



Maths Policy

September 2025

Date for review:

September 2027

Signed: _____

Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: _____

Principal (Secretary to Board)

In Swords Community College, we strive to ensure that every student reaches their full potential in maths. To facilitate this, there is a department policy that enables every learner to be placed in a class that best supports their learning.

Junior Cycle

All maths classes in first year are taught at a common level. This allows each student time to adapt to maths at second level. This changes in second year as the work becomes more differentiated and exam focused. We encourage each student to challenge themselves and take the highest level possible. However, for some students, the pace and content at ordinary level will better suit their learning.

In order to meet the challenge of higher level maths for junior cycle, students must receive a merit (55%) or higher in their first year summer exam. Should the student receive lower than a merit, they can still attempt higher level, if their first year maths teacher advises. It is counterproductive for the student to continue to struggle with the higher level curriculum if they cannot meet this standard in first year.

Senior Cycle

For senior cycle, higher level is a challenging and content-heavy subject that requires consistent effort, resilience, and independent learning. The curriculum is extensive, and in order to ensure that all topics are thoroughly covered by the end of 6th Year, the teacher must follow a structured and timely scheme of work. Students must also take responsibility for their own learning by revising regularly, asking questions, and seeking support outside of class time if they are struggling.

In order to meet the challenge of higher level maths for senior cycle, students must reach the following standards. They must have taken the junior cycle maths exam at higher level, receiving a merit (55%) or higher. They must also receive a pass (40%) or higher in their 5th year higher level November exam. Should the student not reach these standards, they can still attempt higher level, if their maths teacher advises. It is counterproductive for the student to continue to struggle with the higher level curriculum if they cannot meet this standard.

Attendance and engagement are a huge factor in succeeding in maths at any level and will be considered when levels are being recommended. Teachers will also use their experience to recommend level changes as the year progresses.