

Ardcooil Rath Iomgháin Transition Year Policy

At Ardcooil Rath Iomgháin we are firmly committed to enhancing the wellbeing of all students. Our focus on wellbeing encourages students to build life skills and develop a strong sense of belonging in our school community and indeed the wider community. We aim to ensure that every student feels connected. This is reflected in the policy below.

Policy Statement

Ardcooil Rath Iomgháin offers Transition Year as a one-year programme. The Transition Year programme 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 regarding the Leaving Certificate and all that follows.

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’

The number of students that can be accommodated in Transition Year will be decided by the school management and the Programme Co-ordinator.

Aims of Transition year:

- To give students space and time to learn and develop the skills necessary to become self directed learners.
- To enable students to take responsibility for their own learning
- To help develop student’s holistic education including personal responsibility and decision making.
- To improve students’ study and research skills.
- 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 and build resilience.
- To inform students of subject choices for Leaving Cert.

Programme Content

Subjects

N.B. The below list is not exhaustive. Subjects may vary and are determined by the availability of teachers and other resources.

Current core subjects are English, Irish, Maths, Geography, History, French/ German, Physical Education, Business Studies, Science, Ethics, Art, Mini Company, Home Economics, Computers, , Creative Writing, SPHE, Health Education, Word Processing, Careers

Current Subject sampling includes:

Dance, Engineering, Construction, Music, Astronomy, Media Studies, First Aid, Life Skills, Aviation.

Students are expected to participate in all subjects including languages to the best of their ability irrespective of whether they have studied those subjects previously.

Other Transition Year Activities may include:

- Work experience
- Mini Company
- Gaisce President's Awards
- School Bank Project
- Workshops in/out of school
- Drugs awareness Talks
- Poetry workshops
- International Trip
- Samba Drumming Workshop
- Young Social Innovators

On the rare occasions where trips or workshops have an upper number limit, usually due to logistical reasons, students will be allocated a place through a lottery system. For the vast majority of activities all students in Transition Year will participate in all activities.

The welfare, well-being and safety of the student group is a priority as regards outings and trips. The school may withdraw permission for students to participate on a tour/outing/activity if the student's presence has the potential to affect the learning, safety or well being of other students.

Application Procedure for Transition Year

- An information session on the Transition Year programme will be provided by the Transition Year Coordinator for all third-year students. This will be given during school time. The qualities and disposition essential for successful participation in Transition Year will be outlined fully to students at this presentation.
- An information evening will be held for parents/guardians of Third Year students interested in applying for a place on the programme.
- Application forms will be available from the Transition Year Coordinator. The closing date will be stated on the Application Form. Copies of the school Transition Year policy which includes information about the admission policy to Transition Year are also available upon request from the Transition Year Coordinator or on the school website.
- All students wishing to apply for a place in Transition Year must submit a fully completed application form signed by parent/guardian. Forms should be submitted to the Transition Year Coordinator on or before the deadline date for submission. It is the responsibility of each student and their parents/guardians to ensure that the application form is submitted in full and on time.
- There is no guarantee there will be a place available in the Transition Year Programme for late applications.
- Priority will be given to students who have completed their Junior Cycle Programme in Ardscoil Rath Iomghain.

- Applications from students wishing to transfer from other second-level schools will be processed in accordance with the Transfer Policy.
- The Transition Year Coordinator, relevant Year Heads and Deputy Principal/Principal will review the applications.

Selection Criteria

The following factors will be considered when allocating places in Transition Year:

- Student interview
- Completed application form
- Feedback/ professional advice on student suitability by class teachers, tutors, year heads.
- Applicant's general motivation and commitment to curricular and extracurricular activities to date within the school
- Behaviour record
- Attendance/punctuality record
- Student and Parent/ Guardian willingness to sign contract of learning

Any student who does not meet the necessary criteria will not be offered a place on the programme.

Offer & Acceptance of a Place in Transition Year

- Successful applicants will be notified by the Transition Year Coordinator.
- Offer of a place is conditional on successful applicants returning their acceptance forms and payment of the Transition Year Programme costs by the date specified. 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 Transition Year Coordinator along with their acceptance form.
- A student who accepts a place in Transition Year and subsequently withdraws from the programme is advised that his/her application for subject options in fifth year will be placed after the students who have applied first.
- Students whose applications to Transition Year were not successful can meet with the Guidance Counsellor to discuss subject options.

TY Costs

The cost of Transition Year is spread throughout the year. The initial cost is €200. This covers insurance, photocopying, journals, books, lockers (where applicable) and some activities. Students will be asked to cover the cost of some additional trips/ activities throughout the year.

Students who do not pay the initial €200 will not be offered a place in Transition Year.

Class Groups

Students will be assigned to a class group at the beginning of Transition Year. Students are required to stay in their assigned class group for the year.

Homework

Homework in Transition Year may involve some of the following:

- Projects- individual and group
- Research
- Essays
- Reports

This list is not exhaustive.

Volunteering Trips

The school is not in a position to support individual students in charity/ volunteer trips. Accordingly we request that any such trips undertaken by students be scheduled during holiday periods to minimise disruption to teaching and learning.

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, both formal and informal:

- Credit system
- Christmas and Summer examinations in core subjects
- Oral/aural assessment
- Project work
- Self-assessment
- Peer-assessment
- Presentation
- Written/practical class tests
- Portfolio assessment

This list is not exhaustive.

Certification

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

- Department of Education and Science Transition Year Certificate
- School certificates awarding excellence in academic and non-academic areas
- End of Year Graduation Ceremony organised by students.

Discipline

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.

School Management may remove a student from the Transition Year programme if prior to and/or during the commencement of Transition Year, the student commits any serious breach of the schools' code of behaviour. Further breaches of school rules will be dealt with under the schools' code of behaviour

Appeals Procedure

Parents/ Guardians of a student who is refused a place in Transition Year have the right of appeal. Appeals taken must outline in detail and in writing the grounds under which the appeal is being made. This must be done within 5 school days of refusal of a place and addressed to The Secretary, Board of Management, Ardscoil Rath Iomgháin.

Ardscoil Rath Iomgháin

Transition Year Programme – Contract of Learning

This school has high expectations of you during Transition Year. Here we outline our requirements with regard to work and behaviour. Transition year students undertake to do the following:

- Actively participate in the opportunities offered throughout Transition Year.
- Take responsibility for organising their own work experience in a timely fashion and in an appropriate setting.
- Stay in their assigned class.
- Have a positive attitude.
- Organise any private/ family holidays, trips, part time jobs, work or volunteering programmes outside school time.
- Develop work and study habits appropriate to Senior Cycle.
- Establish positive and respectful relationships with fellow students and staff.
- Participate in classwork and complete homework and other assignments on time, to the required standard.
- Observe the rules and regulations of the school with regard to conduct, attendance, punctuality and uniform.

Signing this contract is a mark of your commitment to the success of Transition Year and consent to all the trips and activities included in the TY programme. All trips unless otherwise stated are covered by the school rules regarding full uniform and phones. Where money is being collected for trips notice will be given in writing or by text. From the staff's point of view it represents our commitment to treat Transition Year students as young adults participating in a course which we have planned with the goals of developing greater maturity, relevant skills and orientation to the working world.

I, _____(Block Capitals) , have read and understood the Contract of Learning and the Transition Year policy. I accept the conditions set out for Transition Year as reasonable and appropriate. I will work and behave according to the requirements set out above.

Signed:

_____(Student)

_____(Parent)

_____(Programme Coordinator)

_____(Date)