



Welcome to Transition Year in Skerries Community College

Transition Year (TY) is a unique educational experience designed to support students in developing independence, confidence, responsibility and clarity about their future pathways.

Our TY programme for 2026–2027 has been carefully reviewed and redesigned in line with the Department of Education's Transition Year Programme Statement (2025). It has also been shaped by structured feedback from students and teachers following the 2025–2026 TY cohort.

TY is a purposeful year of growth, exploration and opportunity. It allows students to step back from the pressure of state examinations while engaging in meaningful learning experiences that support academic progress, personal development and preparation for Senior Cycle and beyond.

Student Voice and TY Theme

A key feature of our Transition Year Programme is the emphasis on student voice and reflection.

The TY Class of 2025–2026 identified their shared theme of “**Growth and Exploration – Fás agus Taiscéalaíocht**”, capturing the spirit of their TY experience and highlighting the importance of challenge, discovery and personal development.



Building on this, the TY Programme 2026–2027 encourages students to engage fully in their own TY journey and to reflect on the experiences that define their year. Students will be invited to consider and articulate a theme that reflects their own cohort identity as the year progresses.

This evolving theme supports a sense of ownership, reflection and shared experience within each TY year group.

Purpose of Transition Year

The aim of Transition Year is to support students to:

- Develop confidence, independence and maturity
- Build key skills for Senior Cycle, further education and life
- Explore new interests, subjects and career pathways
- Strengthen communication, collaboration and problem-solving skills
- Reflect on learning and personal development
- Become active, responsible and engaged young adults



TY is not a year off. It is a structured, active and purposeful learning programme.

Core Subjects

Students continue with a balanced academic programme including:

- English
- Mathematics
- Gaeilge
- Guidance
- SPHE
- Physical Education
- European language from Junior Cycle

Students who did not previously study a modern language will follow a Cultural Studies programme. Additional tuition will be in place for students exempt from Irish.

Students will continue to engage in assignments, projects, presentations and collaborative learning throughout the year.

Sample TY Micro-Modules

Throughout Transition Year, students will engage in a rotating programme of short modules designed to provide variety, choice and exposure to new learning experiences. These modules change approximately every seven weeks.

A sample of modules includes:

- Driver Theory
- Art & Creative Design
- Home Economics
- Science Modules
- Drama
- Project Management
- Advertisement Management
- LIFT Student Leadership
- TY Gym
- Design
- History
- Geography
- First Aid
- Restorative Practice
- Yoga / Tai Chi
- Dementia Education
- Polish (Language)



These modules are designed to help students explore new interests, develop practical skills and build confidence across a wide range of learning areas.

Year-Long Pathways (Student Choice)

Students will select one year-long pathway based on preference. These may include:

- Green Schools
- Mini Company
- Active Schools
- Photography
- Hockey Leadership
- Formula 1
- Sustainable Fashion
- Art

While student preference is central, allocations will be made to ensure balanced participation across programmes.

These pathways provide opportunities for leadership, teamwork, innovation and sustained project work.

Workshops

A variety of workshops have been planned.

Examples include:

- Eisht
- Barista Training
- DIY
- Bodhrán Making
- Sailing
- Poetry Slam
- Develop me
- Zumba
- Law Ed
- Golf

Additional educational programmes such as RCSI, Garda Síochána, STEPS engineering, Defence Forces, Solicitors of the future, Early University Entrance (EUE) are also available to students and participation will be facilitated.



In addition, several excursions are planned details of these will be confirmed in August.

TY Musical

All students participate in the TY Musical.

This is a major whole-school production involving performance, production, design, technical support and organisation.

Every student has a role to play, and it is a key part of the TY experience.

Work Experience

Students complete **two weeks of work experience** during TY.

This provides valuable insight into the world of work, supports career exploration and helps students make informed decisions about future pathways. Students are advised to begin looking for their placements as competition to find places has increased each year. Garda vetting requirements are often required by students prior to their placement, and this requires completion of paperwork. The process is time sensitive and students must ensure they complete all steps as required.

TY Portfolio (Assessment & Reflection)

Each student will maintain a **physical TY Portfolio folder** throughout the year.

The portfolio will include:

- Projects and assignments
- Certificates and evidence of achievement
- Work experience reports
- Documentation of activities
- Reflections on learning and development

Reflection is a key part of Transition Year learning. Students are supported to consider not only what they have done, but what they have learned and how they have grown as learners and individuals.

The portfolio, together with participation and engagement, forms part of TY assessment. It provides a meaningful record of progress, achievement and personal development throughout the year.



Attendance & Expectations

Full engagement is essential to a successful Transition Year experience.

- Minimum attendance required: **80%**
- Attendance forms part of TY assessment
- Students are expected to participate fully in all classes, modules, trips, projects and activities
- TY aims to promote a love of learning through an interesting and experiential programme-being in class, ready to try and getting involved is essential.

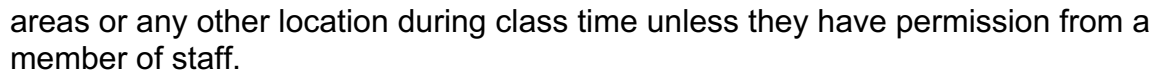
Assessment will reflect:

- Attendance
- Participation
- Engagement
- Completion of work
- Reflection and effort
- All students will be interviewed at the end of the year before final grade is decided.

Behaviour

Transition Year should be a positive experience for every student. Every student has the right to feel included, welcomed, respected and safe. Creating this environment is a shared responsibility, and all students are expected to adhere to the school's rules and meet the standards of behaviour expected of members of the school community.

- Transition Year is part of the school programme and all school rules always apply.
- TY students are expected to demonstrate a high standard of behaviour, maturity, responsibility and respect.
- Attend school every day, arrive on time and participate fully in classes and TY activities.
- When classes are timetabled, students must be in their assigned classroom or learning space and ready to engage. Students should not be in corridors, social



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Bí Cineálta Policy



✗ What Bullying Is

Bullying is repeated and deliberate behaviour that causes harm, carried out on purpose by one person or a group, in school or online.

Bullying can include:

 - Name calling or slandering
 - Leaving someone out on purpose
 - Sending someone notes or letters
 - Pushing, grabbing, or taking belongings
 - Sending hurtful texts, messages, or posts
 - Targeting someone because of who they are

Bullying is behaviour that is targeted, deliberate, and ongoing.



📢 If Bullying Happens

Tell someone you trust They will listen and help.

 - A teacher
 - Your Year Head or Tutor
 - Guidance Counsellor
 - Any trusted adult



👥 Everyone Has a Role in Stopping Bullying

 - See bullying? → Say it
 - Experiencing bullying? → Speak up
 - Not sure if it's bullying? → Ask

Doing nothing allows bullying to continue.



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- Gained insight into future career and education pathways
- Developed a stronger sense of self and direction
- Travelled as a year group
- Enjoyed getting to know new friends
- Had fun and made many great memories

Transition Year is a shared partnership between students, parents and the school. Its success depends on full participation, commitment and openness to new experiences.

Closing Statement

Our TY programme is designed in line with national best practice and continuously improved through student and teacher reflection. It is a living programme that evolves each year to ensure it remains relevant, engaging and meaningful.

We look forward to working with students and parents in what promises to be a rewarding, challenging and memorable year of Transition Year 2026–2027.



TY Programme Coordinator Mr S McGowan