



WESLEY COLLEGE GUIDANCE POLICY

Introduction

The Guidance Policy of Wesley College follows upon the Ethos Statement and should be read in the context of the school serving the needs of students aged from 11 years to 18 years. It is the policy of Wesley College to support all students, in an appropriate manner.

The function of the Guidance Department is to guide and assist students in two particular areas:

Careers & Educational Guidance

Junior Cycle

The Drumcondra Reasoning Test is administered to incoming First years to identify levels of achievement and remediation needs for this group.

Years I, II and III are addressed on study/homework methods and tips for effective study. Third years are also addressed regarding examination preparation & techniques.

Third year parents are invited to attend a talk on Supporting Study at Home, whilst students have a study skills morning, given by outside experts.

Senior Cycle

Transition Year

Guidance for Transition Year students includes administering Aptitude Tests and fully briefing students on senior cycle subject choices and options open to them. Parents are invited to attend a presentation on Leaving Certificate subjects. Each student has an individual appointment to discuss their interests, aptitudes and subject choice.

In addition, students are prepared for Mock Interviews and are given classes on careers and Third-level courses. Throughout the year guest speakers address students on their own careers

Fifth Year

In Fifth year the emphasis is on individual decision-making, goal-setting and planning. In the last term, an individual appointment is made for each student to explore career choice and the educational requirements for various courses. They are addressed as a group throughout the year on careers-related topics; Choosing a Career, Choosing a Course, Third-level Structure, Studying Abroad. They attend the UCD Open Day and have a day dedicated to Study Skills.

Sixth Year

In Sixth year students are scheduled for an individual appointment and are guided through the CAO and UCAS application procedures. They are encouraged, where appropriate, to further their research by attending Open Days in TCD, DIT etc. and the Higher Options Conference. They also receive a number of group talks throughout the year on CAO, UCAS, Examination Preparation & Study skills.

Throughout the three Senior Cycle years further targeting of small interest groups takes place through tutorials e.g. study abroad, art courses, paramedical careers.

Personal Guidance

A specific structure is in place to assist students with day to day issues which may arise. This structure includes: Class Tutor, Year Head, Subject Teachers and Chaplain. Students may request support from these teachers or advice on issues of concern.

Where additional assistance is required the College Guidance Counsellors support this pastoral care system. There are weekly Pastoral Care and Year Head meetings.

Students in all years may be seen individually, either at their own request or that of a parent or teacher. Students are offered the opportunity to explore/discuss personal issues and are guided and helped through the decision-making process.

It should be noted that there is a limit on personal counselling that can be offered within a school context and it is not school policy to offer a programme of ongoing counselling regarding issues which are outside the skills or time constraints of the Guidance Counsellor. Sometimes it may be necessary to recommend further, outside help.

Confidentiality

Guidance Counsellors are available to listen to students who wish to discuss personal or career issues. While support is always offered, confidentiality cannot be guaranteed to students or parents. Where there are concerns regarding child abuse all teachers and counsellors are obliged to forward these concerns to the College's Designated Liaison Person. This is in accordance with "Principles of Good Practice for the Protection of Children & Young People" issued by the Department of Health & Children.