

Transition Year Policy

Ashton School offers Transition Year (TY) as an optional one-year programme following the Junior Cycle. The maximum number of places will be dependent upon staffing, facilities and resources and will be determined annually by the Principal.

Aims

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

Application Process

- For students currently enrolled in Ashton School, applications for admission to TY is made via the Senior Cycle application form.
- Application forms will be made available to current third year students.
- Students will apply for a place on the formal application form witnessed by their parents(s)/guardian(s). A personal statement must accompany each application.
- Applications will be considered valid only if they are fully completed and submitted to the school office by the specified deadline.
- Receipt of an application form does not confirm or imply an expectation of a place on the programme.

Selection Process

The TY Admissions Committee will be responsible for assessing applications and offering places. The committee will comprise of Year Head, Programme Coordinator, Deputy Principal and Principal, or a nominee of the Principal to replace one of the above who may be unavailable.

Members of the teaching staff will be advised of the list of applicants and will be invited to offer professional advice and judgement in writing to the TY Admissions Committee.

The criteria to be taken into consideration in this selection process will include (but not limited to):

- Behaviour
- Attendance
- Punctuality
- Proven engagement with all aspects of school life, inside and outside the classroom.
- School assessment of the ability of a student to work as part of a group
- The assessment of the student's competence and value to be derived from participation in key elements of the TY programme.
- For acceptance onto the TY programme, the school must be of the opinion that a student is capable of benefiting from participation in TY and equally that his/her participation will not prevent

any other student(s) from benefiting from participation or adversely affect the reputation of the School or the programme.

The criteria outlined above, the application form, the personal statement and the professional advice and judgement of the teaching staff will be critical factors in determining a student's admission to the TY programme.

The TY Admissions Committee or its representatives reserve the right to interview students and their parents in relation to their application and their suitability for participation.

Students and parents will be informed in writing of the outcome of the TY application process. Where a student fails to secure a place on the Programme the decision may be appealed to the Board of Management by writing to the Secretary of the Board. Students who are unsuccessful in securing places on the Programme will be assigned places in fifth year.

The school reserves the right to remove a student from the Programme and assign them a place in fifth year if their engagement in the curriculum is unsatisfactory. This includes, but is not limited to unsatisfactory participation in the work experience programme, curricular and extracurricular activities.

External applications

Any applicant to transfer to Ashton School from another school will be considered strictly under the terms of the school's Admission Policy in relation to such transfers.

Charges

Charges will apply for elements of the Programme not provided by the Department of Education and Skills.