



Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed, Thurles



TRANSITION YEAR POLICY

January 2023

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COLÁISTE MHUIRE CO-ED.

TY POLICY

Colaiste Mhuire Co-Ed offers Transition Year as an optional one-year programme post Junior Certificate.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The aims and objectives of the Transition Year Programme reflect those specific to the guidelines published by the Department of Education, 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 an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning.
- Education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.

CURRICULUM

The TY Curriculum of Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed is developed locally and uniquely annually by the TY Co-Ordinator and the TY Teaching Staff in consultation with Deputy Principal and Principal.

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. These layers are Core, Subject Sampling, TY specific and Calendar.

CORE SUBJECTS

Subjects taken for the full year which may include but is not limited to the following English, Irish, Mathematics, P.E., French, Career Guidance.

SUBJECT SAMPLING LAYER

Subjects that are available at Leaving Cert Level in the school that are offered either in taster modules or over the course of the year which may include but is not limited to the following- Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Studies, Construction, Engineering, Home Economics, Enterprise, Computer Applications, Economics, Music, Art.

TY SPECIFIC LAYER

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

Tourism, Law, Chinese and Cultural Studies, Young Scientist Competition, Mini-Company, Log on and Learn, Social Studies, Irish Culture and Heritage, Community Care, Gaisce, Library Research, Programming.

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, Musical Production, Tourism Trip, Field Trips, Visiting Speakers.

ASSESSMENT

The TY Programme at Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed embraces the many varieties and modes of assessment recommended by The Transition Year Guidelines for Schools (Dept. of Education) and may include the following:

- Summative Assessment
- Written, practical, oral and aural assessment
- Project Work
- Exhibitions of Work
- Report of Work Experience
- Compilation of e-Portfolio
- Pupil Diary/Log Book of Personal Progress
- Records of Skills and Competencies gained

Core Subjects, Sampling Subjects and TY Specific Subjects will be assessed by one of the above assessment methods and reported on the school's compass system and/or in the Student Diary.

CREDIT SYSTEM

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed operates a Credit System for accumulating Credits towards Graduation and Certification from the Programme. Students will be notified about this annually.

CERTIFICATION

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed will award a TY Certificate of Completion, Pass, Merit or Distinction Level on completion of the TY Programme.

Modular Courses completed during the TY Programme will also 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.

The Overall TY Student of the Year Award will be presented to the student who, in the collective opinion of all staff, made the greatest contribution to TY during the Year.

In recognition of the contribution made by International students to TY a “TY international student of the year” award is also presented.

EVALUATION

Coláiste Mhuire Co-Ed embraces the requirement for on-going evaluation and modification of the TY programme. This will take place annually through appropriate methods such as surveys and feedback from Students, Parents and TY Teachers. Results of and recommendations from such evaluations will be utilised in planning future TY programmes.

TY ADMISSION PROCEDURES

1. An information evening for Parents and students and information seminars for Junior Cert (3rd Year) students are held in the academic year prior to the year of entry.
2. Following the information presentation, students and parents are asked to select a programme preference using an electronic form.
3. An electronic Transition Year Application Form is made available to interested students by the TY Co-Ordinator.
4. Completed Application Forms must be submitted to the TY Co-Ordinator by the Closing Date specified. (Late applications may not be considered.) Acceptance of the completed application form does not confirm or imply an expectation of being offered a place on the programme.

5. External applicants must follow the School Admissions and Participatory Policy. If the student has been accepted to the school and wishes to enrol in the TY programme they may subsequently follow the TY application process for admission to 4th year.
6. The TY Co-Ordinator will consult members of the Teaching Staff and Senior Management with respect to the TY Application List.
7. A TY Selection Committee will be established annually comprising TY Co-Ordinator, Year Head (3rd Yr.), Learning Support Coordinator, Guidance Counsellor, HSCL, Deputy Principal/Principal.

The following criteria will help ascertain suitability for the Programme:

- Level of interest displayed by the student on the application form.
- Willingness to participate fully in all elements of the TY Programme.
- An assessment of the student's competence and value to be derived from participation in key elements of the TY programme.
- Assessment of the contribution the applicant can make to the TY Programme.
- The applicant's age and/or pastoral care needs as communicated by the Year Head, HSCL, Guidance Counsellor and/or other professionals in the school.

The following criteria will be applied when assessing the applications.

CRITERIA	MARKS
Application Form	70
Personal Achievements to Date	10
Overall Suitability	20
Total	100

An Applicant must achieve an overall Score of 50 or greater in order to be offered a Provisional Place on the Programme.

NOTE:

Parents/Guardians may appeal the decision of the Selection Committee to the Board of Management.

7. In the case where a student does not achieve a score of 50 the TY coordinator will convene a meeting with the selection committee to review the process for such students.

Following final selection by the Selection Committee, successful candidates will be offered a Place on the Programme and their parents/guardians will be informed by letter-

8. The maximum number of students to be admitted to TY is 72 (this is agreed annually at the first Board of Management meeting).

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed on a bi-annual basis.