



POLICY ON SUBJECT CHOICE – FORMATION OF CLASSES

- (a) Subject choice**
- (b) Timetabling – formation of classes**

RATIONALE:

In keeping with our school's Mission Statement it is the objective of this policy that each pupil be given the necessary support to reach his/her full potential.

Aims:

- To provide as wide a curriculum as is practicable.
- To ensure that students make well informed subject choices, and are actively engaged in the total learning experience within the school; i.e. academic, practical, social, personal, cultural and religious.
- To ensure equal access to all students regardless of ability or family background.
- To promote gender equity by ensuring equal access to all subjects for all of our students.
- To endeavour that each subject gets the recommended allocation of class time, including single and double classes as required.
- To enable students to take their chosen subjects at a level commensurate with their ability enabling them to achieve their life goals and ambitions
- To make the learning process as interesting and enjoyable as possible, this creates a love of learning that will continue and become a lifelong process.
- To encourage parents to take an active role in, and a shared responsibility for their children's education.
- To encourage the student to take responsibility for his/her own education.
- To endeavour that class numbers comply with regulations that may apply from time to time.
- To cater for the special needs of all students, including those with disabilities, and to provide extra facilities as the need and means arise sensitively and professionally.

Subject Choice:

- ◆ We will endeavour to provide as wide a subject choice as practicable.
- ◆ In First Year only, subject sampling will operate i.e. each student shall study all subjects on the First Year Curriculum except in the case of languages. It is recommended that students study a continental language for the Junior Cycle & Leaving Certificate.
- ◆ All students study Science at Junior Cycle to promote STEM & to allow students a greater choice at Leaving Certificate.
- ◆ For students entering 2nd year and 5th year a consultation process shall take place in February/March leading to a subject choice according to demand and within available resources.
- ◆ A process of informing students regarding subject choice will be implemented. This includes:
 - (a) Taster Programme (1st Year)
 - (b) Subject Sampling (1st Year)
 - (c) Teacher talks to students (1st / Transition Year)
 - (d) Information Evening (1st , 2nd Year and Transition Year)



- (e) Letters to Parents
- (f) Signed subject choice forms by parents – these forms must be returned by the due date. Where a student is late returning a form and the class is over-subscribed, priority, at Senior level will be given to Transition Year students and then to Third Year students who have studied the subject at Junior Cycle.

(g) Career Guidance Advice

- ◆ Individual meeting – students/Career Guidance/Deputy Principals/Principal.
- ◆ Transition Year students will follow an agreed Transition Year Programme.
- ◆ Rules and Regulations of the Department of Education in relation to compulsory subjects shall be applied.

Students taking a Leaving Certificate subject, not having studied that subject at Junior Cycle may only do so following the agreement of the Teacher / Yearhead concerned, and provided a place is available. Priority will be given to candidates who have taken the subject at Junior Cycle. Students will be advised of the importance of certain subjects (languages, science, etc).

Formation OF Classes/Timetabling/

Examination Levels:

- ◆ Our school will produce a programme of Education which will prepare the students for examination at all levels and will encourage students to realise their full potential.
- ◆ As far as is possible Moate Community School will provide classes in all subjects and at all levels.
- ◆ A range of classroom formation shall apply including banding, setting, and mixed ability.
- ◆ After consulting with students, teachers, parents and the Career Guidance Department. Students will take subjects at a level best suited to their needs.
- ◆ It will be the responsibility of the Career Guidance Teacher(s) in consultation with Subject Departments, the Principal and Deputy Principals/Timetable Post Holder to formulate class groups / subject choice.

Formulation:

This policy has been formulated by staff in consultation with the Board of Management, Parents and Students and the SSE team.

Implementation:

Students and parents will be made aware of class formation and subject choice by means of:

- Information Days
- Assemblies
- Provision of Public access to policy statement
- Provision of Parent-Teacher Meetings

Success criteria:

- Teachers, students and parents are satisfied with the time available for each class subject and with the allotment of single and double classes.
- Students are attaining their goals.
- Quality work is being carried out within the class structure and in the time available.
- Students are taking responsibility for their own learning.
- Pupils are achieving at a rate consistent with their original assessment, and their educational expectations are being realised.

Monitoring/review Procedures:

Ratified March 2021



This policy will be monitored and reviewed on a regular basis by the SSE Committee in consultation with staff.

Date: _____

Chairperson of the BOM: _____