

## **Transition Year Policy**

Athy College offers Transition Year as an optional one year programme post Junior Certificate.

### **Overall Aims**

The following aims are interrelated and interdependent and should be strongly reflected in every Transition Year Programme (reflected in the Department of Education Guidelines:

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

### **Curriculum**

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.

The TY Programme will offer 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 are not limited to the following: English, Irish, Mathematics, PE, MFL, Art, Careers, Science, Construction, Engineering, Home Economics, European Studies, History, Geography, Business Studies and Music.

#### **TY SPECIFIC LAYER**

Subjects and modules specifically designed to meet the unique requirements of a TY Programme which may include but are not limited to the following:

Mini Company, Build a Bank, Gaisce, Young Scientist Exhibition, etc.

#### **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, Visiting Speakers, Delphi Trip, Gaeltacht Trip, etc.

## **ASSESSMENT**

The TY Programme in Athy College embraces the many varieties and modes of assessment recommended by the Transition Year Guidelines for Schools as outlined by the DES and may include the following:

Summative Assessment

Written, practical oral and aural assessment

Project Work

Exhibitions of Work

Report of Work Experience

Compilation of Portfolio

Student Diary/Log of Personal Progress

Record of Skills and Competencies gained

TY subjects may be assessed by one of the above assessment methods and an end of year report will be furnished to parents.

## **CERTIFICATION**

Athy College will award a TY Certificate on completion of the TY Programme.

Modular Courses completed during the TY Programme may be certified as appropriate by the school or outside bodies or agencies.

Presentation of all certificates will take place at the annual end of year Graduation Ceremony.

## **EVALUATION**

Athy College embraces the requirement for an ongoing evaluation and modification of the TY Programme. This will take place annually through appropriate methods such as surveys and feedback from Students, Parents and Staff. Results of and recommendations from such evaluations will be utilised in planning future TY Programmes.

## **ADMISSIONS PROCEDURE**

1. An information evening for parents on what the TY Programme entails
2. Transition Year Application Forms will be made available to all interested students from the Deputy Principal. Accompanying this form will be the application process, clearly detailing the application process for TY.
3. Completed application forms must be returned to the Deputy Principal by the specified closing date. LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED. Completion of the application form does not guarantee a place on the programme.
4. External applicants may fill in the Enrolment Form for Athy College and may request to complete a TY Application form. On doing so these students are then subject to the same applications process as all other students.
5. A TY Selection Committee will be established by the school Principal.

## **Transition Year Programme Application Process**

Athy College management recognises the right of all students to apply for the Transition Year Programme.

It is important to note however, that due to varying curricular needs of the school, places on the programme are limited.

Athy College will have one class of Transition Year with a maximum of 24 students. This will primarily depend on the resources available to the school. This will be reviewed annually.

The Transition Year Application Process is split into five categories. Each category carries a score. Scores will be made available to students and parents on request.

### **Category A: Attendance – 20 marks**

The applicant's attendance in his/her 3 years of Junior Cycle will be taken into consideration. Marks will be deducted for poor attendance. Students who have a certified absence from a medical practitioner will not be disadvantaged.

90-100% Attendance = 20 marks

80-90% Attendance = 15 marks

70-80% Attendance = 10 marks

60-70% Attendance = 5 marks

50% or less = 0 marks

### **Category B: Contribution to the school – 10 marks**

The applicant's contribution to the school community in his/her 3 years of Junior Cycle will determine these marks. Contribution in areas such as sport, clubs, student council, fundraising, scholarships, awards for example. **It is important to note that full marks in this area will not be given for playing sport only.**

Involvement in 5 or more activities = 10 marks

Involvement in 4 activities = 8 marks

Involvement in 3 activities = 6 marks

Involvement in 2 activities = 4 marks

Involvement in 1 activity = 2 marks

Students should clearly outline their contribution to the school on the application form.

### **Category C: Behaviour – 20 marks**

The applicant's behaviour record in the school in his/her 3 years of Junior Cycle will determine these marks. Marks will be deducted for the following:

Detention: 1 mark deducted per recorded detention

Placed on Report: 2 marks deducted per stage 1 report

3 marks deducted per stage 2 report

4 marks deducted per stage 3 report

5 marks deducted per stage 4 report

Suspension: 8 marks deducted per suspension

### **Category D: Work Ethic – 20 marks**

The applicant's application to work in his/her 3 years of Junior Cycle will determine these marks. These marks will be extracted from the students reports which are sent home to parents. Parents receive two reports in First Year, two reports in Second Year and two reports in Third Year. Please note it is not the result that will determine the marks, but the application and effort from the student to the subject.

Poor Work Ethic as per teacher comment: 2 marks deducted per comment

Disrupting Teaching and Learning: 5 marks deducted per comment

Disimprovement in work ethic: 1 mark deducted per comment

### **Category E: Interview – 30 marks**

All applicants will sit an interview. The interview may be conducted by the Deputy Principal and a member of staff.

### **Letters**

Athy will endeavour to send out offer letters to all successful and unsuccessful applicants within 10 school days of the final interview.

### **Appeals**

Appeals must be made in writing to: The Principal, Athy College, Athy, Co. Kildare within 5 school days of the date of letter sent to unsuccessful applicants. Appeals must state clearly your reason for appeal.

**Please Note: The applicants age will not be considered as a reason for appeal.**

The school Principal will consider each appeal and inform parents of his decision in writing within 7 school days of receipt of appeal.

**Please note that the decision of the school Principal on appeal is final.**

**Acceptance**

Successful applicants must return their acceptance form to the Deputy Principal by the date outlined on the letter. Failure to do this may result in their placing going to another student.

**Waiting List**

Unsuccessful applicants may be placed on a waiting list. Should a place become available, applicants will be offered a place based on their position on the waiting list.