



Subject Choice Policy

1. Introduction

This policy outlines the procedures and guidelines governing subject choice for students at all stages of the school. The school is committed to supporting students in making informed decisions that reflect their interests, strengths, and future aspirations.

2. Junior Cycle Subject Choice (Incoming First Year)

Students entering Junior Cycle will take 5 core subjects, Mathematics, Gaeilge (unless exempt), English, History and Examination Religious Education and 4 choice subjects along with the Junior Cycle Wellbeing programme which includes SPHE, CSPE, PE and Digital Media Literacy

Incoming First Year students are required to choose four subjects from the following list:

- French
 - Spanish
 - Science
 - Visual Art
 - Business
 - Home Economics
 - Music
 - Geography
- Students must submit their preferences by ranking all subjects from 1 to 8.
 - While every effort will be made during the creation of subject option blocks to accommodate each student's first four choices, this cannot be guaranteed.
 - Where it is not possible to allocate a student's top four choices, a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) will contact parents/guardians to explain the allocated subjects and explore suitable alternatives if the parent and student wish to.

3. Senior Cycle Choices

All parents and students progressing to Senior Cycle are invited to attend a Senior Cycle Options Meeting held early in term 2 every year. During this meeting both the Transition Year Programme and the two-year Leaving Certificate Established programme are explained and outlined to parents and students. The meeting is facilitated by the Principal, Deputy Principal, TY Programme Co-Ordinator and Career Guidance Counsellor.

- **Transition Year**

Transition Year (TY) is an optional programme and all students in 3rd year are invited to apply.

Admission to TY may be subject to capacity within a given academic year. Where capacity issues arise, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will engage with students and parents/guardians to communicate available options and any selection process that may be undertaken.

- **Senior Cycle Subject Choice (Fifth Year)**

Students entering the two-year Leaving Certificate Establish programme will take 3 core subjects, Mathematics, Gaeilge (unless exempt) and English and 4 choice subjects along with the Senior Cycle SPHE, PE, Career Guidance and Religious Education.

Students are provided with information on each subject by subject teachers during a Senior Cycle Subject Options Talk arranged each year prior to submitting subject choices.

Students are highly encouraged to speak to subject teachers one to one and to make well informed decisions by researching their subjects and aligning their choices with any pre-requisite requirements that may be required for entry to third level courses through the CAO. The school guidance counsellor may assist students in making their choices also upon referral.

Students progressing to Fifth Year are required to select and rank 7 subjects from the following list:

- French
- Spanish
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Business
- Accounting

- Home Economics
 - Art
 - Music
 - History
 - Geography
 - Politics and Society
 - Leaving Certificate Physical Education
- From the seven ranked choices, four option subjects will be allocated.
 - While every effort will be made to accommodate each student's top four choices, this cannot be guaranteed due to timetabling constraints.
 - Where a student's preferred choices cannot be accommodated, a member of the Senior Leadership Team will engage with the student and parents/guardians to outline the allocated subjects and explore alternatives if they wish to.
 - Students will also be offered access to the school's Guidance Counsellor to support informed decision-making.

5. Changes to Subject Choices

The school encourages students to make well-informed decisions at the subject choice stage. However, it is recognised that some students may wish to change subjects after the academic year has commenced.

Requests for subject changes will be considered on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Senior Leadership Team, Guidance Counsellor, and relevant subject teachers.

While every effort will be made to accommodate requests, changes are subject to constraints including existing subject blocks, timetabling limitations, and availability of places in classes. As a result, not all requests can be guaranteed.

6. Supporting Students

The school is committed to supporting students by providing guidance on subject choices, access to the Guidance Counsellor, clear communication with parents/guardians, and ensuring decisions are made in the best educational interest of each student.

This policy was first adopted in Nov 2007 and most recently updated in June 2026