**Loreto Abbey Secondary School Dalkey, Co Dublin.**

**Subject Department Plan for Transition Year**

**2017-2018**

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**Subject Aims**

* To contribute to students general education through scientific investigation to acquire biological knowledge and understanding.
* To encourage scientific enquiry through individual study, teamwork & class directed work.
* To understand biological facts and principles.
* To enhance interest and appreciation of nature and diversity of organisms.
* To create awareness of the application of Biology in modern society.
* To develop students’ ability to make informed evaluation about contemporary biological issues.

**Subject Objectives**

* Knowledge, understanding, skills with an ability to carry out practical work, laboratory work and fieldwork safely and effectively and to record and interpret biological data.
* Appreciation and interface with technology; to apply knowledge and understanding of Biology in everyday life.
* Science in the political, social and economic spheres; applying knowledge and understanding in Biology in personal, social and economic spheres, to make informed evaluation and contemporary biological issues.

**Subject Co-ordinator**

Deirdre Butler

**Subject Teachers**

Patricia Butler

Linda Nolan

Joanne McBreen

Martin Mulligan

**Time Allocation**

Three class periods per week; 1 double and 1 single

**Option Structure**

Each class group will engage in at least two topics from each Biology, Physics and Chemistry.

**Grouping of Pupils**

All classes are mixed ability.

**Student Access to Subject/Level**

Science will be studied at common level for Transition Year.

**Planning for Students with Special Needs**

Liaison with Career Guidance Counsellor, Special Needs/Resource Teachers and Principal. Differentiated worksheets and teaching methodologies are utilised in the classroom as needed.

**Cross-curricular planning**

Reference made in classroom to topics also covered in Geography, Religion and Home-Economics.

**Provision for Health & Safety Requirements**

There is a first aid kit available in each laboratory. Lab rules are explained and displayed in each laboratory. There is an accident report book in the office. Fire drills are conducted annually. The risk of each experiment is explained prior to each experiment. Copies of the published guidelines (Safety in School Science & Safety in the School Lab) published by the DES located in the main prep. room (used in cases of spillage & disposal of chemicals). MSDS’s available of computer in each laboratory. Teachers are aware of syndromes and allergies of students that need to be considered in relation to teaching the subject.

**Record Keeping Procedures**

* Each teacher keeps a daily record of attendance.
* End of topic results & formal exam results are kept by the teacher.
* Formal exam results are recorded in students reports, copies of which are kept centrally.
* Where homework is an issue the teacher takes a note and records the lack of homework in the student’s journal.

**Reporting Procedures**

* The students journal is used to communicate with parents when a student gives cause for concern (e.g. not completing homework, lack of focus in class).
* Contact is made with parents by phone/email.
* Parent/Teacher meetings are held once a year where a student’s progress is discussed.
* Formal reports consisting of a grade and comment by the Teacher in each subject are given three times a year.

**Literacy & Numeracy**

* Create a word rich environment
* Place key terms/words for specific topics on the board.
* Set students the task of creating, using ICT to create and print posters using key terms/words.
* Set the students the task of creating using ICT types of graphs relating to the topic.
* Explaining and justify their methods and conclusions.
* Ensure your classroom has a digital and an analogue clock on display.
* Ensure that the date is written on the board.
* Key symbols/phrases of numeracy on the board.
* Using numerical vocabulary correctly and precisely.
* Students are taught to do calculations, read graphs and work with formulae.