

Programmes for 16–17 year olds who leave school early.

The legal definition of early school leaving in Ireland is 'non-participation in school before a young person reaches age 16 or before completing three years post-primary education, or whichever is later'. However, another useful definition is 'leaving the education system without a minimum of five passes in the Leaving Certificate or equivalent qualification'.

(Source: Education Welfare Act 2000 / Combat Poverty Agency—Submission on Early School Leavers to the NESF, September 2001.)

Youthreach

Youthreach offers a full-time educational programme to early school leavers aged between 16 and 20 years. It is intended to help young people return to learning and prepare for employment and adult life. It also provides them with opportunities to get certified qualifications.

Youthreach offers a number of programmes around the county :

- FETAC Level 3 and FETAC Level 4 in General Learning
- Tourism Awareness Programme
- Leaving Certificate Applied

For Further Information Contact:

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Clare Youth Service

Clare Youth Service run a Community Training Centre which offers courses for young people aged between 16yrs and 21yrs who have left school early. The primary focus of their programmes is to provide education and training for people who do not or cannot avail of mainstream provision.

Clare Youth Service run the following courses:

- FETAC Level 3 in Employability Skills
- FETAC Level 4 – General Learning Programme
- Leaving Certificate Applied.

For Further Information Contact:

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