

Student Guidance Support in St. Aloysius Secondary School

GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

There is one guidance counsellor in St Aloysius Secondary School, Ms. K. Whalley

SCHOOL GUIDANCE POLICY

Guidance is regarded as a core element of the school's overall programme. The guidance programme seeks to respond to the needs of the students at all stages of their education in the school.

The objectives of the guidance programme are not only framed by reference to the legislative requirements, but are also referenced by the good practices disseminated by the Institute of Guidance Counsellors and the National Centre for Guidance in Education. Guidance in the school is viewed as a continual developmental process which begins prior to the entry of the student into St Aloysius.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES;

The aims of guidance include;

- To provide a framework for the delivery of the school's guidance programme
- To ensure a structured response is in place to meet the personal, educational, social and career guidance needs of the students
- To ensure that all students, junior, senior, adult, non-Irish nationals, those with special needs, are catered for and included in the guidance activities of the school.
- To list major guidance activities, initiatives, interactions and strategies such as vocational guidance interviews, educational guidance interviews, attendance at career exhibitions, meetings with management, interactions with support agencies, personal counselling.

The objectives of guidance include;

- To help each student become aware of her talents and abilities and how best to utilise these talents and abilities so as to optimise her engagement with education and to reach her optimum potential
- To assist each student in the identification and exploration of various educational and career opportunities open to them in post second level
- To enable students to grow in independence and to take responsibility for their own selves, their learning and their careers
- To assist in the provision of information so that students may make informed decisions aware of possible consequences and implications.

DEFINING GUIDANCE

Guidance refers to the range of learning experiences provided in a developmental sequence that assists students to make choices - personal and social, educational, and career - about their lives and which enables them to successfully deal with the transitions which result from such choices. A spectrum of activities and services are provided in order to assist students; counselling, assessment, advice, information, educational development programmes, personal and social development programmes, vocational development programmes and referrals.

THE ROLE OF THE GUIDANCE COUNSELLOR

The role of the guidance counsellor is one which is formative, informative and consultative and encompasses helping to direct and develop students' capacity to become self-directed and independent learners, equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to make informed decisions. Such a role is carried out in consultation with the students' parents/guardians and with other members of staff.

The guidance counsellor has a role in contributing to the development and evaluation of appropriate programmes, in administering psychometric tests and interpreting their results, in managing information, in administering the guidance department and in liaising with appropriate professionals, bodies, and agencies outside of school. The remit of guidance involves three distinct, yet very much interlinked, areas; personal guidance, educational guidance and career guidance.

The counsellor is consulted by school management and pastoral care personnel on such issues

Every student in fifth and sixth year is afforded the opportunity to meet the guidance counsellor on personal and career related matters. Students in first, second and third year are seen by the guidance counsellor on a request or referral basis

If possible small groups of students may be seen together if they have a common interest, for example a number of students wishing to pursue a specific career or course such as nursing.