

learning. In addition, the programme aims to provide students with the skills and support necessary to discover their individual talents, aptitudes and abilities with a view to making decisions to meet their future educational and vocational needs. The programme also provides opportunity for students to develop the skills and competencies necessary to cope successfully with their own particular stages of development.



Students wishing to opt for TY are required to apply formally by completing an application form. When applications are considered due regard is given to each student's record of participation and performance in school to assess his/her suitability for the programme.

The TY curriculum varies somewhat from year to year. Each programme is unique. A typical programme might include subjects such as English, Irish, mathematics, French, geography, history, religious education, physical education, physics, chemistry, biology, business, economics, accounting, food hygiene, Spanish, information technology, music, drama, art, political studies and public speaking. In addition to timetabled lessons each programme additionally includes non-classroom-based activities such as Community Action, work experience, exchange programmes, and outdoor pursuits.

There is no state examination or certification on completion of the TY programme. Certification is school based. Students sit written tests in core subjects at the end of the first and third terms. A variety of other forms of assessment is also used. This includes grading of projects, presentations, interviews, portfolios, employer/supervisor reports for work experience and Community Action, attendance and punctuality records, and student self-assessment.

Sports

Ashton School's fine sporting traditions stretch back over many years from its roots in the amalgamated schools: Rochelle School and Cork Grammar School. The schools fostered the development of many interprovincial and international players in a wide variety of sports.

Extra-curricular sport is an important element of school life in Ashton and students are encouraged to take part in the many sports that are available. The school's main sport is hockey. Other sports include soccer, athletics, badminton, and tennis. Many students take part in sporting activities outside the school and if they wish to enter in inter-school competitions the school is pleased and willing to facilitate them.



After-School Study

An after-school programme of supervised study is offered to all students as an optional extra. Charges apply.

Activities

While high academic achievement is the primary aim for each student, the importance of breath and balance in each student's education is well recognised and included in the school's mission statement. Students get the opportunity to participate in many other activities organised annually. The activities organised typically include weekly whole-school assemblies, an annual open day, an annual prize-giving ceremony, charity fundraising, an annual sponsored charity walk, Seachtain na Gaeilge events, the Irish Schoolboys' Hockey Championship, and an annual sports awards ceremony to name but a few.

An Introduction to

Ashton School

a Church of Ireland
Post-Primary School in the Diocese
of Cork, Cloyne and Ross



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Activities



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Ethos Statement

Ashton Comprehensive School Cork is a Church of Ireland co-educational school under the joint patronage of the Church of Ireland Bishop of Cork and the Cork Education and Training Board. Ashton School serves not only the Protestant community in Cork, but also in a rapidly changing and pluralist society, is committed to the ecumenical developments of our time and in an inclusive spirit of openness and multi-denominational service endeavours to serve many in the entire local community. The school seeks to provide a Christian environment in which students find encouragement to develop spiritual and moral values, personal and social skills and the highest standards of excellence of which they are capable in all aspects of their school activities. We recognise the complementary roles of parents and teachers in educating the young and, in partnership, we pursue the common aim of educating our students according to Christian principles. As a Comprehensive School, Ashton School is committed to catering for children of all abilities and of multiple intelligences through the provision of a range of subjects across a broad curriculum. Tuition in Ashton School is free: teachers are employed by the Board of Management, and their salaries are paid by the Department of Education and Skills. Parents are expected to provide books and uniform. Assistance with the provision of books and uniform is available in cases of need. Ashton Comprehensive School was founded in 1972 following the interim establishment of the Cork Grammar and Rochelle School as a result of the amalgamation of two noted and established Protestant schools: Cork Grammar School and Rochelle School. Cork Grammar School itself incorporated the former High School. These schools were previously operated under the aegis of the Incorporated Society for Promoting Protestant Schools in Ireland. In 2011 the Board of Management was enlarged to include parents and teachers, and the City of Cork V.E.C. became a co-patron, with the Bishop, of the school.

This Ethos Statement has been prepared by the joint patrons of the School in pursuance of Section 15 2 (b) of the *Education Act, 1998* and endorsed by the Board of Management.

Mission Statement

Ashton School promotes personal achievement through a broad and balanced education. "The Best" is demanded of and expected for each student. Ashton School operates on the philosophy that students perform best in an environment in which they feel valued. All students are treated as individuals with unique strengths. The philosophy of the school demands high standards of work, personal behaviour and respect of self and of



The Right Reverend
Dr Paul Colton, Bishop of
Cork, Cloyne and Ross



Ms Anne Marie Hewison
Deputy Principal



others. The comprehensive range of subjects provide the opportunity, within the resources available, for all students to achieve their potential within their range of abilities. The motivation for excellence is fostered and the breadth of curriculum provides opportunities to excel in many subject areas. The conviction that a happy, well-adjusted, student is the student best prepared and motivated to respond to the challenges and demands, not only of an academic curriculum, but also of life itself, is underpinned by an established Personal & Health Education Programme. Care has been taken to develop procedures and guidelines to deal with discipline and sensitive areas which may affect some students. A comprehensive extra-curricular programme of sport and other activities is provided within the school. These develop the self-esteem of the many students involved and generally promote positive attitudes both at individual and group level. Ashton School strives to create a caring, Christian, environment within which all students can develop and fulfil their unique and diverse talents.

Curriculum

Ashton School as a comprehensive school offers students a wide range of academic and practical subjects. In first year students sample optional subjects for eight weeks during the first term. Students then choose the optional subjects that they will take for the junior cycle programme. Achievement in core and optional subjects will be reported on their Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement after completing third year. Ashton School offers a long-established Transition Year programme which is optional but strongly recommended for most students. It is a year during which students participate in a programme of academic work in parallel with activities which encourage personal development and maturity. Fifth and sixth year are the senior cycle preparatory years for the Leaving Certificate examination.



Junior Cycle

Core subjects: English, Irish, French/German, history, geography, mathematics, physical education, religious education, science, social, personal and health education (SPHE) and civic, social and political education (CSPE). Option subjects: art, business studies, home economics, metalwork, music, technical graphics and woodwork. The Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement is awarded after completing third year.



Senior Cycle

Core subjects: English, Irish, mathematics, physical education, religious education, guidance and social, personal and health education (SPHE). Option subjects: accounting, art, biology, business, chemistry, construction studies, design and communication graphics (DCG), economics, engineering, French, geography, German, history, home economics, physics and Spanish. The Leaving Certificate examination is taken after completing sixth year.

Transition Year

Transition Year (TY) has been an exciting feature of Ashton School life since 1986. After three decades Ashton School boasts a highly-developed TY programme and remains convinced of the value of the TY programme in achieving the school's mission. While maintaining a discipline of study and work, the Transition Year programme allows students the opportunity to pursue academic and non-academic topics of educational value for which there is little or no time in the junior or senior cycle programmes. The main aims of the TY programme are to promote maturity and encourage independent



Mr Adrian Landen, Principal