



ROSEMONT
SCHOOL

Rosemont Transition Year Policy

Reviewed: 2024

Due for review: 2025

Introduction

Rosemont Transition Year Programme is an integral part of our secondary school. Transition Year is compulsory for all students (except in exceptional circumstances). We see this programme as an opportunity for our students to build on the academic achievements and the character development attained in Junior Cycle in order to prepare them for the Leaving Cert and for their future role in society. The Transition Year Programme is carried out in a partnership between parents, teachers and students.

Rosemont's Ethos

Our Catholic ethos values each person as a child of God and encourages our parents, staff, and students to live their faith in everyday life. The parents who founded Rosemont built this ethos from the message of St. Josemaria, founder of Opus Dei. www.opusdei.ie

Ethos in Rosemont means:

- Personal excellence and virtue are goals worth striving for
- Academic achievement enables our students to serve society
- An atmosphere of trust and freedom empowers learning

Parents, as the primary educators of their children, work with the school to foster our ethos. Rosemont is open to students from all beliefs and backgrounds.

Aims of Transition Year in Rosemont

To help students achieve their personal goals through the activities and opportunities for self-reflection provided.
To facilitate academic, intellectual, emotional, spiritual, moral, aesthetic and physical development.
To prepare the students for the world of work, nurturing the skills required as an integral part of a wide variety of subjects
To give them interpersonal skills, especially a respect and empathy for the full cross section of society
To increase their independent learning with a view to each one becoming a participative and responsible citizen
To empower them for decision making processes, especially through creative problem solving
To simulate life situations in order to increase their social competence

To maximise opportunities for students to gain confidence and to learn respect and a willingness to serve family, friends and their wider community.

Introduction to Transition Year for 3rd Year Parents

We invite all the parents of our future TY students to attend an information evening in the 3rd term of each academic year. The parents are presented with an outline of our transition year programme and they have the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have. The feedback from parents is that they find this process gave them a much greater grasp of the opportunities presented by the TY programme. At the end of the presentations, parents and students of TY can mingle with the 3rd year parents. This greatly facilitates third year parents receiving an informal and spontaneous account of the Transition Year experience. Equally it affords the TY students with yet another opportunity to express how they have personally benefited from the programme.

Assessment

Knowledge of students' progress is a stimulus to improve subject materials and the implementation of their content. A wide variety of assessment is encouraged in order to form a real picture of the effectiveness of the programme for students.

The following methods can be implemented to assess students' growth in overall maturity, skills and academics:

- Presentations to parents, teachers and fellow students
- Peer Assessment
- Project Work
- Evaluation of modules
- Exhibition of work
- Written, practical, oral and aural assessments
- Dialogues between parents and Coaches
- Parent Teacher meeting
- Four written reports by teachers on students' performance throughout the year.
- Feedback from employers, speakers and personnel running field trips
- Personal reflections in coaching and assembly
- Attainment of certificates
- Study of students' response to speakers, field trips

Certification

Upon completion of TY all participating students receive a special Certification Pack including documentation and confirmation of all the key modules and activities in which they have been involved. In order to highlight and celebrate the importance of each students' achievements, these Packs are presented at the school's annual awards ceremony.

Evaluation of the TY Programme

The TY coordinator has a key role in evaluating the programme. TY Students provide a written evaluation of their TY experience at the end of the school year and 3rd Year students fill in a via Microsoft Form expressing their interests in advance of the year ahead. TY co-ordinator meets with management for an end of TY year audit with a view to planning the new academic year.

Work experience

Aims:

- To open up horizons for students in area of career choice
- To equip the students with information and experience to improve career choice
- To prepare the students for the challenges of work
- To discover the students potential in a work environment
- To encourage self reflection and self evaluation
- To help students reflect on how secondary school prepares them for personal responsibility in the working world
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- To forge links with the parent body
- To build links with businesses
- To develop personal initiative and responsibility in sourcing work experience

Duration: Two weeks

Subjects: Careers; Business

Compile Curriculum Vitae

Autonomously apply for a work placement

Understanding of the workplace

Introduce topics: co-operation, dependability, ability to follow instructions, initiative, and openness to learning

Prepare employers' expectations and requirements

Evaluation: Annually

A slot timetabled for this assessment is included during house exams January / February and Summer exams.

Organisation of TY

Coordinator Role:

The aim of the TY co-ordinator is to ensure that the year is educationally beneficial, enjoyable, maturing and challenging for the students and that each student will achieve her potential in this year.

The task of the co-ordinator involves the following:

- Overseeing that all events are organised to a high standard and well in advance
- To ensure that parents and students have adequate notice of upcoming events
- To enlist the help, support and ideas of all staff involved in TY
- To evaluate how the year is going regularly with the students
- To attend any courses/meetings relevant to the TY and incorporate where possible ideas and experiences from other teachers
- To keep teachers well informed of any changes in timetables via email and the Staff notice-board with ample notice
- To enthuse the rest of the staff as to the immense value of TY
- To provide teachers with any TY material already in the school or which may come during the year which would be relevant to the particular teacher

- To tackle any problems which might arise during the year promptly and efficiently so as to defuse the problem
- To ensure that the TY programme is written up and available
- To evaluate the TY programme each year and ensure that teachers evaluate it

Evaluation of the task:

The TY coordinator and DP meet regularly to plan, prepare and evaluate.

At each staff meeting a similar slot will be provided where the co-ordinator can:

1. Express any concerns they might have
2. Inform Staff of upcoming events
3. Enlist ideas or help from other staff members

The rest of the staff will also have the opportunity to voice their opinions on TY at this meeting.

Curriculum Principles

Curriculum content is a matter for individual subject departments having regard to DES guidelines, the requirements of students and the view of Parents/Guardians. In drawing up the curriculum, the school also takes into consideration opportunities offered by employers and the wider community.

The TY programme provides a bridge to help pupils make the transition from the Junior Cycle environment to one where students will take greater responsibility for their own learning and decision making.

While the programme lays a solid foundation for Leaving Certificate studies, a clear distinction is maintained between the Leaving Certificate syllabus and the TY programme.

The Transition Year programme allows students to gain insight into the Leaving Certificate curriculum by sampling Leaving Certificate classes before they are required to make their final selection at the end of fourth year. Our programme is challenging, features intellectual content but allows students to mature and develop in the absence of exam pressure.

Finance:

A Transition Year Fee is added to the main school fees. This fee is currently €650. The fee covers almost all activities.