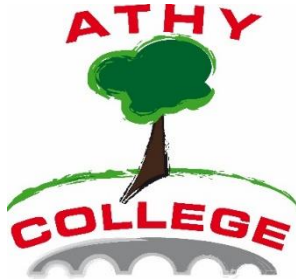


Athy College ,
Athy, Co. Kildare.
Coláiste Áth-Í,
Áth-Í, Cho. Chill Dara.

Principal:
Deputy Principal:

Richard Daly
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Athy College Kildare

Transition Year Policy

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Approval Date: _____

Signed: _____

Principal

Approval Date: _____



MISSION STATEMENT

In a caring school we are dedicated to fostering educational excellence empowering all students to reach their full potential – academic and social, physical and spiritual. Through partnership and cooperation, we openly respect and nurture the dignity and uniqueness of each individual’.

ETHOS

Athy College is a caring school. The staff are dedicated to fostering educational excellence and earnestly endeavour to empower all students to reach their full potential – academic and social, physical and spiritual. Through partnership and cooperation, the staff of Athy College respect and nurture the dignity and uniqueness of everyone.

Athy College defines education as the on-going development of all students so that they may realise their true and best selves. The college motto is “Fas agus Foghlaim” (Lifelong Learning). From the outset students are taught they are partners in their own education. The school aims to prepare students for public examinations, in an age when academic qualifications are indispensable for admission to further education and entry into employment. The school recognises that its students are of varying cultural and social backgrounds and have a wide variety of aspirations and abilities.

The school embraces the vital role that parents, and guardians play in the overall education for their children. The school also recognises the importance of the community in which the student lives. For this reason, every effort is made to ensure that the student is aware of his/her role in the community and is encouraged to be positively involved in the wider community.

Overall Aims of Transition Year

Athy College offers Transition Year as an optional one-year programme, post Junior Certificate. The school strives to achieve the mission of Transition Year which is ‘to promote the personal, social, educational and vocational development of the students and to prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society.’ (Transition Year Programmes - Guidelines for Schools, [DES], P.1).

The Transition Year programme in Athy College aims to give students the time and space to mature, develop self-confidence and grow in independence. Students are encouraged to forge new links and nurture new interests within the school community, the broader community and in society. TY is about personal development, embracing new challenges and looking ahead to the future.

The aims of the Transition Year Programme reflect those specific to the DES Guidelines 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 the emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning.
- Education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity. The objectives of the Transition Year Programme in our school are as follows:
 - To help each student develop his/her personality and character towards a more positive and confident self-image.
 - To develop in each student independent work and study habits appropriate to the Senior Cycle.
 - To familiarise each student with workplaces outside school and possible career paths.
 - To help each student become more informed about society and more skilled at dealing with people.

Selection for the Transition Year Programme

Application for admission to Transition Year is open to all students in Third Year and is made via the standard Transition Year Application Form. Each application will be considered on its own merit.

Previous behaviour, school participation and attendance are integrally linked to a student's success in achieving a place on the Programme. Financial difficulties would in no way influence the possibility of any student being successful in their application to TY.

Transition Year Programme Design

The TY Programme is ever evolving due to the diverse nature of events and modules available and student cohort. TY core subjects include Irish, English, Maths, Geography, History, European Languages, Business Studies, Religious Education, Science, and Practical subjects. Other activities/subjects that are specific to TY include Technology, Careers, Media Studies, Forensics, Life Skills, Drama, Recreational Studies (PE), Enterprise, Music, Development Education, Fashion (Junk Kouture) and Film Making.

Work Experience is an integral part of the TY programme and helps to prepare students for the world of work. Students engage in the world of work and have opportunities to develop personal and social skills through a range of experiences which are designed to challenge students beyond the boundaries of the traditional classroom.

Students will also engage with ePortfolio, an online digital portfolio which allows students to collect, reflect and share their work. Students will then present on this journey at the end of the school year in an interview setting.

In TY students will engage in a variety of development opportunities in areas such as First Aid, Self-Defence and Gaisce (The President's Award). Trips will also form a very important part of the TY programme including a trip to European city.

Transition Year Fees

The total cost of the Transition Year Programme in Athy College is €400.

- Students will pay a deposit of €100 with the application, this deposit secures your place on the TY Programme.
- A further €300 is payable in September prior to the commencement of the school year.

Please note: The above price does **NOT** include the TY European Trip.

Teaching & Learning in TY

A key feature of the TY Programme in Athy College is the wide range of teaching /learning methodologies and situations. Educational activities are undertaken to enable students to have a valid and worthwhile learning experiences while emphasising the development of study skills and self-directed learning.

A key feature of the Transition Year Programme is the wide range of teaching and learning methods used. Some of these methods include:

- Activity-based learning
- Group work – discussion, debates, interviews, role plays
- Project work and research
- Visiting speakers and seminars
- Study visits and field trips
- Personal responsibility in learning
- Work experience and community service
- Computer based learning
- Oral presentations & Demonstrations

Coordination and Teamwork

All members of the TY team are committed to the philosophy, aims and successful implementation of the Transition Year programme. The Transition Year Coordinator is responsible for running the programme and the Year Head who has a pastoral and disciplinary role in relation to the Transition Year students and collaborates closely with the Co-ordinator. They are assisted by a core group of teachers. These teachers are drawn from diverse areas of the curriculum. Co-ordinator liaises with the Principal, school management, parents, community agencies and the non-Transition year members of the staff keeping them fully informed of developments.

Transition Year Assessment

Assessment is conducted within each subject by the subject teacher. The assessment, depending on the subject matter, can take varying forms, ranging from oral, aural, project, portfolio, written or practical work.

Each student maintains an ePortfolio into which he / she places completed projects, assignments, projects, work experience evaluations. At the end of the academic year, students are interviewed, and their Portfolios are assessed.

The students can receive a Certificate of Participation, Merit or Distinction, depending on the quality of a completed ePortfolio and the recommendations of each subject teacher.

Work Experience

Those students who are applying for the Transition Year Programme must secure work experience placements. This occurs in 3 two-week blocks throughout the school year and dates will be confirmed at the start of each academic year. Students are asked to confirm placements with employer as soon as possible. Students are required to carry out a log of work experience and these logs will be checked by the TY Coordinator at the end of the year.

Work Experience aims:

- To experience the nature and realities of working life.
- To identify skills and abilities required for particular jobs.
- To achieve a realistic knowledge of their own interests, ability and social skills.
- To achieve a knowledge and understanding of a job application and selection.

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Attendance

It is a requirement that all students must attend school on a regular basis while on the Transition Year Programme. Attendance is monitored on a weekly basis as per the Athy College Attendance Policy.

Students must maintain a high attendance rate in school to remain on the TY Programme for the academic year. Attendance reports will be communicated to parents on a regular basis.

Appeals

A student who fails to secure a place in the Transition Year Programme may appeal the decision to the Principal within seven days of receipt of notification. Thereafter, an appeal can be made to the Board of Management within seven days of receipt of notification of the outcome of the appeal to the Principal. Please note that no further information can be brought to the Appeals Process

Ratification by Board of Management

This policy was adopted and ratified by the Board of Management.

Appendix 1 – Transition Year Application Form

Transition Year Application Form

Please return this signed form to Mr Maguire on or before Monday 14th March 2022

Name: _____

Class: _____

Address: _____

Please select one in each of the following questions:

1. Please rate your application to study and homework throughout the Junior Cycle:

- Excellent Very good Good Average Poor

2. Please rate your attendance and punctuality throughout the Junior Cycle:

- Excellent Very good Good Average Poor

3. Please rate your behavior throughout the Junior Cycle:

- Excellent Very good Good Average Poor

4. Briefly outline one reason why you would like to do transition year?
