



Coláiste an Spioraid Naoimh

Presentation Brothers Schools' Trust

Transition Year Programme

Overall Aims

The following aims are inter-related and interdependent and should be strongly reflected in every Transition Year programme.

1. Education for maturity with an emphasis on personal development including social awareness and increased social competence.
2. The promotion of general, technical and academic skills with an emphasis on interdisciplinary and self-directed learning.
3. Education through experience of adult and working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.

The aims and philosophy of Transition Year should permeate the entire school.

Mission

To promote the personal, social, educational and vocational development of pupils and to prepare them for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society.

1. Core Subjects Layer

- Gaeilge, English, Maths, French/German (4 periods per week)
- R.E., P.E., Computers* (2 periods per week)
- Career Guidance (1 period per week)



2. Subject Sampling Layer

Six subjects to be sampled from the following list:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Accounting
- Business
- Economics
- Geography
- History
- Art
- Music
- Construction Studies
- D.C.G. (Design and Communication Graphics)
(only for students who have already been informed that they have a place in this class)

3. TY Module Layer

(a) Fixed Modules

Students have an opportunity to participate in a very wide range of Transition Year Modules. There are 5 'fixed' i.e. year-long modules.

Students are asked to pick 1 of the following:

- Film-making
- Horticulture
- Mini-Company
- Programming
- Sports Studies (Future Leaders, G.A.A. programme)

An outline of all of these courses will be given on Induction days by the teachers/facilitators and by 5th Year students who completed the programmes.

Rotating Modules

All students will take part in the rotating modules for 5/6-week periods:

<u>Rotation (1)</u> (3 periods per week)	<u>Rotation (2)</u> (2 periods per week)	<u>Rotation (3)</u> (a double period)	<u>Rotation (4)</u> (1 period per week)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drama • Information Technology* • Media Studies • Road Safety 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Computer Applications* • Environmental Studies • First Aid • Music Appreciation • Spanish 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chinese • Cookery • Craft • Social Justice • Tourism • Yoga 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bystander Intervention • Internet Safety • Safety in the workplace • Sign Language • Well-being

* ECDL/ICDL

The ECDL/ICDL programme will continue for students in Transition Year. Students have had the opportunity to complete 3/4 modules up to now and a report of their progress will be sent out in due course in the new academic year. The final instalment, for those who have not paid in full, will be due October midterm. A reminder text with a way-to-pay link will be sent

to parents at that time. Preparation for ECDL/ ICDL takes place in Computer classes and in the information technology and computer application modules.



4. Calendar Layer

Students will be offered the chance to get involved in several events throughout the year. It is really important that they engage in as many activities as possible in order to benefit from the year.

Examples of events/activities:

- Induction Process
- Participation in the Gaisce - bronze award
- School Bank
- Trend Micro Internet Safety programme. T.Y.'s act as mentors for 1st Year students
- Leadership Training days
- Variety Concert
- Hurley Repairs course
- Drive for Life programme
- B.T Young Scientist
- Psych Slam in U.C.C.
- Organising the Christmas Food appeal, the Readathon, fundraising Coffee mornings
- Involvement in the Young S.V.P (Vincent de Paul) project
- Collecting for various charitable organisations in Wilton Shopping Centre
- T.Y retreat and Youth Alpha programme
- The Unfinished Book project
- Paired Reading for 1st Year students
- Engineering, Maths, Science courses in U.C.C. and C.I.T.
- TY Open Day in U.C.C.
- Prep for Med day
- Introduction to Law day

Work Experience Programme (Takes place in the first two weeks of March)

Work Experience is a very important part of Transition Year. The aim of the programme is to give a student the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in an area of employment he is considering as a career option. We encourage students to begin the process by talking about possible placements with parents and Career Guidance teachers. Past pupils return to school to speak about the courses/careers they have pursued. Students will be assisted in this work in Careers class and through the use of the career's portal. C.V's and letters/emails are prepared and forwarded to prospective employers. As we are in competition with several other schools for work placements, it is imperative that students put in their application by late September. Students can apply for permission to do "extra" work experience. This must be a course or placement that cannot be undertaken during the designated time of work experience and it must be in keeping with the aim of the programme as outlined above. Students complete an application form and submit it for approval to the work experience co-ordinator.



Community Involvement

In keeping with the ethos of the school and the curriculum guidelines for Transition Year, students are encouraged to immerse themselves fully in the Community Involvement programme. There are several opportunities to participate in this and some are listed below:

- Working in the S.H.A.R.E. daycare centre
- Completing a Leadership Programme and organising events/workshops for 1st Year students.
Examples are: welcoming them to the school, organising the Readathon and the Trend Micro, Internet Safety programme, running quizzes for them during Catholic Schools' week, accompanying them to events in Dennehy's Cross Church etc.
- Helping out at various school events, such as the Open Night and the Academic Awards ceremony etc
- Assisting teachers in coaching Junior students and accompanying them to matches.
- Organising the Christmas Food appeal and other fundraising events.
- Collecting for various charitable organisations in Wilton Shopping Centre.
- Representing our school on the S.H.A.R.E. executive.

Outdoor Pursuits

A 3-day, 2 night trip is organised for Transition Year students in the Kilfinane Outdoor Pursuits Centre. It will take place after Work Experience and the cost is €170 (approx.)

This is run as a team-building event and students can use it to fulfil the Venture challenge of the Gaisce award.

Evaluation and Assessment

1. Students take formal exams in the core subjects and in their academic 'sampling' subjects in December and May.
2. There is a specific T.Y. Journal and space is provided for student's ongoing accounts of their involvements.
3. They are then required to collate all their notes for their T.Y portfolio. This is an important document as it provides a record of the student's involvements that can be shared with his teachers, parents and prospective employers.
4. The T.Y. Graduation Ceremony is a highlight of the year as it is run by the students and offers the parents a revealing and perhaps unexpected insight into what makes up a Transition Year.
5. Students are asked to attend an Interview to outline their experience of Transition Year.