



Transition Year Policy 2022/23

BALLYMAKENNY COLLEGE OFFERS TRANSITION YEAR AS AN OPTIONAL ONE-YEAR PROGRAMME, POST JUNIOR CYCLE.

The aims of the Transition Year 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.

WHO IS TRANSITION YEAR FOR?

- Students with a genuine interest in tasting a whole range of subjects that will help in choosing senior cycle subjects and a career area.
- Students who want to become better equipped to cope with the self-reliant learning required in third level education.
- Students who want the challenge of work experience and the leadership opportunities that exist in Transition Year.
- Students who are self-motivated, positive and willing to work hard.

SHORT TERM GOALS:

- Broad educational experience that encourages self-confidence and responsibility.
- Develop communication and decision making skills.
- Work experience two times a year provides students with job responsibilities.
- Helps students choose 5th Year subjects, and provides an extra year to mature and develop.

LONG TERM GOALS:

- TY students have been shown in studies (ESRI) to perform better in their Leaving Certificate examinations.
- Students who do Transition Year are better equipped for Third Level.

- TY students are less likely to drop out at the end of first year in college.
- TY students are encouraged to develop independent learning and study skills.
- They have a more informed approach to eventually choosing a career area.
- They develop interpersonal skills to become part of a team in a workplace.

OPPORTUNITIES:

- There are many trips and educational events in TY.
- Students receive certification that adds value to their CV.
- Students have a great opportunity to take part in extra-curricular activities
- There are many opportunities for leadership and organisational experiences and training.

PROCEDURES:

- Application for admission to Transition Year is open to all students in Third Year and is made via the *Application Form for Transition Year*.
- Acceptance of the application form does not confirm or imply an expectation of a place on the programme.
- A closing date will be indicated on the application form and late applications may not be considered.
- Priority will be given to existing Third Year students in Ballymakenny College over external applicants.
- External applicants must in the first instance complete an official Application Form for admission to the school in accordance with the Ballymakenny College Transfer Enrolment Policy.

The maximum number of places available in each Transition Year Class in the programme group is determined by the Board of Management.

The total number of students that can be accommodated in Transition Year 2022/23 has been set by the Board of Management of Ballymakenny College at 125 students.

THE TRANSITION YEAR ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE:

The T.Y. Admissions Committee will be responsible for assessing applications and offering places. The committee will comprise of Aidan Cassidy (Programme Coordinator), Mike Lyons (Deputy Principal), Alan Mynes (Principal) and an independent member(s) nominated by the Board of Management. The Admissions Committee will comprise the basis of the Student Interview Board(s) in the case of any interviews.

The principal may in consultation with the Chairperson nominate a person to replace one of the above, who may be unavailable due to illness or other circumstances.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

A meeting of Third Year parents is convened at which the concept of Transition Year is explained. During this meeting, the parents are informed of the application and selection process for Transition Year in Ballymakenny College.

Application for admission to Transition Year is open to all students in Third Year and is made via the *Application Form for Transition Year*.

All prospective TY students must meet the points outlined below to be considered for a place in Transition Year:

1. The student must complete all sections on the application form for Transition Year and return it (by post or in-person) to the main office in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with the student's name and class to be received on or before the deadline date. Applications will be date stamped as submitted to the main office.
2. The student must have signed the Student Contract and returned it with the application form.

SELECTION PROCESS:

The TY Admissions Committee will be responsible for assessing all applications and offering places.

In the event that there are more completed applications than places available, places will be offered or added to a waiting list by way of a lottery of completed applications received by the deadline date.

Any applications received after the deadline will be added to the end of the waitlist in the order received by the main office.

The TY Admission Committee reserve the right to interview students in relation to their application and suitability for participation in Transition Year if there is concern over attendance and/or behaviour.

The TY Admission Committee reserve the right to refuse entry into the Transition Year Programme if there is concern over attendance and/or behaviour irrespective of the outcome of the lottery process. Student attendance and behaviour are critical in ensuring the integrity of the Transition Year programme.

Students and parents will be informed in writing of the outcome of the Transition Year application process.

A student who is offered a place in Transition Year and subsequently withdraws from the programme is advised that their application for subject options in 5th year will be placed after students who have submitted preferences

APPEALS:

A student who fails to secure a place in the Transition Year Programme may appeal the decision to the Principal in writing within seven days of receipt of notification.

In the case of a student who is not offered a place by the Principal on appeal, a subsequent appeal may be made in writing to the Board of Management within 10 school days of the date on which the Principal issues his written decision. The appeal will be heard by the Board of Management at its next scheduled meeting.

No additional/further information can be brought to the Appeals Process.

TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME:

The Transition Year Programme in Ballymakenny College has 5 key Components:

1. **Academic Core** – maintains academic standards in core subject areas.
2. **Picks**- allows students to focus on areas of special interest to them.
3. **Options** - allows students to experience a broad range of subjects from the Leaving Certificate Course.
4. **Portfolio Preparation and Interviews**
5. **Work Experience Programme** (2 block placements of 1 week duration)

All Students study Irish, English, Maths and a modern language, along with 2 specialisms as well as the other subjects listed above. Specialisms offered this year were Legal Studies, Childcare, Photography, Enterprise and Psychology. This list varies from year to year depending on demand and timetabling constraints.

TY students will go on a 2 night team bonding exercise usually during first term as well as 3 Shared Learning Days during the year. All TY Students are encouraged to participate in the Gaisce Awards Programme and apply themselves to leadership positions in the school. Throughout the year there are various guest speakers, workshops and modules related out of school trips and activities.

All Students must produce a *Portfolio of Work* which they are interviewed about at the middle and end of the year. Students also complete two 1 week work placements during the year.

WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME:

Each Student is assigned a Work Experience Teacher who will monitor their performance on Work Experience by contacting their Employer throughout the year. This means any on-going issues with Work Placement can be dealt with as they arise.

ASSESSMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS IN TRANSITION YEAR:

A number of modes of assessment and examination are used in TY.

In school based subjects, both continuous assessment and examinations are employed by teachers. In other areas e.g. the First Aid course, students are assessed by an outside body on their ability to perform certain First Aid tasks and receive a certificate if successful.

Students are expected to produce a portfolio of their work and are interviewed twice a year about it. They are monitored by both the work experience employer and the school when engaged in work experience. The school issues two reports, at Christmas and in June.

CONCLUSION:

Transition Year does not suit all Students. The Transition Year is an activity based self-directed programme, which entails learning both inside and outside the classroom. Students, who are self-motivated, can work hard and adapt well to new learning experiences gain most from the TY Programme. A good idea would be to speak to some Students who are currently in TY or completed the Programme about their experience of the TY Programme in the school. However when considering whether to do TY, one of the most significant benefits of TY is highlighted in a recent ERSI Report.

“Taking Transition Year has an impact on students’ academic outcomes, even taking account of initial differences between participants and non-participants. On average, students who take part in Transition Year achieve higher Leaving Certificate exam grades and are more likely to go on to higher education than non-participants.”

EXTERNAL APPLICATIONS:

Any application to transfer to Ballymakenny College from another school will be considered strictly under the terms of the school’s Enrolment Policy and the respective School Admissions Notice of Ballymakenny College.

Transfers into Transition Year 2022/23 and Fifth Year 2022/23 will only be considered in accordance with the School Admissions Notice of Ballymakenny College in respect of TY and Fifth Year Programmes.

FINANCIAL PLANNING FOR PAYMENT OF TRANSITION YEAR FEES:

The school makes every effort to subsidise costs and to keep student fees to a minimum. However, it is imperative that all school fees are paid for students participating in the Transition Year Programme.

The payment of school fees is essential for the school to meet the necessary running costs associated with all of the various activities and courses fundamental to the programme. The school fees for Transition Year are **€420 per student** and must be paid **in full by 1st September 2022. It will be possible to make payments in advance, once a place is offered, from April 2022.**