

Wesley College Dublin

Guidance Policy

1. Introduction

The Guidance Policy of Wesley College 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 Guidance Department is part of the pastoral care structure in the College. A member of the Department attends pastoral care meetings at both senior and junior level to plan for student care, to consider student progress and discuss issues of concern which may arise. The Guidance Department works with Year Heads and the Chaplain of the College to provide a support service for students.

2. Careers & Educational Guidance

Junior Cycle

The Drumcondra Reasoning Test is administered to incoming 1st Year students to identify levels of achievement in the student body and remediation needs for this group. The Guidance Department may liaise with the Special Co-ordinator following the results of this test.

1st, 2nd and 3rd Years are addressed on study/homework methods and tips for effective study. 3rd Years are also addressed regarding examination preparation & techniques.

3rd Year parents are invited to attend a talk on Supporting Study at Home held during the first term.

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 subject options. Guidance Counsellors are available to discuss selection of Leaving Certificate subjects with students and /or parents, as requested.

In addition, students are prepared for Mock Interviews and undertake a module on careers and third-level courses. Throughout the year guest speakers address students on their own careers

5th Year

In 5th Year the emphasis is on individual decision-making, goal-setting and planning. An individual appointment is made for each student to explore career choice and the educational requirements for various courses.

Students are addressed as a group on several occasions throughout the year on careers-related topics; Choosing a Career, Choosing a Course, Third-level Structure, Studying Abroad. Students attend UCD Open Day and have a day dedicated to Study Skills when external speakers are invited to the College.

6th Year

In 6th Year students are seen individually at their own request, as often as needed, 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 and the Higher Options Conference. They also receive a number of group talks throughout the year on CAO applications, UCAS applications, Examination Preparation and Study Skills.

Throughout the three Senior Cycle years further targeting of small interest groups takes place through tutorials. Topics covered may include studying abroad, art courses, paramedical careers.

3. 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.

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 on-going 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.

4. Confidentiality

Guidance Counsellors are available to listen to students who wish to discuss personal or career issues. Students who feel the need to discuss such issues will be welcomed by counsellors in the Department.

It is generally understood that conversations with a College Guidance Counsellor are in confidence. Students should feel comfortable that conversations with a counsellor are private and confidential and this confidentiality will be maintained except in the following circumstances:

- a where a student is considered to be putting themselves or others at risk
- b where an illegal activity has taken place
- c where there are concerns regarding child protection.

Should a child protection issue arise 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 and Child Protection Guidelines issued by the Department of Education and Science.¹

Approved by the Board of Management
January 2007

¹ Child Protection Guidelines for Post Primary Schools, issued 2004, has been adopted as policy of Wesley College by the Board of Management