

ST. PATRICK'S CLASSICAL SCHOOL



TRANSITION YEAR ADMISSIONS POLICY

GENERAL POLICY:

In keeping with the aims and objectives of St. Patrick's Classical School as set down in the school's Mission Statement, the Board of Management commits itself to the provision of a Transition Year programme, to a limited number of students, in keeping with the following NCCA guidelines.

'Transition Year is an optional one year, school based programme between Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle. It is designed to act as a bridge between the two by facilitating the smooth transition from the more dependent learning of the Junior Cycle to the more independent, self directed learning required for the Senior Cycle. Schools have the chance to design programmes and courses tailored to the needs and interests of students.'

The Transition Year offers students an opportunity to engage in independent, self directed learning, to develop general, technical and academic skills, and to mature and develop without the pressure of an examination. Students get the opportunity to sample a wide range of subject areas and can make more informed choices about the kind of Leaving certificate programme they want to follow after the Transition Year.'

Within these overall guidelines the Board of Management encourages a specific focus on:

1. Education for maturity with emphasis on increased social competence and increased social awareness on a national and international scale.
2. Education through experience of working life as a basis for personal development and maturity.
3. The promotion of general, technical and academic skills with an emphasis on inter-disciplinary learning.
4. Preparing students for their role as autonomous, participative and responsible members of society.

PROGRAMME AVAILABILITY:

The Transition Year programme in St. Patrick's Classical School is not compulsory. While the programme is not necessarily appropriate for all students, it is open to all Third Year students to apply for admission to the programme.

The Board of Management reserves the right to determine the maximum number of students accepted into the Transition Year programme each year bearing in mind Health and Safety requirements, the availability of resources from the Department of Education and Skills and the availability of suitable Teacher Resources within the school itself.

In the case of external applicants priority will be given to students of St. Patrick's Classical School.

It is a condition of enrolment in the Transition Year programme that students and parents/guardians agree to comply in writing to the School Rules and Code of Behaviour prior to the commencement of the new school year.

Successful applicants who do not subsequently sit or complete their Junior Certificate Examinations may have the offer of a place withdrawn.

APPLICATIONS:

Transition Year Application Forms are available from the School Office on request. Completed Forms and any other relevant documentation must be returned to the School Office for the attention of the Transition Year Co-Ordinator in March of the relevant year, the specific date for applications to be determined in the year in question.

It is the responsibility of each student and his parents/guardians to ensure that the Application Form and any other required information is submitted in full and on time.

SELECTION PROCEDURES:

The decision on whether or not an applicant is offered a place on the Transition Year Programme will be based upon the following criteria:

1. The information supplied on the Application Form.
2. The student's disciplinary record.
3. The student's attendance and punctuality record.
4. The recommendation of the Transition Year Co-ordinator following consultation with subject teachers, Class Tutors and the Year Head.

ADMISSIONS:

Offers of acceptance and statements of regret will be made in writing. All offers of a place on the programme must be accepted in writing within ten school days of the offer being made. Failure to accept an offer within this time will result in the offer being withdrawn.

A student who accepts the offer of a place and subsequently withdraws from the programme regardless of when he withdraws is advised that he will then be placed at the end of the waiting list as regards over-subscribed subject options for 5th Year.

Unsuccessful candidates will be placed on a Reserve/Waiting List in the event a place subsequently becomes available.

APPEALS:

Unsuccessful applicants may appeal the school's decision to the St. Patrick's Classical School Board of Management within 7 calendar days of being informed of the decision. Appeals should be made in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Management.

FEES:

Fees will be determined by the Board of Management on an annual basis and made known to applicants in advance.

APPLICATION FORM:

The standard application form is subject to change and will be reviewed annually.

Date of Adoption by Board of Management: 7th April 2016