



ST. AIDAN'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Transition Year Policy



Background to TY

The Transition Year programme in St. Aidan's Community College is designed to provide for the integrated development of the intellectual, spiritual, emotional, physical, social and vocational capacities of each pupil. The principle objective of Transition Year is to prepare young people for their role as participative and responsible members of society. Transition Year offers students the opportunity to review and consolidate the work done in the Junior Cycle, explore new areas methods of study, and make more mature and informed choices regarding their future development and learning.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

The aims and objectives of the Transition Year Programme reflect those specific to the guidelines published by the Department of Education and skills, namely:

- Education for maturity with the emphasis on personal development including social awareness and increased social competence.
- The promotion of general, technical and academic skills with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning.
- Education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.

This is achieved with the wide variety of subjects day modules guest speakers and activities ran throughout the year.

TY in St. Aidan's Community College

The TY Curriculum of St Aidan's is developed locally and uniquely annually by the TY Co-Ordinator and the TY Teaching Staff in consultation with Deputy Principal and Principal.

The school will decide upon the subjects and modules based on the needs of the students, staff allocations and teacher expertise as well as parental expectation and local resources.

Transition Year is recommended for all students but students can opt out and apply for either LCA or the traditional Leaving Cert – depending on availability in these programmes. We see this programme as an opportunity for our students to build on the academic achievements and the character development attained in Junior Cycle in order to prepare them for the Leaving Cert and for their future role in society and encourage our students of the benefit of the programme.

The TY Programme offers a broad and balanced curriculum based on the following 4 layers as advised by the Department of Education TY Guidelines;

CORE SUBJECTS:

Subjects taken for the full year which may include but is not limited to the following Irish, English, Maths, Religion, Career Guidance, PE, Music, French, SPHE, History and Geography.

SUBJECT SAMPLING LAYER:

Subjects that are available at Leaving Cert Level in the school that are offered either in taster modules for half the year which may include but is not limited to the following- Biology*, Chemistry, Physics, Construction, Engineering, Home Economics, Economic.

TY SPECIFIC LAYER: Subjects and modules specifically designed to meet the unique requirements of a TY Programme which may include but is not limited to the following- web wise, Philosophy, gardening, Safety, Creative skills

CALENDAR LAYER: A programme of activities, events, throughout the course of the year which will vary annually depending on opportunities, but which may include some or all of the following: Work Experience, First Aid, Drive for Life, Field Trips, Visiting Speakers.

Pupils will also participate in a variety of additional programmes:

Waterford green way	First Aid
Janssen Partnership	Hill walking
Rowing	Reward Trips
CAT 4 Exam	CIT open day
Variety of guest speakers	Drugs workshop

Coordinator Role

Coordinator: Eamon Breen

The aim of the TY co-ordinator is to ensure that the year is educationally beneficial, enjoyable, maturing and challenging for the students and that each student will achieve her potential in this year. The task of the co-ordinator involves the following:

- Overseeing that all events are organised to a high standard and well in advance
- To ensure that parents and students have adequate notice of upcoming events
- To enlist the help, support and ideas of all staff involved in TY
- To evaluate how the year is going regularly with the students
- To attend any courses/meetings relevant to the TY and incorporate where possible ideas and experiences from other teachers
- To keep teachers well informed of any changes in timetables via email and VS ware with ample notice
- To enthuse the rest of the staff as to the immense value of TY

- To provide teachers with any TY material already in the school or which may come during the year which would be relevant to the particular teacher
- To tackle any problems which might arise during the year promptly and efficiently so as to diffuse the problem
- To ensure that the TY programme is written up and available
- To evaluate the TY programme each year and ensure that teachers evaluate it

The TY coordinator is supported by the TY Year head and class tutors

Assessment

In St Aidan's assessment is used to maximise the TY Programme. Knowledge of students' progress is a stimulus to improve subject materials and the implementation of their content. All subjects have a set structure of 30% written exam and 70% from a wide variety of assessment methods. The following methods can be implemented to assess students' growth in overall maturity, skills and academics:

A project	Continues assessment
An essay	Self-assessment
A report	Keeping a learning journal
An oral presentation	End of unit exams
An interview	

Reports

There are 2 set assessments throughout the year

- Early January
- Summer exams in early May

Reports for modules will be inputted at the end of the modules in January, and May.

Activities and Trips

Activities and trips are organised throughout the year, with a mixture of educational adventure and fun. These are organised by the TY coordinator and subject teachers. All students are encouraged to

get involved in activities but students can be prevented from these trips depending on the following: on their school behaviour, previous behaviour on trips as well as attendance, fully paid TY fund and pupil development fund. Students will be notified of all trips and a text sent to their parent/guardian. For a majority of trips a link will also be sent to pay a refundable deposit through the way to pay system for any interested students. The deposit is refunded if the student attends the activity. The final student list is published on the TY notice board with any items students will need for the trip the times of bus and itinerary of the activity.

CERTIFICATION

St Aidan's award a TY Certificate at Pass, Merit or Distinction Level on completion of the TY Programme. This grading is based on their attendance throughout the year.


Award	Distinction	Merit	Pass
Attendance	90% min	80% min	79 & below

The Certificate will also state all the activities and trips the student was involved in during the year. Presentation of all Certificates will take place at the annual end of year TY celebration Ceremony.

The Overall TY Student of the Year Award will be presented to the student who, in the collective opinion of all staff, made the greatest contribution to TY during the Year at the Solas awards.

EVALUATION

The TY Programme carries on-going evaluation and modification of the TY programme. This will take place annually through appropriate methods such as surveys and feedback from Students, Parents and TY Teachers. Results of and recommendations from such evaluations will be utilised in planning future TY programmes.

Signed:  _____ Date: 7th February 2024
Chairperson BOM