

Transition Year Policy



Coláiste Phádraig - Transition Year Programme

2024/2025

Coláiste Phádraig Lucan, Transition Year Policy

Subject to ongoing updating and annual review.

Tell me and I forget.
Teach me and I may remember.
Involve me and I learn

Benjamin Franklin

Transition Year Policy

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Coláiste Phádraig

Roselawn, Ballydowd, Lucan

School Management

The Board of Management of Coláiste Phádraig is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

Coláiste Phádraig Lucan is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the Trusteeship and the Patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. The School is grant aided by the Department of Education & Skills and is a single sex (boys) school.

Inspired by its founder, Coláiste Phádraig, Lucan aims to provide Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition. The school endeavours to be a caring Christian Community which promotes to the best of its ability the personal, spiritual, physical and intellectual development of its students.

Ethos

As an Edmund Rice School, Coláiste Phádraig Lucan seeks to promote the five key elements of an Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values
- Promoting partnership in the school community
- Excelling in teaching and learning
- Creating a caring school community
- Inspiring transformational leadership.

Introduction

It is with great pleasure that we present this Transition Year Programme. Coláiste Phádraig Lucan has successfully run the Transition Year Programme for a number of years as a non-compulsory, one year programme which facilitates students to experience a smooth transition to the Leaving Certificate Programme and beyond. It has been designed by our teaching staff and has been updated and redesigned regularly to cater for our student's needs.

Our Transition Year Programme provides our students with the opportunity to get a broad educational experience, away from the pressure of formal examinations with a view to increasing maturity before proceeding to the Senior Cycle. The programme consists of a variety of subjects; in an effort to facilitate our students to sample these subjects and to make informed choices for their future study. Work experience and community service are an integral part of our programme. Students are encouraged to choose placements suited to their career and personal ambitions. The programme also facilitates the involvement of students in additional modular work as well as a number of planned events which can vary from year to year.

It is hoped that students will, during this year, take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision-making and develop a range of critical thinking and problem solving skills. Transition Year will provide an opportunity for students to reflect on and develop an awareness of the value of education and training in preparing for the ever-changing demands of the adult world of work and relationships.

The Coláiste Phádraig Lucan Transition Year Programme is committed to the holistic education of its student population. The programme is devised to improve student's self-confidence, communication skills and interpersonal skills. As well as providing a wide range of educational subject areas, the school is very committed to affording each student the opportunity to prepare for further education and the world of work. In addition, all students are actively encouraged to participate in all elements of the Programme, including the Young Scientist of the Year Exhibition, Gaisce and the weekly activities offered by the school. Strong links have been developed and nurtured with community, voluntary, sporting and statutory organisations.

The programme is constantly evolving and developing in keeping with the changing world around us. We have taken great care in drawing up our Programme to include sufficient content to provide our students with varied learning experiences. Subject departments are encouraged to evaluate their subjects and make changes to ensure they are relevant to the needs of the students. Students are also encouraged to evaluate the programme during the year.

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Students will be assessed throughout the year in a variety of ways, including written examination, oral presentations, aural assessments, project and practical task assessments. Sample assessment templates are distributed to teachers for use and also to students for self-assessment. Students on the Transition Year Programme will be closely monitored and a report will be sent to all parents twice yearly. School and external agency certification will be awarded to all students who complete the Programme.

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Principal

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Transition Year Coordinator

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Programme Co-ordinator

Coláiste Phádraig Lucan Mission Statement

Coláiste Phádraig is a voluntary secondary school under the trusteeship of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (E.R.S.T.) and provides education in the Edmund Rice tradition.

Coláiste Phádraig aims to encourage the development of the spiritual, moral, intellectual, social, creative and physical qualities of each student.

This school is made up of Trustees, Board of Management, Principal, Deputy Principal, Year Heads, Teaching staff, Ancillary staff, parents and students. The central purpose of the school is the religious, moral, intellectual, physical and social development of the students. Such a purpose is best achieved in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

Transition Year Selection procedures

All third year students may apply for Transition Year in Coláiste Phádraig. During the month of February the coordinator and students make presentations to third year students about the programme. The parents of third year students are invited to an information session on Transition Year in February. All third year students are given an application form and advised of the date for final application. At the moment, we offer 90 places on our programme and this is reviewed on an annual basis. Should the Transition Year Programme be over-subscribed, a lottery will take place. A numbered waiting list will be compiled for the students who are unsuccessful in the lottery should a place become available, the next student on the waiting list be accepted on the programme (refer to the Transition Year Admissions Policy). It is the school policy to facilitate as many students as possible who wish to pursue the Transition Year Programme. The provision of Transition Year class groupings is reviewed on an annual basis with management.

General Aim of the Transition Year Programme

“Transition Year Programmes are intended to facilitate the integrated development of the intellectual, emotional, spiritual, physical, social and vocational capabilities of each individual student through structured learning experiences. The general aim of Transition Year is the preparation of young people for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society”

(Guidelines for Transition Year)

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Coláiste Phádraig Lucan aims for Transition Year

The Coláiste Phádraig Lucan Transition Year curriculum is one that will :

Provide students with opportunities to develop their personal, intellectual, spiritual, social, physical and emotional life in a caring, stimulating and varied learning environment.

Provide a transition between Junior and Senior cycles.

Encourage students to achieve their potential in subject areas and learning experiences within the programme.

Provide a broad and balanced curriculum including the provision of additional support in the core subjects where possible.

Provide students with opportunities for personal and social development

Help students to discover their inherent talents, skills and to foster a spirit of leadership amongst the cohort.

Facilitate students in making better informed subject choices for Senior Cycle.

Assist students in taking greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making

Prepare students for the world of work, further education and life-long learning

Provide students with the support and skills necessary to grow in self-confidence and to develop a range of interpersonal and communication skills.

Foster the student's personal growth, development and confidence.

To develop the social skills of the student

To engage in preparation for an active and healthy life

To foster an appreciation of culture, aesthetics and the arts

To celebrate the religions and spiritual side of each individual

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OBJECTIVES OF THE COURSE

To encourage the student to become an active and responsible citizen and member of his local community

To enable the student to better appreciate and cope with the academic demands of Senior Cycle

To prepare the student for the world of work

To provide opportunities for enterprise and decision making

To encourage each student to become more responsible for his learning

To promote positive relationships amongst everyone involved in Transition Year

TRANSITION YEAR OPPORTUNITIES

Make informed choices about Leaving Certificate subjects

Develop a variety of new skills

Learn more about the working world through work experience

Take part in outdoor pursuits

Learn about working as part of a team

Undertake projects on various topics

Practice meeting deadlines for assignments

Become a more independent learner

Develop more understanding and confidence in yourself as a person

Learn about leadership, cooperation and dealing with conflict

Learn through meeting people beyond the classroom

Awareness of social issues

Discover more about your own personal strengths and what you are good at

Discover more about jobs and career opportunities

Enhance ICT skills

Become a more mature person

Add a valuable set of experiences to your Curriculum Vitae

Sample and discover new subjects

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Transition Year Induction

In August, the Transition Year students spend a morning with the Programme Coordinator, TY Coordinator and class tutors exploring the Transition Year Programme. This also includes the tutors outlining what is expected of them and encouraging the students to get involved in all aspects of the programme. Activities during the beginning of the first term include team building exercises, e.g. Carlingford Adventure Centre and Bubbleball, to equip students with the necessary skills to embrace the Transition Year Programme.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Active and learner focused

Teacher as facilitator

Collaborative learning

Group and peer work

Role play

Project work

Out of school activities

Visiting speakers

Practical work

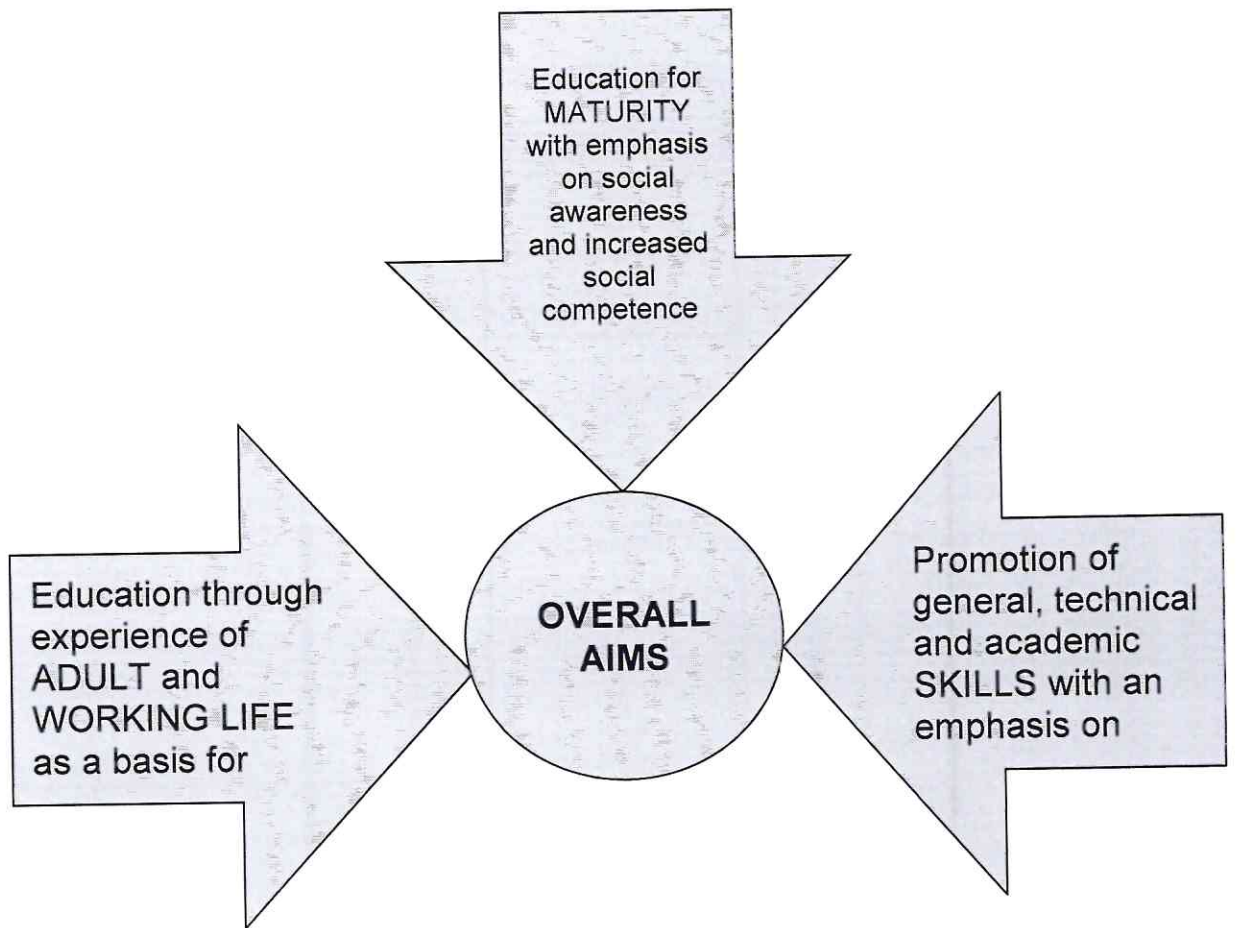
Teamwork

Thinking based

Technology based

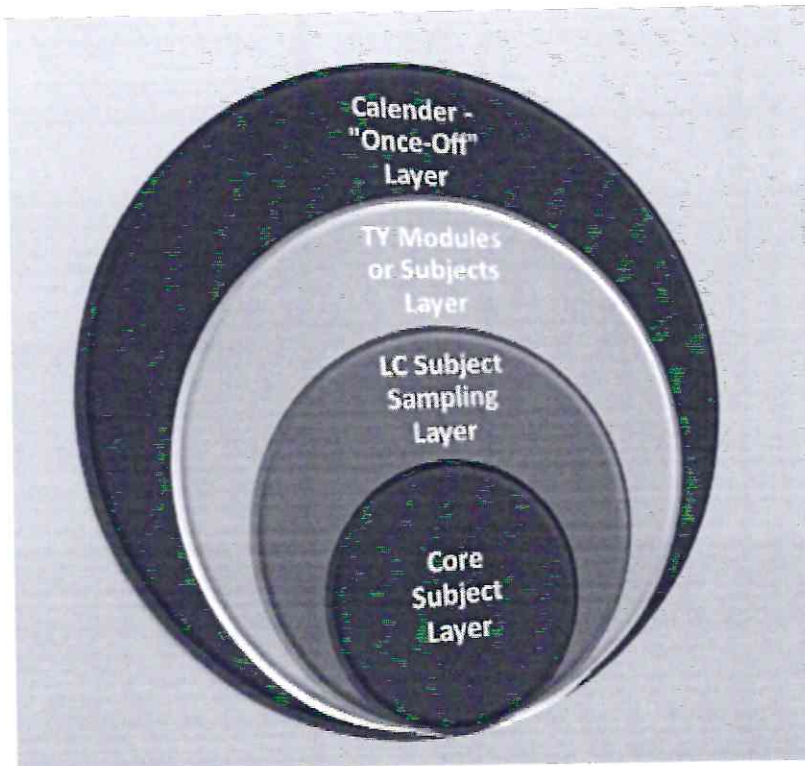
Self reflection

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The Transition Year Programme will offer the following subject areas:



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CORE SUBJECTS

Gaeilge

English

Mathematics

French/German/Spanish

Business Studies/ Enterprise Education

Coding/Computer Science

Guidance / Work Experience

Geography

Physical Education

Religion

History

Art

Mentoring

Drama

Performing Arts

MODULES - (Transition Year specific)

GAA / Football Coaching

Engineering

Horticulture

Design Communications Graphics

Sign language

Politics

Music

Strength and Conditioning

Driver Theory

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Subject Sampling

Transition Year gives the students an opportunity to sample Fifth Year subjects before subject choices are made for the Senior Cycle. In the core subjects of Mathematics, English, Irish and languages, the emphasis is on numeracy and literacy themes with exploration of elements of the Leaving Certificate syllabus as well as in depth review of Junior Cycle learning.

Science subject sampling of the three main science subjects - Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

Business subject sampling of Economics, Accounting and Business

History and Geography.

Engineering and Art and DCG modules allows students who have never studied these subjects at Junior Level, to sample the curriculum and make an informed decision when choosing at Leaving Certificate

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Calendar of events - Transition Year specific events

Gaisce Bronze Award (September to May)

Enterprise Education (September to March)

Work Experience - two weeks early December, one week in April

Pieta House Darkness into Light in May

Accord Relationships and Sexuality Course

Optional Ski tour February midterm.

Community work - one day term 1 and one day term 3

BT Young Scientist and Scifest are ongoing throughout the year

Organisation of Talent Show Term 1

Maintaining of School Garden

End of Year Performance - Term 3

Hospitality Course certified

First Aid course certified

Organisation of football blitz for all Year groups

Carlingford Adventure Centre

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We have timetabled activities for Transition Year students every Wednesday throughout the year. The timetabled activities ensure that the time allocated to the Transition Year curriculum is preserved. All activities are posted on Google classroom. Students are briefed weekly on the activity. The activities are reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Examples of Transition Year activities 2019 to 2022

Golf

Hike Bray to Greystones

Go Kart

Awesome walls

Bowling

Ice skating

1916 walk of Dublin

Mountain biking

Tayto Park

Zip it

Dublin Zoo

Go quest

Visit to National University of Ireland Maynooth

Driver Safety

Reptile Zoo visit

Dublin Zoo

GAA museum

Glasnevin Cemetery

Paintballing

Street Art tour of Dublin

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Work Experience

What exactly is work experience?

This is an opportunity to provide students with 'hands on' experience of real working conditions in a local place of work. Employers take our students into their workplace to enable them to work, usually unpaid, in a busy environment with others. Each student gets practical experience of a variety of jobs and situations. Many of our students have gained part-time positions in the companies where they secured their work experience.

The aim of the work experience programme.

- To gain real experience of the world of work.
- To learn new skills and to recognise the qualities valued by employers.
- To develop social skills such as taking responsibility, punctuality and teamwork.
- To provide an insight into career prospects.
- To conform to the day-to-day pressures of work.
- To appreciate employers' needs and expectations.
- To give greater clarity and meaning to school and class work.

Where and when does the work take place?

Students are obliged to find their own work experience placement in their local area for 2 weeks at the end of November. Jobs must be of a safe and satisfactory nature, during day hours and be a genuinely new experience. A second, distinctly different job must be found for the second period of work experience in March/April for one week.

An interdisciplinary approach.

Subjects that will help in preparing the student for his work experience include Career Guidance, Business and English.

Administration and Evaluation

Students are provided with cover letters and insurance letters early in the term to help them secure their work experience. The efficacy of the work experience will be assessed with reports from the employers. Students will prepare a PowerPoint presentation based on their work experience and they will present this to the class. We have found this debriefing to be a very beneficial and worthwhile learning experience.

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Assessment and Certification

Assessment in Transition Year is in keeping with the overall school policy on assessment. There is an emphasis on both assessment for learning and assessment of learning within the programme. A variety of models of assessment are chosen to complement the variety of approaches used in implementing the programme. Homework is a regular feature of all courses in Transition Year. It forms part of the process of assessment for learning and can count towards the students' final assessment. Individual teachers use a variety of modes including continuous assessment, written, practical, oral and aural assessment, assess student performance and assessment of learning in each course. Project work is an important feature of the assessment process in the programme. Project work and project deadlines are staggered throughout the year. Student portfolios are also part of the assessment process. Students are also encouraged to reflect on their learning throughout the year. Summative assessment of student performance in Transition Year takes the form of twice yearly TY reports to parents/guardians.

Students are awarded certificates in many courses accredited internally by individual teachers and externally by outside agencies. The school awards various certificates of participation for involvement in and completion of various modules. Teachers award their grade in student reports according to the following criteria: attendance, participation and assessment. All students who successfully complete TY are presented with a certificate of completion. All students exhibit their individual work as part of the annual TY graduation. A 'TY Student of the Year' perpetual trophy is awarded to the student whom staff feels has made the most progress throughout the year and embraced the opportunities afforded to him in TY. Subject awards are presented also at the graduation night too.

Students sit formal exams at Christmas and Summer in the following subjects:

- English
- Irish
- Maths
- Foreign Language

Communication with Students

Communication with students regarding activities is all done via Google classroom. There is constant contact between students and their Tutors, TY coordinators and Programme coordinator.

Communication with Parents

Communication with parents is done via the school app. There is also an annual parent/teacher meeting. Parents are also invited to an annual information night in advance of applying for a place in TY. Academic Reports are also sent home to Parents At Christmas and Summer.

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Health and Safety

Students are accompanied on all trips by at least two teachers. Private coaches are provided to transport students but sometimes public transport can be accessed. Bus routes and directions are pre-planned in advance of activities. When required an SNA will accompany our students with SEN.

Evaluation

The TY leadership group will discuss any problems that arise in the course of the year and will try to find solutions to these problems. They will also consider changes that need to be made to the programme for the coming year. Parents and students will be surveyed at the end of each year to assess the programme also. Each year the coordinator and principal will review the TY timetable, selection criteria, subject choice, financing and overall management of the programme. Regular meetings of the TY teachers will discuss any issues arising during the year. Agreed changes will be presented to the principal, the whole staff and, where appropriate, to the Board of Management. Whole school staff meetings will review aspects of the TY programme as appropriate.

Links with outside agencies

Our Transition Year could not survive without links with various outside agencies. We depend on the employers in local areas to provide work experience and our Wednesday trips are organised with external organisations.

These agencies include:

- Accord
- Driver Safety
- Garda Siochana
- Alcoholics Anonymous
- Gamblers Anonymous
- Pieta House
- SDCC
- Carlingford Adventure Centre
- Bubble Ball Celbridge
- James Mullally Coaches
- Liffey Valley Par 3
- Zip-It
- Lucan Primary Schools
- Gaisce
- Dublin Zoo
- Science Gallery
- 1916 Walking Tour

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- Lucan Tidy Towns
- Esker Boxing Club
- Biking.ie
- BT Young Scientist
- Scifest

Transition Year Organisational Details

Core Team Members:

- Transition Year Coordinator: Eoin Dunne
- Programme Coordinator: Gail Hunt
- Guidance Counsellor: Gail Hunt

Cost of Transition Year

The cost of the TY programme in Coláiste Phádraig is €600. This cost covers all activities for the year. It also covers any entry fees to national competitions. The €150 cost for the trip to Carlingford is also included. The parents are required to pay a €300 deposit on acceptance (usually March) of their place with the balance to be paid during the last month of term in May. The booklist for TY is kept to a minimum and the school provides books for most subjects. Teachers design their modules to provide all resources required for their subject areas.

Literacy and Numeracy

Transition Year students through individual subject and curricular modules are given the opportunity to enhance and develop their numeracy and literacy skills. The TY curriculum gives both students and teachers opportunities to enrich these essential skills.

Students with SEN

Students do not have formal hours allocated during TY as we embrace inclusion. We have found that the TY programme is very popular with students with SEN. We have found that their self-esteem and self-actualisation needs are developed throughout the year. They become more confident in their own abilities and in their social development. The leadership team discusses any IEPs with the SEN department at the beginning of the year. Coláiste Phádraig operates a mixed ability policy which is maintained throughout TY. The TY programme aims to challenge and affirm the full spectrum of abilities of participating students. In some cases this means specific activities targeted at students with particular learning needs. We create activities both

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inside and outside the classroom which allow positive and meaningful learning experiences for a full ability range. Individual cases which have been identified as requiring special learning support continue to be monitored to ensure ongoing progress. Over the years we have been happy to note how many of the modules in TY that are particularly constructive in building self confidence among those with special educational needs. In particular we have noted that the teamwork involved in social work, adventure sports etc. have affirmed students who have special needs due to academic, personal or family challenges.

CPD

Management facilitates any CPD that the TY team wishes to attend.

Approval

This policy has been approved by the Coláiste Phádraig Lucan Board of Management.

Signed: Mary Edel Ryan

Chairperson, Board of Management

Date: 18/01/24