



RCS
Subject Choice
Policy

2025

Ramsgrange Community School is a welcoming, open and inclusive school. Our aim is to develop each of our students as a whole person by promoting an atmosphere of respect, honesty, and fairness in which all in the school community can achieve their full potential.

**Ramsgrange Community
School**

Mission Statement

Ramsgrange Community School is a co-educational and non-denominational school. We are a welcoming, open and inclusive school. Our aim is to develop each of our students as a whole person by promoting an atmosphere of respect, honesty and fairness in which all the school community can achieve their full potential. Our school's vision centres on the values of **Respect, Community and Success**.

Other relevant policies

- RCS Admissions Policy
- RCS Transition Year Admissions Policy
- RCS Leaving Certificate Applied Admissions Policy
- RCS Assessment and Academic Integrity Policy

Overview of Subject Choice Processes for Junior and Senior Cycle

All first-year students will begin the process of choosing subject in October/November following taster modules of all the subjects.

All third-year and transition year students are informed of subject options through presentations from the guidance counsellors and the programme co-ordinators. All students in third year complete CAT4 (Cognitive Ability Tests) in November to inform their choices and meet with the Guidance Counsellor to discuss results prior to subject choices.

The Guidance Counsellor will meet with students in order to help students make choices for Junior Cert subjects and Leaving Cert subjects on an individual basis, if requested.

At both Junior and Senior Cycle, parents will also be informed on subject choice in the following ways:

- Parents will attend an information evening explaining the process.
- Parents will also have an opportunity to discuss subjects at Parent/Teacher meetings.
- Parents can also speak to the Guidance Counsellor individually if they so wish.

Subject bands are created annually from student preferences. This is subject to Department of Education and Skills teacher allocation. Every effort is made to meet the preferences of students; however, there will always be situations where preferences cannot be met within the subject bands. Subjects and programmes offered each year are very much dependent on DES teacher allocation.

First Year Subject Choices:

All students study the core subjects of:

- English
- Irish (unless exempt)
- Maths
- Geography

- History
- Religion
- CSPE
- SPHE
- PE

Students who are exempt from Irish will study Drama, Horticulture and Literacy.

Students then select three subjects from the following list of elective subjects:

- Art
- Music
- Materials Technology (Wood)
- Materials Technology (Metal)
- Technical Graphics
- Home Economics
- Business
- French
- German
- Science

Students are advised to speak with subject teachers and the Guidance Counsellor before making any decisions. There will be a Parent Information Meeting where parents will have an opportunity to speak with the School's Guidance Counsellor.

First Year Options Process:

On completion of the taster modules, students, with their parents, will be invited to enter their preferences for their subjects using the VSWare App. These preferences should be placed in order from first preference to seventh preference.

Students will be informed of their subject options via VSWare following the process. The process of subject choice, banding and timetabling is a very rigorous and time-consuming process and thus there is no scope for change of subjects after the deadline set. The students will have one week of receiving their subject choices by which they can submit a change of subject request form (Appendix 1).

The school will endeavour to accommodate all requests and will communicate to students once the requests have been reviewed.

The school does not guarantee that all subjects will run, this is based on both DES teacher allocation and student demand.

Oversubscription of subjects:

If a situation arises that a subject is oversubscribed, then the following criteria will apply:

1. Student Preferences
2. Lottery

Fifth Year Subject Choices

All students study the core subjects of:

- English
- Irish (unless exempt)
- Maths
- Religion
- SPHE
- Guidance
- Wellbeing PE
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme

Students then select **four** subjects from the following list of elective subjects:

- Art
- Music
- Drama, Film and Theatre Studies
- Construction Studies
- Engineering
- Design and Communication Graphics
- Home Economics
- Business
- History
- Geography
- French
- German
- Agricultural Science
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Physical Education

Fifth Year Options Process:

In Term 2 of third year, following the student and parent presentations, students, with their parents, will be invited to enter their preferences for their subjects using the VSWare App.

These preferences should be placed in order from first preference to tenth preference.

Students will be allocated four subjects from this preference.

The availability of subjects will be based on Department of Education and Skills allocation and demand.

Choosing Subjects:

When choosing Leaving Cert subjects great care must be taken as the choice of subjects made now may determine third level and career options in two years' time.

- Ensure attendance at student and parent presentations that are held annually
- Be aware of minimum entry requirements and specific course requirements for third level. (Check out www.careersportal.ie)
- Identify the subjects you like—it is easier to work on something you enjoy. Note subjects you are good at.

- Ask your subject teachers for advice.
- If uncertain about your future career, choose a balance of subjects to keep options open.
- Talk about options to your parents, guidance counsellor, and Leaving Certificate students.
- Look at textbooks of subjects, exam papers and websites.

Subject bands will be created based on student preferences and demand. Students will be informed of their chosen subjects. Classes are created based on students' subject choice. Subjects may not be offered if there is insufficient demand or Department of Education and Skills allocation.

There may be some scope for subject choice change in exceptional circumstances during September. Applications must be made using the 5th Year Change of Subject Request Form (Appendix 2). Change of mind applications will not be considered after September 30th of fifth year.

Oversubscription of subjects:

If subjects are oversubscribed the following criteria will apply:

1. Student preferences
2. Subject taken to Junior Certificate level
3. Lottery

Additional subjects outside of school:

The school will not be in a position to accommodate students studying additional subjects outside of school.

Senior Cycle Programme Choices:

Transition Year and Leaving Certificate Applied programme choices will also be completed by students in mid-March. Applications for those programmes are set down in the TY/LCA admissions policies.

An information evening for parents will be held annually and parents and students should refer to the admissions policies for information specific to programmes.

Students that apply for TY and LCA are still required to enter preferences for 5th Year in case their application to TY/LCA is not successful.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed when deemed necessary by School Management.

Appendix 1: 1st Year Change of Subject Request Form

1st Year Change of Subject Request Form 2025

- All efforts are made to accommodate student's top preferences.
- Due to limitations on class sizes and the timetabling of blocks a student may not get their top preferences.
- There are 3 blocks of subjects.
- Subjects in each block on are on the same time.
- Students are assigned to 1 class in each block.
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Block 1	Engineering Mr. Gillard	French Ms. Cronin	Home-Ec Ms. Roberts	Science Ms. Ryan	Art Ms. Egan
Block 2	French Ms. Cronin	Graphics Mr. Foley	Science Ms. McDonnell	Art Mr. Campbell	Wood Tech Mr B Molloy
Block 3	Business Ms. Quigley	Graphics Mr B Molloy	Music Ms. Howley	Science Mr. Reynolds	Wood Tech Mr. Foley

- Please complete the following information if you wish to request a change of subject. Forms will be collected Monday 18th – Friday 22nd November & you will be notified via teams on Monday 25th that your timetable has been updated if it was possible to accommodate your request.

Student Name: _____

Base Class: _____

Current Subjects	Requested Subjects
Block 1 =	Block 1 =
Block 2 =	Block 2 =
Block 3 =	Block 3 =

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Appendix 2: Sample 5th Year Subject Change Request Form

Forms are updated annually and can be collected from the Guidance Counsellor's office.

Ramsgrange Community School
5th Year Subject Change Request Form



Students Study 1 Subject From Each Block						
Block 1	Geography	Ag Science	Biology	Physics	Exam PE	Music
Block 2	Construction	Business	DCG	Art	Home-Ec	History
Block 3	Geography	French	Construction	Chemistry	Computer Science	German
Block 4	Biology	Accounting	Engineering	Art	Computer Science	History

Name of Student: _____

Subject I wish to change is: _____ from block ____

Subject I request from this block is: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

***** Please return completed form to Ms. Harris by**

Friday 19th April***

This Box is to Be Completed by the School:

Ratified by the BOM_____

Signed: _____

Chairperson BOM

Date: _____