

## **What is Learning Support?**

The Open Learning Centre service offers additional supports to assist students who may not otherwise be able to access a programme of study, or who may need specialist support beyond that offered by the College.

Our aim is to offer supports with literacy, IT and numeracy skills in the academic curriculum as well as social and personal development. Kerry College complies fully with the requirements with the Disability Act 2005, the Equal Status Acts 2000-2011 and the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 (the EPSEN Act) to ensure that the college services are accessible to all. In doing so Kerry College ensures the dignity and respect of the student is paramount and any barriers to learning are identified and minimized.

## **What kind of supports are available for students with disabilities /specific learning difficulties?**

The Open Learning Centre offers free, friendly, non-judgmental help to any student. Our supports will help you become independent in your learning and ease the transition from school to Kerry College. Mature students are also welcome.

Every student is treated on an individual basis. Generally, the types of supports include:

- Assignment planning, writing and referencing
- Support in subject specific areas for example Math's, Science, Engineering, Business and IT.
- One-to-one and group support
- Training in assistive technology and IT supports
- Strategies to improve critical thinking and comprehension skills
- Preparation for exams, revision aids and exam techniques
- Study skills and time management sessions

- Support with English for speakers of others languages ESOL
- Access to PA [where applicable]
- Access to sign language interpreter[where applicable]

### **Should I disclose my learning difficulty or disability?**

Kerry College respects the student's dignity, independence and confidentiality in the provision of its support services. Student information is subject to the terms of General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) 2018 and the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003 to protect an individual's right to privacy. It is a personal choice to disclose or not. However, if you feel you require reasonable accommodation in examinations and assessments, then it is advisable to let us know of any concerns as early as possible. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

### **How will I know what type of support I will need?**

Each and every learner is an individual and therefore will have different academic requirements. The initial starting point is a needs assessment. This will identify the academic and personal supports necessary to help you achieve your full potential while at Kerry College. At the need's assessment meeting, your support requirements, if any, will be discussed in detail.

### **How will I obtain reasonable exam arrangements/accommodation if I have a learning difficulty or a disability?**

If you have a learning difficulty or a disability and you are sitting exams in Kerry College you will be granted exam accommodations, such as extra time, as in your previous school or college.

