

COMERAGH COLLEGE TRANSITION YEAR POLICY

Mission

At Comeragh College we aim to provide a quality education for life in an innovative responsive and caring learning environment. In our school, students can attain the highest standards of excellence, academically and in all other aspects of their school activities.

Overall Aims for the Transition Year Program

The following aims are interrelated and interdependent and are reflected throughout the program

1. Education for maturity with the emphasis on personal development including social awareness and increased social competence.

1. The promotion of general, technological 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.

4. To develop their sense of community and to recognize the role they play in making the world a better place.

5. To assist students to develop their collaborative and team- work skills.

The Transition Year Programme at Comeragh College is not compulsory. The maximum number of available places will be dependent upon staffing, facilities and resources and will be determined annually by the Principal.

Student Support Team (SST)

The Transition Year Programme in Comeragh College is under the guidance of the SST. This team will be responsible for assessing applications and offering places. This team considers all applications and their suitability.

Application Procedures

The SST team will consider the following:

the suitability of the student for the programme and the suitability of the programme for the student.

Stages of the annual application process

1. Parents are invited to an information session on Transition Year as part of the Senior Cycle Options Evening.
2. Application forms for the programme are made available with a deadline clearly indicated for return of same to TY Co-Ordinator. A specific time frame is set for return of this application form (14 school days excluding the date of the meeting).
3. All students must attend an interview to help determine their suitability for the programme.
4. Students will be notified in due course as to the outcome of their application.
5. In the case of a student who is not offered a place by SST team, an appeal may be made in writing to the Principal within 10 school days of the date on which places were offered.
6. Transition Year fees to be paid three months prior to the start of the TY school year. Parents contact the School Principal if you have any concerns around this deadline.
- 7 Once a place has been allocated and accepted, it is non-transferable.

Assessment

Comeragh College will employ a range of assessment strategies to enhance the student's confidence in their abilities to succeed in a variety of activities while recognizing their learning styles and own educational needs.

Comeragh College Transition Year Programme uses a positive approach to assessment in ways such as:

- 1) Assessment for learning
- 2) Formative Assessment
- 3) Collaborative Assessment
- 4) Peer Assessment
- 5) Self-Assessment
- 6) Project Assessment
- 7) Assessments through Interviews; 2 per year.
- 8) Reflective Journal

Evaluation plays a significant role in the development and success of the Transition Year Programme. It is vital to include all stakeholders in the evaluation process i.e., students, teachers, whole staff and parents so that a sense of ownership and interest is developed and maintained.

Subject provision/availability is subject to change dependent on staffing and staffing allocation.

Core Subjects: Irish, English, Maths, PE, Religion,

Optional Subjects: there are a full range of option subjects available and students choose their options on entry to TY. Students choose subject prior to beginning the year after a meeting with Guidance Counsellors and discussions with teachers about different subject areas. Even if students are not sure of what career path they want at this stage, they are very aware of what subjects they like and dislike. Remember, they will have experienced them over the course of the previous three years. Ultimately, we want students to choose subject they enjoy as this will lead them into careers

they will enjoy. What better way to spend your working life but doing work that you enjoy every day?

Modules: These are non-exam subjects and offer an alternative from the traditional academic subjects. Modules vary from year to year with staff introducing new innovations all the time. Modules can include subjects such as Car Maintenance, First Aid, Geology, Mini Company, etc. They give students the opportunity to work as part of teams, practice their organisational skills, increase confidence etc.

Careers: There is a strong focus on careers in Transition Year. Students get the opportunity to attend College open days, careers exhibitions and so on. They also have work experience one day per week for the duration of the School Year. This will involve each student securing 3 different work placements and spending 11 weeks in each placement. A Career Guidance Class will take place weekly.


Additional Activities: Other activities to take place in TY may include Young Scientist, Mini Companies, Model United Nations Conference, Young Social Innovator, Future Leaders, Junk Kouture. Fun activities are also built into the year with trips to adventure centres, outdoor pursuits etc.

Policy Reviewed

Signed: 

Chairperson to the Board

Date: _____



~~Principal~~ Sen

Date: 27/5/2020

Date of next review: TBC