**Subject Choice Policy:**

**School Name:** Edmund Rice Secondary School, Carrick-on-Suir.

**School Address:** Mount St. Nicholas, Carrick-on- Suir, Co. Tipperary.

**School Details:** ERSS Carrick-on-Suir is a Voluntary Roman Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship and the patronage of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust. The School is grant aided by the Department of Education & Skills and is a single sex (boys) school.

**School Management:** The Board of Management of ERSS Carrick-on-Suir is a statutory Board appointed pursuant to the provisions of the Education Act 1998.

**Mission Statement:**

 Inspired by its founder, ERSS Carrick-on-Suir’s mission is to “*To provide a caring Christian community which celebrates effort and talent in an environment of hope and happiness"* , with a vision to *“Learn together, succeed together in a respectful environment.”*

**Ethos**:

As an Edmund Rice School ERSS Carrick-on-Suir seeks to promote the five key elements of an Edmund Rice School as espoused by the ERST Charter:

● Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values

● Promoting partnership in the school community

● Excelling in teaching and learning

● Creating a caring school community

● Inspiring transformational leadership

Please Note:

Personal data collected about prospective students/students and their parents/guardians will be retained and used strictly in accordance with the provisions of GDPR legislation as introduced 25th. May 2018. Further details on data protection are set out in the school’s Data Protection Policy.

**Aims of Policy**

1. To work towards achieving the Mission Statement of our school.

2. To meet requirements of the 1998 Education Act to ensure pupils have access to appropriate guidance to assist them in their educational and career choices.

**Objectives of Policy**

1. To identify and support the students who will be requested to make subject choices.

2. To inform all the partners in the school of the procedures involved in subject choice at ERSS Carrick-on-Suir.

3. To ensure a transparent policy by identifying the challenges that may arise within subject choice.

**This policy applies to:**

1. Students entering second year.

2. Entrants to 5th Year from Transition Year and from 3rd Year.

**Subject Choices:**

• Students moving into second year: Currently, students choose two of the following four subjects; Woodwork, Technical Graphics, French or Art. All students engage in all these subjects in first year as compulsory subjects with the exception of Art which they have an option of doing a short taster module.

 • Entrants to 5th Year: Choice of four subjects for Leaving Certificate from those available. There is an extensive choice of subjects with sloe students opting for subjects that are currently offered in Scoile Mhuire.

**Who is Responsible?**

The ultimate decision and responsibility for subject choice rests with the Principal and the Board of Management of the ERSS Carrick-on-Suir. It is dependent on teacher allocation and the numbers opting to do a particular subject.

**Procedures for entrants to 5th Year**

On return to school early in the New Year, students opting to complete fifth year the following school year undertake a module on subject choice as part of the guidance programme if they are currently in transition year. Students in third year will not have the luxury of this module (but will be given the information in a subject choice booklet).

Students will be expected to complete the DAT with the career guidance department. This assessment indicates student strengths across a range of aptitudes.

They are given information on:

• The list of subjects available to choose from.

• The entry requirements for 3rd level colleges and other career areas.

• The essential subjects for particular courses.

• The general relevance of subjects to all career areas.

Teachers of Leaving Certificate Subjects make themselves available to give information on their subject area so that students are informed about:

• Subject content.

• Assessment of the subject.

• Allocation of marks for assignments or project work for the Leaving Certificate Exam in that subject.

**Parental Involvement:**

A letter is sent home to Parent(s)/Guardian(s) to inform them of a Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Information Evening regarding subject choice. A date is given to Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and students by which subject choice forms must be returned.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and/or students are welcome to request a one to one appointment with the Guidance Counsellor regarding subject choice, dependent on availability of the Guidance Counsellor.

• A process begins whereby four bands of subjects are drawn up in consultation with students and Parent(s)/Guardian(s), until an optimal fit is found within the school context.

 • Any difficulties that arise in accommodating student preferences are discussed with students and Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and the school Principal.

• Alternative choices are proposed with reference to career implications.

• Suitable alternatives are selected by students and ratified by the Parent(s)/Guardian(s) in all cases subject to availability.

• Subject choices to be completed before the Easter break.

**Subject Change of Mind in 5th Year**

• Except under exceptional circumstances, no changes in subject choice are permitted after 30th September on entering 5th Year.

• Changes prior to 30th September can only be facilitated subject to class size, and timetabling restrictions and parental/Guardian consent.

The following procedures are in place for pupils where change of subject choice can be facilitated:

• Students and/or Parent(s)/Guardian(s) arrange a consultation with the Guidance Counsellor. Please note changes in subjects may affect college and LCVP choices. It is the responsibility of the parents to be aware of these implications and accept the consequences of any changes made.

• Request in writing from Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must be submitted to the Guidance Counsellor.

 • Request is discussed with Principal, Guidance Counsellor and the relevant teachers.

• Change is permitted when all concerned are in agreement and when the change of option form is fully completed.

**Approval:**

This policy has been distributed to staff, parents and students for their approval.

Amendments have been made after consultation with these stakeholders.

This policy has been ratified by the Board of Management of ERSS Carrick-on-Suir;

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

This policy will be due for review on:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_