

The Hedge School



Sixth Class

Core Learning: Course Manual

Religion, Gaeilge, English,
Mathematics, Geography and Latin

Day-by-Day Lesson Plans & Instructional Tips

Authentically Irish, Faithfully Catholic

Dia is Muire agus Ládraig duit!

Dear Parents,

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SELECTING *The Hedge School* for your curriculum provider for Sixth Class. We are very excited to have you with us and we are looking forward to working with you and your family this year and beyond!

In this Core Learning Course for Sixth Class, we cover the *core*, essential curriculum subjects for the child in Sixth Class. That is: *Religion, Gaeilge, English, Mathematics, Geography* and *Latin*.

We also invite you to pick up one of our Social, Environmental and Scientific Plans (either ‘Ancient History’, ‘Christendom’, ‘Reformation & Revolutions’, or ‘Modern History’) for an *even more* complete education. These courses cover History, the lives of the Saints, Science and the Fine Arts—all organised by historical time period!—and able to be used by all of your children in Primary School.

Here’s an overview of what we will study this year!

Religion: As always, this is the most essential subject that we offer. This year, we will continue using the *Our Holy Faith* textbook. This classic text contains beautiful artwork, revision questions and activities for your child—to really make the text relevant to his own life. This year, we cover the entire history of the world—from the Creation to Pope Francis. This is a solid Bible and Church history book and will ensure your child has a wonderful relationship with God before receiving his Confirmation this year. We’ll also have your child read *The Soldier of Christ*—another classic Confirmation prep textbook. This book teaches your child the importance and significance of Confirmation, and ensures that he is well-disposed to receive this important sacrament. (We have also incorporated special exercises with a Confirmation-focus in other subjects as well.)

Gaeilge: The study and love of our native language is another particularly important subject. We encourage children to really love Irish by selecting a relevant and engaging textbook, *Caint is Comhrá*. We provide complete answers to the exercises in the *Main Textbook* and in the *Portfolio*—all in our custom-made Answer Key, written by a Gaelscoil teacher. *Caint is Comhrá* also offers a range of online resources to help non-natives (or mothers who haven’t studied Irish in a while!) teach Irish to their children. The pronunciations given online are excellent to help your child learn to speak and understand Irish well!

Grading Rubrics

Some parents like to keep ‘grades’ or ‘marks’ for their children. *This is not currently required by Irish law for home educating parents*, but you may choose to do so. Below, you will find information for marking your child’s progress in each subject-area (*if you so choose!*).

If you do not choose to mark your child’s work, please continue reading at ‘Dear Sixth Class Students’.

Each subject area is graded on a 100-point scale. *It can be helpful for your student to look over this information as well—so that he has a good understanding of what exactly you are looking for when you grade his work.*

Although this is a Primary School Level Course, it can be helpful to understand the grading equivalents for the Junior Certificate (and beyond). This is just for your own information. The scores and their associated descriptive rankings are as follows:

Points Earned	New Junior Certificate Grading Scale
90-100	Distinction
75-89	Higher Merit
55-74	Merit
40-54	Achieved
20-39	Partially Achieved
0-19	Not Graded

Religion: We have your child write a Term Paper for each of the 4 Terms. This is a good examination of their progress. A grading rubric is below for the Term Papers.
(Note: this is the same grading rubric used for English writing assignments, below.)

Category	Description and Points Allotment	Points Earned
Organisation	Thesis – there is a thesis statement (a main idea) containing the main argument of the essay (5 points) Body – there is one or two points of discussion with analysis; each point of discussion is a full paragraph (15 points)	____ / 20 points
Content	Textual evidence – there are references to the text providing evidence (20 points) Analysis – the text is explained and an argument to support the thesis is made (20 points)	____ / 40 points
Clarity	Paragraph unity - every paragraph has a main idea (a ‘topic sentence’) and the main idea is discussed throughout the whole paragraph (5 points) Topical unity – the entire paper stays on topic and addresses the thesis (5 points) Transitions – the transitions between sentences and between paragraphs is smooth (5 points) Spellings and grammar – proper language is used: every sentence is a full sentence, names are properly capitalised, there are no tense issues, etc. (5 points)	____ / 20 points
Presentation	Presentation – paper is presented clearly and articulately; presenter engages the audience and keeps their attention (20 points)	____ / 20 points
Total Points Earned in this Term Paper: ____ / 100 points		

Then, you can record the total points earned in each Religion Term below:

Term	Points Earned
Term 1 Paper	____ / 100 points
Term 2 Paper	____ / 100 points
Term 3 Paper	____ / 100 points
Term 4 Paper	____ / 100 points
Total	____ / 400 points
Divide, then multiply by 100 to find the Total Points in Religion	
Total Points Earned:	____ / 100 points

Dear Sixth Class Students,

WE ARE SO HAPPY TO BE LEARNING WITH YOU THIS YEAR
as you advance and grow in your knowledge of God and His creation—by your studies of Religion, Gaeilge, English, Mathematics, Geography and Latin. This is an exciting year and we are looking forward to working with you and your family!

This course manual consists of: This introductory material for each subject, followed by 36-weeks of Day-by-Day Lesson Plans. As you are now in Sixth Class, you are able to take your studies into your own hands and complete your work and check your answers every day. This is a straightforward way to keep the Fourth Commandment: To obey your parents by completing your lessons promptly and without complaining.

You may or may not choose to read the following detailed introductions (if you choose not to read it, please have your parents read over this part!). Here is a brief summary of what you'll be doing each week in Sixth Class:

Religion: Reading from *Messiah* and completing the exercises/questions

Gaeilge: Studying various vocabulary and short stories in *Caint is Comhrá* and then practising Irish Grammar. We'll practise reading with the *Soilse* readers.

English: Practising writing diverse types of stories/essays/poems/instructions and continuing to work on our English Grammar and Spellings

Mathematics: Continuing to learn basic mathematical facts: More advanced multiplication and division

Geography: Looking at Europe and the rest of the world

Latin: Working through a whimsical textbook about ancient times, as you learn more advanced phrases and vocabulary words in Latin

Each day, you should begin your studies with a prayer. We suggest saying the Morning Offering and praying to the Holy Ghost. Then say a prayer to your Guardian Angel and Patron Saint(s)—*especially your chosen Confirmation Saint*—for a good day. Some prayers are on the next page for your convenience. (A more detailed introduction to each subject is after the prayers.)

Offer your intentions to God as you begin your work. Then find the day's assignments and complete them all. You'll need to ensure you have all the materials you need (pencils, paper and your textbooks) and then check your answers after completing the day's assignments and correct your work, as necessary. When correcting your own work, always take the time to figure out *why* it was not correct—ask your parents if you need any extra explanations with this! They'll be happy to help!

May your Guardian Angel and your own Patron Saint(s), pray for you and your family!

Let's get started!

Daily Prayers for the Student Preparing for Confirmation

Morning Offering

There are various forms of this prayer; this is one of the most common versions.

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin and the reunion of all Christians.

Come, Holy Ghost

Come, Holy Ghost, fill the hearts of Thy faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Thy love.

V. Send forth Thy Spirit, and they shall be created.

R. And Thou shalt renew the face of the earth.

Let Us Pray. O God, Who hast instructed the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Ghost, grant that by the same Spirit we may be always truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Angel of God

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love commits me here,
Ever this day, be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Prayers to Your Patron(s)

Saint _____, Pray for me!

Saint _____, Pray for me!

Saint _____, Pray for me!

Saint _____, my chosen Confirmation Saint,
Please pray for me and help me prepare to receive the Sacrament of
Confirmation!

Maths

Books/resources required:

CJ Fallon Mathematics Programme. Choose ONE:

English version: Mathemagic 6

Publisher: CJ Fallon

ISBN: 9780714414454

OR Irish version: Mata Draíochta 6

Publisher: CJ Fallon

ISBN: 9780714416816

Master Your Maths 6

Publisher: CJ Fallon

ISBN: 9780714421742

For this year's study of maths, you will learn to do more advanced problems in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. We revise and solidify everything you have previously learned.

For both maths workbooks this year, be sure and keep your time spent on maths relatively short—about 20-25 minutes per day! This is to make sure you are fully focused during this time and can devote your whole attention to your work. If it helps, you can set a timer to ensure that you focus during the allotted time and then are finished with the day's lesson. You can discuss this with your parents.

For this year's lessons, find the assigned pages in both textbooks (*Mathemagic* and *Master Your Maths*) and work through the pages. For new material, the textbook explains things rather well and includes helpful examples for you to look at and practise. After looking over the example(s), try to work a few of the problems and check your answers. If you're getting the problems correct, keep working and complete the assigned page(s). If you're not getting the problems correct, take time and try them again and/or ask your parents for additional help. There are teaching tips contained in the Answer Key as well, so keep the Key on hand for reference!

To the parents: As before in our maths programme for First through Fifth Classes, we allow you to simulate a Gaelscoil environment and utilise an Irish-language workbook for Maths. We recommend the Irish-language version, but it's your choice! (We cater for both versions in the Day-by-Day Plans and Answer Key!)

There are many maths manipulatives on the market if you desire and/or your budget allows. Your family may enjoy *Cuisenaire Rods* or *Pegboards* for this year. If you're interested, discuss this with your parents.

Cuisenaire Rods: <https://www.abcschoolsupplies.ie/product/wooden-cuisenaire-rods-introductory-set-of-74>

Pegboards: <https://www.silkes.ie/Maths-Materials/Peg-Boards/>

Other maths resources: <https://www.silkes.ie/Maths-Materials/>