieved	1	5.88%	18.10%	-12.22%	Achieved	4	10.00%	19.90%	-9.90%	Achieved	3	16.67%	11.50%	5.17%

English (H)					French					Art				
	No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff
Distinction	5	9.80%	2.60%	7.20%	Distinction	2	18.18%	4.10%	14.08%	Distinction	3	13.64%	4.20%	9.44%
Higher Merit	11	21.57%	18.50%	3.07%	Higher Merit	4	36.36%	20.90%	15.46%	Higher Merit	10	45.45%	18.90%	26.55%
Merit	27	52.94%	49.60%	3.34%	Merit	4	36.36%	35.70%	0.66%	Merit	9	40.91%	50.10%	-9.19%
Achieved	7	13.73%	22.80%	-9.07%	Achieved	0	0.00%	23.10%	-23.10%	Achieved	0	0.00%	23.40%	-23.40%

Maths (H)					Spanish					Classics				
	No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff
Distinction	4	8.70%	3.90%	4.80%	Distinction	3	7.32%	4.10%	3.22%	Distinction	2	6.90%	6.00%	0.90%
Higher Merit	15	32.61%	18.10%	14.51%	Higher Merit	7	17.07%	27.40%	-10.33%	Higher Merit	13	44.83%	35.80%	9.03%
Merit	13	28.26%	44.00%	-15.74%	Merit	23	56.10%	41.70%	14.40%	Merit	10	34.48%	37.90%	-3.42%
Achieved	12	26.09%	26.10%	-0.01%	Achieved	6	14.63%	17.70%	-3.07%	Achieved	2	6.90%	13.00%	-6.10%

Comparison to National Averages Junior Cycle 2023

Our junior cycle results compare very favourably to the national averages

Gaeilge (H)					History					Business				
	No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff
Distinction	1	4.35%	3.10%	1.25%	Distinction	7	10.94%	3.90%	7.04%	Distinction	2	5.56%	3.70%	1.86%
Higher Merit	6	26.09%	22.00%	4.09%	Higher Merit	21	32.81%	23.30%	9.51%	Higher Merit	13	36.11%	26.20%	9.91%
Merit	11	47.83%	45.80%	2.03%	Merit	27	42.19%	42.80%	-0.61%	Merit	17	47.22%	43.00%	4.22%
Achieved	5	21.74%	23.00%	-1.26%	Achieved	7	10.94%	22.00%	-11.06%	Achieved	3	8.33%	17.90%	-9.57%

Gaeilge (O)					Geography					Music				
	No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff
Distinction	1	4.17%	3.20%	0.97%	Distinction	4	6.45%	3.60%	2.85%	Distinction	1	7.14%	4.50%	2.64%
Higher Merit	13	54.17%	21.20%	32.97%	Higher Merit	25	40.32%	26.50%	13.82%	Higher Merit	7	50.00%	38.70%	11.30%
Merit	9	37.50%	44.10%	-6.60%	Merit	32	51.61%	42.90%	8.71%	Merit	5	35.71%	40.80%	-5.09%
Achieved	0	0.00%	22.60%	-22.60%	Achieved	2	3.23%	19.40%	-16.17%	Achieved	1	7.14%	10.60%	-3.46%

English (H)					French					Home Ec.				
	No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff
Distinction	3	5.26%	2.70%	2.56%	Distinction	1	5.56%	4.10%	1.46%	Distinction	0	0.00%	3.20%	-3.20%
Higher Merit	18	31.58%	18.10%	13.48%	Higher Merit	9	50.00%	22.40%	27.60%	Higher Merit	7	36.84%	36.40%	0.44%
Merit	28	49.12%	50.20%	-1.08%	Merit	7	38.89%	36.40%	2.49%	Merit	10	52.63%	45.70%	6.93%
Achieved	7	12.28%	22.70%	-10.42%	Achieved	1	5.56%	20.70%	-15.14%	Achieved	1	5.26%	11.00%	-5.74%

English (O)					German					Science				
	No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff
Distinction	0	0.00%	3.30%	-3.30%	Distinction	0	0.00%	4.60%	-4.60%	Distinction	3	4.55%	4.00%	0.55%
Higher Merit	4	44.44%	22.20%	22.24%	Higher Merit	3	37.50%	28.30%	9.20%	Higher Merit	23	34.85%	27.70%	7.15%
Merit	4	44.44%	43.30%	1.14%	Merit	4	50.00%	37.20%	12.80%	Merit	29	43.94%	39.40%	4.54%
Achieved	0	0.00%	21.90%	-21.90%	Achieved	0	0.00%	18.60%	-18.60%	Achieved	8	12.12%	18.70%	-6.58%

Maths (H)					Spanish					Classics				
	No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff		No.	%	Nat Ave	Diff
Distinction	3	6.00%	3.90%	2.10%	Distinction	2	4.55%	4.10%	0.45%	Distinction	2	8.70%	5.80%	2.90%
Higher Merit	12	24.00%	20.00%	4.00%	Higher Merit	10	22.73%	29.60%	-6.87%	Higher Merit	12	52.17%	32.50%	19.67%
Merit	28	56.00%	43.50%	12.50%	Merit	19	43.18%	37.50%	5.68%	Merit	7	30.43%	40.90%	-10.47%
Achieved	6	12.00%	25.00%	-13.00%	Achieved	11	25.00%	17.20%	7.80%	Achieved	3	13.04%	13.70%	-0.66%

Other factors that affect academic performance

Ability

State exam results can vary each year, reflecting the unique abilities and the potential of individual's to achieve their best.

Disposition

An individual's disposition, including mindset, motivation, and resilience, directly shapes their engagement, effort, and ability to overcome challenges, significantly impacting academic performance.

Habits

An individual's habits, such as time management, consistency, study routines, and self-discipline, directly impact academic performance.

Attendance

Regular school attendance supports academic progress by ensuring consistent learning, skill development, and engagement, while frequent absences can cause learning gaps and reduced performance.