

# **Policy on T.Y.O**

**Coláiste Bríde  
Enniscorthy  
Co. Wexford**

**Ratified by the Board of Management Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_**

**Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary,  
Board of Management**

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT:

*“We are working to promote a secure and caring environment where respect, responsibility and Christian commitment grow; drawing forth the positive potential of each individual.”*

In keeping with the above, Coláiste Bríde aims to create the best possible learning environment and to design and implement the most appropriate teaching programme for all Transition Year students. Our programme encourages social and personal development and recognises the need for students to grow in independence.

**HISTORY OF TRANSITION YEAR**

Mrs. Swords introduced Transition Year to Coláiste Bríde in 1993 with one group. The programme has continued to grow in popularity ever since and is currently coordinated by Mrs. Acheson and Miss R. Mernagh with an enrollment of forty students.

**CURRICULUM**

English, Irish, Maths, French/German, Science, History/Geography, Art, Career Guidance, R.E., P.E., Music, ICT, Home Economics, Sociology, Etiquette and Spanish. Students are expected to complete assignments and projects to foster academic achievement as they prepare for the Leaving Cert.

In order to learn life skills and develop multiple intelligences such as teamwork skills and confidence building, a wide variety of activities are also pursued. These include involvement in Form and Fusion Fashion Show, work experience for two weeks in February, visiting speakers, debating, national competitions, YES, field trips, etc. This year Transition Year Students are looking forward to a foreign exchange trip to Barcelona.

## **PARENTS**

An information evening is held during the 2<sup>nd</sup> term of the school year for all Third Year parents whose daughters are interested in enrolling for Transition Year. Third Year students are also informed of the contents of the programme when making subject choices for Leaving Cert.

## **ADMISSIONS POLICY**

Students who apply for Transition Year are accepted for the course based on behavior record to date, age, personal interest in the course, and staff agreement on the suitability of the individual for the programme.

## **DISCIPLINE**

Transition Year students must, like all students, adhere to the School Rules as laid down in the Colaiste Bride homework journal. Attendance at class is very closely monitored to avoid unnecessary absences.

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

This is considered to be an important aspect of the programme and Coláiste Bride is very grateful to our local community for their involvement in providing work placement, sponsorship and personnel to talk to the students.

## **ASSESSMENT AND CERTIFICATION**

Assessment is an essential part of the Transition Year programme and is ongoing from September to May. A Graduation Evening is organized in May by the programme co-ordinator and their teachers and students are awarded a Certificate of Distinction, or Merit or Pass in accordance with their achievements and participation during the year.

# **TYO REPORT**

**To:**

**From:**

**Terms of reference:**

To submit report on TYO in Coláiste Bríde to interested parties.

**Aims:**

1. Compile relevant feedback from existing TYO teachers and co-coordinators.
2. Compile relevant feedback from present and past TYO students.
3. Draw conclusion and give recommendations for future TYO.

**Research Methods:**

Questionnaires to four relevant groups mentioned.

**Teacher's opinions**

Teachers believe that TYO offers the following benefits for students:

1. Is good for young and immature students who are very unsure of career choice and therefore appropriate subject choices.
2. In some areas e.g. Maths, Continental Language, students can clear up basics of subject and feel more confident for 5<sup>th</sup> year.
3. It is also useful for hard working students who enjoy the break after Junior Certificate and now are an opportunity to broaden their interests e.g. trips, different subjects, etc.
4. Acquisition of personal skills e.g. teamwork, communication, etc.
5. Course results in confidence building due to very good friendships being formed, improved attitudes towards adults and participation in the boarder limits – debating, dealings with community, Work Experience, Mini Company, Form and Fusion.

## **Benefits of Teaching TYO:**

1. Better interaction between teacher and TYO student.
2. There can be a varied approach to teaching subject e.g. field trips, experiments and training is considered to be adequate by 75% of teachers.
3. A relaxed environment, less stress as there are no exams, and less correction.
4. No set guidelines so more project work and teamwork can be done without restrictions apart from class time limits
5. Revision of Junior Cert. material and groundwork for Leaving Certificate can be done in some subjects.
6. There is a wide variety of subjects and activities for students (maybe too wide?) and students have time to learn from their mistakes.

## **Challenges of Teaching TYO**

1. Teachers feel it is hard to motivate some students in their subject particularly if not retaining subject for Leaving Certificate and also due to lack of guidelines.
2. It is hard to measure students' progress since they are pulled in so many directions with some activities and therefore absent from other classes. This breaks continuity in own personal subject.
3. Lack of computer facilities was also noted by some teachers.

## **Students Opinions:**

All the benefits as stated by teachers were also given by students. They also made the following points:

1. Students feel more confident making subject choices after TYO as they already have Junior Cert. results and an extra year to make decisions on career choice.
2. Student's Personal and Social development improved. However they do miss their friend of the previous year and have to face an extra year in school.
3. They anticipate it will be hard to settle down to study for Leaving Certificate and recommend there be more academic work and homework in TYO to avoid laziness next year. Past TYO students agree with this comment.

4. The majorities are enjoying the year and have enjoyed it, giving special mention to Form and Fusion, Mini Company, Field Trips, Work experience, Retreat and IT. They would definitely recommend the course to present 3<sup>RD</sup> Years students.
5. Some students stated that they found the course expensive.

**Suggestions made by students:**

1. Offer students a choice of activities.
2. Have fundraising activities to cover expenses and spread out trips.
3. Spread out project deadline dates as 3<sup>rd</sup> term less busy.
4. Introduce more academic work in subjects of Leaving Certificate and give more homework.

**Recommendations:**

1. Review syllabi for core subject with end of year exams.
2. Introduce other activities based subjects e.g. ECDL, Young Scientists etc. Offering students a choice in these and give more class time to these. This should result in all students being involved in activities as self motivated and teachers in other areas should have full attendance in their classes.
3. Allow no disruption of time tabled classes at certain times e.g. after work experience, and for the 3<sup>rd</sup> term to make it easier for students to fit back into mainstream school life the following September.
4. A year head should be appointed to monitor student behavior and attendance.
5. Continue with present school policy of TYO being optional for 3<sup>rd</sup> years.