

Student Awards Policy

Introduction:

This Student Awards Policy reflects the school's efforts to recognise and reward students' efforts and achievements, within and outside the classroom.

Scope of Student Awards Policy:

This Student Awards Policy applies to all students who are enrolled in the school in each academic year.

Relationship to Mission Statement:

Curragh Post Primary School's Mission Statement is as follows:

Our School values the gifts and talents of students and staff in their development in an atmosphere of equity, caring and mutual respect. Can we achieve this? Yes, we can. Is Feidir Linn.

This Student Awards Policy is another framework within which the school recognises and celebrates students' commitment to all aspects of school life and "the development of whole people, empowered to lead effective lives in the wider society" is enhanced.

Aims of this Student Awards Policy:

The main aim of this Student Awards Policy is to ensure that students' attendance, efforts, ability and achievements are both recognised and rewarded.

It is envisaged that school management, staff and parent representatives will revise the "Student Awards Policy" regularly.

School's Student Awards Structure:

The school presents students in each year group with awards in the following five categories: Student of the Year, Academic Student of the Year, Attendance Awards and Sports Personality of the Year.

Student(s) of the Year:

An important part of the school's Code of Behaviour is the effort made to acknowledge the good behaviour and commitment to their studies of the vast majority of our students.

The Aims of these "Student of the Year Awards" are:

- To develop the individual to the best of his / her ability;
- To encourage excellence among our students;
- To develop a sense of pride among the students in our school;
- To develop a better school spirit;
- To recognise consistent effort and commitment.
- To reward consistent effort and commitment.

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An important part of the school's Code of Behaviour is the effort made to acknowledge the good behaviour and commitment to their studies of the vast majority of our students.

Teachers are encouraged to communicate orally and / or in writing with parents / guardians to inform them of the positive contribution to their own learning that students make either within the classroom or in the wider school community.

At the end of every half-term, e.g. in the weeks before Halloween, Christmas, February mid-term and in mid-May, teachers will award a credit (per subject) to students who deserve it. The decision to award / not to award a credit will be made by the class teacher alone on the basis of continuous hard work, good behaviour, project work, practical work, etc. There will be a credit available, also, to the Year Head. In addition, in recognition of students' involvement in non-classroom activities, a maximum of three further credits will be available under the headings, Sporting Activity, Cultural Activity and Environmental Activity.

These credits will then be added up and the total credits for the person involved will be recorded in the student's journal / diary.

At the end of the year, the top five students in each class with the most credits will be considered, by the teaching staff, for the Student of the Class Award. Four will receive a certificate in recognition of their achievements, while the winner will receive the Class Student of the Year Award.

The thirty or so students throughout the school will be rewarded with a trip or treat (e.g. cinema tickets / an outdoor pursuit day, etc.). The Board of Management will normally make money available towards the cost of this day / event.

The next forty or so students throughout the school will be rewarded with a trip or treat (e.g. a half day activity). The Board of Management will normally make money available towards the cost of this day / event.

The Board aims to ensure that at least 40% of the student population is recognised annually in this way.

Attendance Awards:

The school awards formal Attendance Certificates to all students who are recorded on the official school register as having achieved 95% each school year (i.e. who have missed seven days or less).

Best Diary:

The school will make an award of the "Best Diary" in each of the Junior Cycle Year Groups. At the end of each academic year, school diaries must be handed up to Year Heads for retention on the student's file.

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Academic Student of the Year:

In each year group, the students with the best academic results will be considered for this award. While the number of nominated students is not pre – determined, there will be two overall academic winners in each year group (1st – 6th Year). The following is the basis on which successful students are selected for the awards:

- At Junior Cert. level, (1st – 3rd Year), the best eight subjects, while
- At Leaving Cert. level, (5th – 6th Year), the best six subjects will be considered.

%	Exam Grades	Higher Level	Ordinary Level
90-100	A1	100	60
85-89	A2	90	50
80-84	B1	85	45
75-79	B2	80	40
70-74	B3	75	35
65-69	C1	70	30
60-64	C2	65	25
55-59	C3	60	20
50-54	D1	55	15
45-49	D2	50	10
40-44	D3	45	5

Note: There 25 extra points available for students of Higher Level Maths.

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Result		University / I.T. Points
%		
80-100	Distinction	70
65 – 79	Merit	50
50 – 64	Pass	30

In the case of the 3rd and 6th Year students, teachers are consulted individually about the results of the Christmas Test and the mock exams. These two results are averaged and the points achieved calculated.

In the case of 1st, 2nd and 5th Years, the average results of the Christmas exams and the monthly and class exams after Christmas are used to calculate the points achieved by each student.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy and a great deal of time is spent on the process to ensure it is as fair as possible.

There is no pre – determined limit on the number of students who can be nominated for the Academic Student of the Year in each year group. All of those students nominated will receive a Certificate of Nomination.

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The two overall winners in each year group will receive a Certificate of Nomination, a Winner's Certificate and a Plaque.

Sports Personality of the Year:

There are a total of ten "Sports Personality of the Year Awards". Awards are given to both male and female sports personalities of the year in the following five categories: 1st Year; 2nd Year; 3rd Year; 5th Year and 6th Year.

The Aims of these Sports Personality of the Year Awards are:

- To promote wide positive participation in sport;
- To encourage a better school spirit;
- To encourage good sportsmanship in the school;
- To provide a target / goal for students in the area of sport;
- To provide opportunities for the development of sharing, responsibility and organisation in the school's sporting activities.

The potential candidates for these awards will be considered under the following headings:

Training	Attendance and level of Participation
Ability	How one uses one's ability
Sportsmanship	Both on and off the field of play Must have positive attitude towards team-mates, opposition, referees and coaches.
Contribution to Sport in the School	Helping to organise / coach / referee sport in the school.
Dependability	Can be relied upon to act in the best interests of the team. This quality is best demonstrated by the student's attendance at matches, preparation and collection of equipment and by the students fulfilling his / her responsibility to catch up on classwork and complete homework.

All students involved in sport nominate one person from their area(s) of sport within their year group, whom they consider best fulfils the criteria outlined. Teachers involved in sport in the school nominate three candidates in their area of sport. The top five or six candidates progress to the final stage where the teachers involved in school sports meet to make the final decision strictly based on (i) student nominations; (ii) teachers' nominations and (iii) the criteria already outlined.

The winners will be announced at the relevant prize giving ceremony, where they will receive a trophy and / or prize.

Junior Certificate Subject Achievements Award:

In May of each year, the school will make a presentation to all students who achieve an "A" at Higher Level in any subject in the previous year's Junior Certificate State Examination.

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Junior Certificate Achievement Award:

In May of each year, the school will make a presentation to the two students who achieved the highest results in the previous year's Junior Certificate State Examination.

Leaving Certificate Achievement Award:

In May of each year, the school will make a presentation to the two students who achieved the highest results in the previous year's Leaving Certificate State Examination.

Future Targets (to be achieved by May 2017):

In line with the Junior Certificate School Award, the school should work towards recognising student achievement by devising a set of awards in the following categories:

Literature Award;

Languages Award;

Technology Award;

Science Award;

Humanities Award and

Applied Sciences Award.

Conclusion:

The Board of Management Curragh Post Primary School, in devising and approving this Student Awards Policy, is determined to ensure that, within the school community, there is formal recognition of students' attendance efforts, ability and achievements.

The Student Awards Policy will be reviewed regularly by teachers and by the Board of Management every three years. Any staff member who is unhappy with the content or the implementation of any school policy may request a review at any time and such a request will be dealt with as quickly as possible. The Parents' Council may request a formal review at any time and such a request will be dealt with as quickly as possible by the Board of Management.

Policy Approved: May 12th 2014

Policy Review Date: May 2017