

# **Transition Year Policy**

Adopted by Board on Management 7<sup>th</sup> February 2018

## **Introduction**

The Transition Year Programme is an optional one-year programme provided in Kishoge Community College between the Junior Cycle and the Leaving Certificate. Following the more structured and prescriptive learning experience of the Junior Cycle, the Transition Year is an opportunity to explore new and different ways of learning, to expand the learning environment beyond the school walls into the wider community and the world of work, and to lay a secure foundation for more mature decision-making with regard to the Leaving Certificate and all that follows.

## **Aims of Transition year**

- To give students space and time to mature, learn, and develop without the pressure of the Leaving Certificate.
- To enable students to take responsibility for their own learning.
- To improve students' study and research skills.
- To provide a solid foundation for Leaving Cert courses.
- To offer a range of opportunities to broaden their experiences.
- To create social awareness and encourage community involvement.
- To promote leadership qualities and opportunities.
- To promote students' self-confidence

## **Student Voice**

As students move through the school it is expected that they will have a greater input into what and how they learn. Third Year students enrolled in Transition Year will have an input into the structure and content of the programme by engaging in a consultation process with their

teachers, attending subject department meetings and by having hours reserved on the timetable for learning opportunities decided upon by the students.

## **Programme Content**

### **Subjects**

Core subjects are English, Irish, Maths, French/Spanish, Science, History, Geography, Business, Ethical Education, Career Guidance, Physical Education, Geography, and SPHE.

Subject sampling includes Home Economics, Classical Studies, Construction Studies, Art, Engineering, Coding and Music. The subjects on offer for sampling purposes may vary from year to year.

Additional Learning Opportunities will be provided and may include Design and Make, Car Maintenance, Beauty Care, Robotics and Photography.

### **Other Transition Year Activities**

- Work Experience
- Community Service
- Self Defence
- Mini Company
- Gaisce President's Awards Scheme
- Film and Media Studies
- Outdoor Education Course
- Workshops in school and visiting speakers
- Experience of Driving
- Charity Work for various organisations
- Transition Year Graduation and Awards Ceremony
- School Bank project
- Community work/Fundraising

- Wellbeing Course
- Yoga
- Young Social Innovators
- World Wise Global Schools
- International Trip
- Architecture in Schools project
- Samba Drumming Workshop
- Scifest
- Theatre Trips
- Road Safety Authority

### **Application Procedure for Transition Year**

- An information session on the Transition Year programme will be provided by the TY Co-ordinator for all Third Year students.
- In March an information session will be held for parents of Third Year students.
- All students wishing to apply for a place in Transition Year must complete an application form signed by parent/guardian. Forms should be submitted to the TY co-ordinator on or before the deadline date for submission.
- Late applications may not be considered or may be placed on a waiting list.
- Priority will be given to students who have completed their Junior Cycle Programme in Kishoge Community College.
- Applications from students wishing to transfer from other second-level schools will be processed in accordance with the *Admissions Policy*.
- The TY Co-ordinator, relevant Year Heads, Guidance Counsellor and Deputy Principal/Principal will review the applications.

### **Selection Criteria**

Consideration for a place in Transition Year may be given on the basis of:

- general assessment of the suitability of the student for the programme.
- pastoral need: recommendation by class tutor/year head/guidance counsellor.
- applicant's general motivation and commitment to curricular and extra-curricular activities
- behaviour record
- attendance record
- Where there is doubt about a candidate's suitability for the programme, an interview may constitute a part of the selection procedure

### **Offer & Acceptance of a Place in Transition Year**

- Successful applicants will be notified by the Transition Year Co-ordinator
- Offer of a place is conditional on successful applicants returning their acceptance forms and payment of the first instalment of the Transition Year Programme fees. Acceptance forms must be signed by the parent/guardian.
- A *Contract of Learning* must also be signed by the applicant and the parent/guardian and returned to the TY Co-ordinator
- An information meeting will be held for all students who have accepted places in Transition Year

### **Number of Places in Transition Year**

In any given year resources may be limited and it may not be possible to facilitate all students who have applied for Transition Year. In such circumstances, the following limits and criteria may apply:

- A maximum of 24/48/72 students per year – a maximum of 24 in each class.
- Students will have to have a record of co-operation with the school *Code of Positive Behaviour*.
- Where demand exceeds the number of places and all things being equal young students get priority or a lottery may be held for all eligible students

### **TY Programme Fees**

Due to the large number of educational trips, workshops in the school and outdoor education trips there is a fee for the Transition Year Programme.

- Fee is payable in two instalments (a) first instalment on acceptance of place in TY (b) second instalment to be paid in term one of Transition Year.
- If there are difficulties with payment, alternative arrangements for payment may be considered in consultation with the Principal.

### **Class Groups**

Students will be assigned to a class group at the beginning of Transition Year. If there is more than one Transition Year class group, students are required to stay in assigned class group. Movement to another class group is only facilitated in exceptional circumstances and can only occur in consultation with Principal/Deputy Principal, Year Head, TY Co-ordinator and Guidance Counsellor.

### **Removing a Student from the Transition Year Programme**

It is important for the quality of the educational experiences offered to students in Transition Year that each student adheres to the terms of the *Contract of Learning* signed on acceptance of place in Transition Year.

The Principal may remove a student from the Transition Year programme if:

- behaviour is in breach of the terms of the *Contract of Learning*
- behaviour is impeding the learning/experiences of other students on the programme

A decision by the Principal to remove a student from the programme may be appealed to the Board of Management by writing to the Secretary, Board of Management, Kishoge Community College.

## **Homework**

Homework in Transition Year may involve some of the following:

- Projects- individual and group
- Questionnaires
- Research in library or on the Internet
- Interviews with members of local community
- Essays
- Journal Keeping and Diaries
- Reports

## **Assessment in Transition Year**

‘Assessment should be an integral part of the learning process in Transition Year, not separate from it’. (D.E.S. Guidelines)

Students in Transition Year may be assessed using a variety of methods:

- Credit system
- Oral/aural assessment

- Project work
- Self-assessment
- Peer-assessment
- Presentation
- Written/practical class tests
- Christmas and Summer examinations in core subjects
- Portfolio assessment and interview: each student is required to compile a portfolio of his/her work undertaken throughout the year. This builds into a valuable record of activities undertaken and lessons learned. This collection will be made up of written accounts, various recordings including songs or films produced as well as pictures of the various activities being undertaken. Interviews are held at the end of Transition Year.

## **Certification**

Students in Transition Year receive the following certification on completion of the programme:

- Department of Education and Science official Transition Year Certificate
- Portfolio of official certificates of skills and achievements acquired during Transition Year (Self Defence etc.)
- School certificates awarding excellence in academic and non-academic areas
- Pass/Merit/Distinction Certificate for Portfolio of work and interview
- End of Year Graduation Ceremony organized by students.