



Transition Year Admission Policy

This policy is rooted in the Mission Statement and aims of the school, fostering partnership between parents, teachers and the community in the interest of children's learning. All members of the school community will be treated with respect and compassion irrespective of social, racial, sexual or ethnic background.

Moate Community School offers Transition Year as an optional one-year programme designed to bridge the gap between Junior & Senior cycle and to prepare students for adult life.

The aims of the Transition Year Programme reflect those specific to the guidelines published by the Department of Education and Skills:

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

The Transition Year Programme is not compulsory. The maximum number of available places will be dependent upon staffing, facilities and resources and will be determined annually by the Board of Management.

For acceptance into the Transition Year Programme, the school must be of the opinion that a student is capable of benefiting from participation in Transition Year and, equally, that his/her participation will not negatively impact on any other students from participation. Any decision regarding enrolment will be taken by the Transition Year Admissions Committee.

1. Application Procedures

1.1 During third year, the Programme Co-ordinator will visit all third year classes. She will make it clear to all prospective applicants that knowledge of, research into and preparation for Transition Year, as evidenced in the application form, will be critical factors in gaining entry to the programme. Similarly, attendance, behaviour, application and attitude to work will be important factors.

1.2 During the Second Term, the Programme Coordinator will give a formal presentation on the Transition Year Programme to third year parents. The qualities and disposition essential for successful participation in Transition Year will again be fully outlined at this presentation. The final submission date for applications will be outlined at this evening. Late applications will not be accepted.

1.3 Submission of the application form does not confirm or imply a place on the programme.

1.4 Students apply for a place on a formal application form signed by their parent(s)/guardian(s). It will be impressed upon applicants that this is a critical factor in the application process.

1.5 Applications will be considered valid only if they are fully completed and submitted to the Programme Coordinator within the specified deadline.



2: The Transition Year Admissions Committee

2.1 The T.Y. Admissions Committee will be responsible for assessing applications and offering places. The committee will comprise of the Programme Coordinator, Deputy-Principal, Guidance Counsellors and Year Head of the current third year students, or a nominee of the Principal to replace one of the above who may be unavailable due to illness or other circumstances.

2.2 The TY co-ordinator will consult members of the Teaching staff about the TY applicants list.

2.3 Class allocation will be made by the TY Admissions Committee. While every effort will be made to place students with at least one friend listed on the application form, we cannot entertain requests for change of class, following class placements.

3. Offer & Acceptance of Places:

3.1 Places will be offered to successful applicants. All queries can be directed to the Programme Coordinator.

3.2 Successful applicants must arrange appropriate work experience for the specified periods during the academic year.

4. External Applications:

4.1 Any application to transfer to MCS from another school will be considered strictly under the terms of the school's Admissions Policy in relation to such transfers.

5. Programme Advance Payment:

The payment for the Programme is set annually by the Board of Management of MCS. This payment is required to meet necessary running costs associated with the various activities and courses fundamental to the programme. This payment includes Personal Insurance cover which is mandatory for all Transition Year students. It will be used to pay for buses and entry fees for some day trips as they arise, and to pay for some workshops provided in school time.

Only students who have met the basic costs associated with the programme can apply for a place on the optional European trip.

6. Admissions Criteria

6.1 Each application will be considered on its own merit. In addition to the level of serious commitment indicated by the students in the application process, the following criteria will apply in assessing a prospective Transition Year student's application:

1. The student's record of compliance with the schools code of behaviour
2. The student's satisfactory attendance and punctuality record
3. The student's record of contribution ie. Extra curricular and co – curricular activities
4. Completion of application form and suitability for the programme.

A Transition Year student who does not actively participate or jeopardises the programme may be offered a place in the traditional 5th year programme for the current year.