

# Transition Year Policy

Colaiste an Chroi Naofa Mission statement

## **Transition Year Mission Statement**

- To provide for the personal, social and intellectual development of the student.
- To prepare students to become active participants in their learning. Transition Year provides a bridge to help pupils make the transition from a highly structured environment to one where they will take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making.
- To provide them with a broad range of academic, leisure and cultural experiences. This encourages the student to value education and reflect on their future.

## **Aims of transition Year**

### Maturity

1. To lay a secure foundation for a Leaving Cert Programme with more purpose and motivation
2. A more informed approach to subject choices
3. Increase social awareness and social competence
4. Enhanced self-confidence, self-esteem and self-assurance

### Skills

1. To provide the opportunity to discover individual talents, aptitudes and abilities
2. To develop good study skills, practical and academic skills

### Adult and working life

1. To gain insight into the world of work
2. To expand the learning environment into the wider community and aid interdisciplinary work, providing focus for learning and reflection.
3. To encourage participation in a variety of leisure activities
4. To assist students in acquiring positive awareness of their community.

## **Criteria for Admission**

Colaiste an Chroi Naofa offers Transition Year as an optional one-year programme designed to facilitate the transition from Junior to Senior Cycles and to prepare for adult life.

- Application for admission to Transition Year is open to all students in Junior Certificate year, who have completed the Junior Certificate State Examinations.
- Students will be admitted to the programme subject to resources and the ability to cater for the needs of pupils.
- An information afternoon for Parents and students are held in the spring time of the year of entry. The Transition Year is not necessarily suitable for all students.
- A completed application form must be submitted before a specified closing date.
- The letter of application must:
  - Outline the pupils reason(s) for selecting to participate in the Ty programme
  - Be dated and signed by both pupil and parent/guardian
  - Payment of a deposit must accompany the application.
- It is the responsibility of each student and their parent/guardian to ensure their application is submitted in full and on time.
- A pupil's behaviour record is a critical factor in acceptance for the Transition Year. Pupils with excellent disciplinary records will be given first choice. If the number of applicants for the Transition Year exceeds the number of places available in a given school year, acceptance will be determined by Principal and the Year Head Co-ordinator. The number of students per base class is 24.
- Students will be notified of acceptance verbally by the Principal and Co-ordinator.

This admissions policy will be reviewed regularly.

## **The Curriculum**

Students will be offered a selection of material from the Leaving Cert Course which will be focused and interesting. There will be an emphasis on self directed learning through various teaching methods.

- Negotiated learning
- Personal responsibility
- Activity based
- Group work
- Project work
- Speakers/seminars
- Field trips

The Curriculum is decided in the light of the particular needs and interests of students.

## **Core Subjects**

3 or more classes per week will be offered in

- Irish
- English
- French
- Mathematics

2 classes per week of Religion

## **Leaving Cert Optional subjects**

A selection of classes will be offered based on interest expressed by students. Science

- Home Economics
- History
- Geography
- Accounting
- Business
- Music
- Art
- Technical Graphics

Classes in the following may also be offered

- Film and Media studies
- PE
- Computing
- Career guidance
- Personal development
- Enterprise
- Study Technique

This is reviewed each year through liaising with students, parents and staff. Availability of these classes depends on resources that are allocated each year.

## **Activities and Leisure**

A selection will be provided from :

- Speech and drama
- Presentation skills
- Sign language
- GAA coaching
- Refereeing

- First Aid
- Self Defense
- Theatre
- Geography and History trips
- Team bonding days
- Rapping Workshop
- Film Making
- Drumming
- Puppetery
- Dance
- Yoga
- Soccer Skills
- Fitness
- Italian
- Science trips
- Enterprise Projects/Mini Company
- A Transition Year School tour based in Ireland or abroad.

These events are reviewed annually.

### **Social and Community Experience**

Each Wednesday the Transition Year students will not attend school. They will go to their various social placements. We advise students to look for this experience within their own communities and will aid them in any way to secure such placements. It must be socially based and encourage them to make a valuable contribution by using this time to benefit their local community. This also encourages the development of links with parents and the wider community.

### **Work Experience**

Each student will secure 2 weeks work experience (related where possible to career investigation) before Easter.

Homework and Assessment

- Project work
- Preparation for oral presentation
- Subject assignments
- Daily Diary

## Assessment

Many courses and activities offered during the year carry certification

- Christmas and Summer Reports
- Social placements Reports where there is record of absences and feedback from placement providers
- Work Experience Reports
- Homework from subject teachers
- Year end self evaluation, school assessment and evaluation
- Parent/teacher meeting
- Online Ty portfolio which will be provides continual assessment

Transition Year end celebration

All students, staff and parents are invited to this celebration.

- Exhibition in the College hall
- Projects
- Artwork
- Visual displays
- Film
- Songs

Entertainment provided by the TY students

- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Presentation of Certificates
- Student of the Year Announced and presented on awards night in October.
- Refreshments provided

Conclusion

This is a different year, a maturing year, a time for students to get to know themselves and develop various skills and talents. It is the hope that students will emerge from the year independent, motivated, responsible and determined to maximise their efforts in Leaving Cert and beyond.