

St. Benedict's College



INDUCTION POLICY

Introduction

The transfer from primary to secondary school can be a difficult experience. Pupils have to adjust to new peers, environment and timetable, as well as to new responsibilities and expectations from their teachers. Often this transition may be accompanied by feelings of stress through which pupils need ongoing support.

Aims

- To promote a supportive and caring Catholic environment in which pupils are enabled to integrate with their peers and to adjust readily to the demands of their new circumstances in order to maximise their academic and social potential.
- To make the experience of transfer to a new learning environment a pleasant and positive one for pupils in order that they may enhance their self-confidence and enjoy a sense of security within the community of St. Benedict's College.

Objectives

- To allay fears and apprehension before arrival.
- To make pupils feel welcome and at ease.
- To establish a partnership between the school, the pupils and the parents as well as the wider community.
- To give guidance regarding organisation of school work.
- To help pupils develop their abilities, interests and aptitudes.
- To enable pupils to think and to act independently and to take responsibility for themselves and for their activities.
- To develop the social skills necessary to work successfully with others.
- To encourage pride in their school.

The Year 8 Induction Programme involves:

1. Each Year 8 pupil will receive a package of forms/ uniform regulations etc. by post in May.
2. Interviews with each parent and child during the month of June to be conducted by either:

		Mrs B. O’Kane	(Year Head)
or	-	Mr P. McKendry	(Pastoral Care Co-ordinator)
or	-	Mrs B. Kelly	(SENCO)
- during which time information will be given and data capture information received by the school.
3. The opportunity to make a request in regard to placement in a particular class may be made at this interview.
4. SENCO visits feeder Primary Schools.
5. A visit to the school at the end of June for pupils with special needs to be shown round the school by the SENCO and to receive information about the school.
6. Year 8 pupils will begin one day earlier than the remainder of the school pupils. They will spend the day with the Form Teacher but will meet with the School Chaplain/ Principal/ Assistant Principal and Year Head through the course of the day. Pupils will receive a tour of the school and a gentle introduction to school rules. They will also have an opportunity to eat in the Canteen.
7. Two Year 12 mentors will be assigned to each Year 8 class. The mentors will be in attendance on their first day in the school.
8. Year 8 will have an assembly one day per week and a Junior Assembly once per term.
9. Year 8 will have a designated playground for their own use.
10. The Homework Diary will be checked each week by the Form Teacher and parents are encouraged to sign it each weekend and to use the Diary as a means of communication with the teachers.
11. Year 8 will go to the Canteen five minutes early until the end of September.
12. Year 8 will have access to a range of extra-curricular activities.
13. Year 8 will go on the School Ramble to Glenariff Country Park in Mid-October to raise money for school funds, accompanied by the Year Head, Form Teachers and Mentors.
14. Year 8 will have a Dedication of Studies Mass in October/ November.
15. Year 8 will go to Antrim Forum – Team Building

Induction for pupils with English as Another Language

- Pupils will be placed in classes according to their the PTE/PTM scores and information from Primary School and Parents
- Pupils will receive a file from the Assistant Principal to use in each class containing information about the school etc.
- Pupils will have access to Language Support classes.
- Pupils will have access to the Accelerated Reader Programme and Reading Buddies Programme.
- Newcomer teacher will mentor the Newcomer Group with regular meetings with the teacher or and Assistant Principal.

Induction for pupils other than those entering Year 8 includes:

- A Meeting with the Principal to discuss the Programme of Study and timetable arrangements.
- An introduction to the Head of Year/ Form Teacher.
- Provision of a timetable/ Homework Diary/ Necessary Data Capture Information and Policies.
- Daily Meetings with Form Teacher at Registration period.

YEAR 8 PD TOPICS

UNIT	TIME
Starting Year 8 Safety and Managing Risk Good Manners	September
Feelings and Emotions	October
Managing Influences and Making decisions	November
Learning about Learning	November- December
Self Concept	January
Love For Life (Who is choosing?)	February- March
Health and the Whole Person	April
Drugs Awareness	May – June