



Scoil Ruáin



TY Policy



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Scoil Ruain Transition Year Policy

Scoil Ruain offers transition year as an optional, one-year programme, post junior cycle.

Core Values Statement

Scoil Ruáin is a co-educational, multid denominational ETB school that is underpinned by the core values of excellence in education, care, equality, community, and respect. At Scoil Ruáin, we work hard to give every student an equal chance to participate in curricular and extracurricular activities, to prepare our students to be open-minded and responsible citizens with a strong sense of our core values.

Everyone in our school community is treated equally in all aspects of school life. Our aim is to provide an inclusive education that acknowledges the variety of identities, viewpoints, and values that students, parents and staff members have.

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the transition year programme reflect those specific to the guidelines published by the Department of Education namely:

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

Curriculum

The Transition Year curriculum of Scoil Ruáin is developed each year in response to the identified needs of the students, staff allocations and teacher expertise, as well as parental expectation and local resources. It is led by the Transition Year co-ordinator, in consultation with the Principal and Deputy. As far as possible, the Transition Year programme will offer a broad and balanced curriculum based on the following four layers as advised by the DE TY guidelines:

Core subjects

These are subjects taken for the full year which include: English, Irish/Cultural and Heritage studies, Maths, PE, European studies, Art, , , Construction, Engineering, Home Economics, European studies, World of Science, History, Geography, Business, Ethics and Beliefs, Career Guidance, RSE and Music.

TY-specific layer

These are subjects and modules specifically designed to meet the unique requirement of a transition year programme which may include but are not limited to the following: Leadership skills, DIY, Forensic Science, Art, Construction, Home Economics, Tourism, Sustainability, Microsoft, Design.

Teachers/subject departments are encouraged to organise trips and extra-curricular enrichment activities for Transition Year students.

Scoil Ruáin also encourages students to build links and relationships with the wider community. This includes community outreach and volunteering with local active retirement groups and the Millennium Family Resource centre, preparing care packages for the elderly in local nursing homes, and the window box scheme.

Calendar layer

A programme of activities and events throughout the course of the year which will vary annually depending on opportunities but which may include some or all of the following: work experience, Musical production, visiting speakers, Junk Kouture, Gaisce, Delphi trip, European trip etc.

Assessment layer

The transition year programme and Scoil Ruáin embraces the many varieties and modes of assessment recommended by the transition year guidelines for schools as outlined by the DE, and may include the following:

- Summative assessment
- Written, practical, oral and aural assessment
- Project work
- Exhibitions of work
- Report of work experience
- Compilation of portfolio
- Student diary and log of personal progress
- Record of skills and competences gained

Transition year subjects may be assessed by one of the above assessment methods and reporting takes place at the end of terms 1 and 3.

Certification

Scoil Ruáin will award a transition year certificate on completion of the transition year programme. Modular courses completed during the programme may be certified as appropriate by the school or outside bodies or agencies. Presentation of all certificates will take place at the annual end-of-year graduation ceremony.

Evaluation

Scoil Ruáin embraces the requirement for an ongoing evaluation and modification of the transition year programme. This will take place annually through appropriate methods such as surveys and feedback from students, parents, and staff. Students complete differentiated evaluations as part of their portfolio work. Staff are informally surveyed by the Transition Year co-ordinator. 6th year students are surveyed about their senior cycle choices as part of SSE. Results of, and recommendations from, such evaluations will be used in planning future transition year programmes.

Admissions procedure

1. An information day for students will take place as well as an information evening for parents on what the transition year programme entails.
2. Senior cycle application forms are given to students. Students should tick the “Transition Year” box on the form and submit it to their year head by the specified closing date. Please note, choosing Transition Year does not preclude students from choosing Leaving Cert Applied senior cycle option.
3. Occasionally, Scoil Ruáin may decline to enrol a student in Transition Year. While we strive to create an inclusive and equitable environment for all applicants, enrolment decisions are made based on various factors, including prior attendance history and behaviour record. These decisions are made with the overall well-being of the school and its community in mind, along with the wellbeing of each applicant.

Code of behaviour

Students are expected to adhere to the Scoil Ruáin code of behaviour as laid out in the student journal and code of behaviour policy (available here: <https://www.scoilruain.ie/downloads/school-policies/>)

Fees payable

Students must pay fees of €350 to participate in Transition Year. This covers the cost of all extra-curricular activities and transport. Fees can be paid in instalments through the Way2Pay system.

Review

This policy will be reviewed annually.