

Athboy Community School



Awards Policy

Ratified January 2026

1.1 Introduction

Athboy Community School is committed to providing a safe, caring, creative and culturally diverse learning environment in which all students are encouraged to reach their full potential. Central to this commitment is the promotion of an open and respectful school culture, where positive relationships between staff and students are valued and nurtured.

Our Learning Code is based on a positive behaviour model which sets out expectations for students and recognises and awards students who excel in any area of school life.

The school believes in recognising and rewarding positive behaviour, effort and achievement. Through this Awards Policy, Athboy Community School aims to encourage active student participation in all aspects of school life and to support students in developing academically, physically, emotionally, spiritually and psychologically.

In line with our school motto, *“Mol an Óige agus tiocfaidh sí”*, Athboy Community School affirms the importance of praising young people and acknowledging their contributions and successes.

1.2 Positive Behaviour

Our Assets Portfolio system is built around identifying clearly such areas of school life and awarding Assets, Citations and Superlatives to students based on their participation and contribution to school life and to the academic and extracurricular activities in which they engage. These Assets go towards the Student of the Week and the Most Improved Student of the Month Certificates which are awarded at year group assemblies each week.

All students are encouraged to demonstrate positive behaviour and staff are committed to giving Assets to students in recognition of the following types of behaviour;

- A. Oral contributions in class
- B. Active Listening
- C. Improvement in classwork or homework
- D. Commendable Acts of Kindness
- E. Positive school spirit
- F. Good manners
- G. Creativity in Music or Art
- H. Sustainability
- I. Taking initiative
- J. Digital Skills
- K. Sporting talent
- L. Being good with your hands
- M. Participation in extracurricular activities
- N. *Quietly and diligently engaging in learning
- O. *Helping other students learn
- P. Other talents, skills, achievements

The Asset Portfolio is also the basis of the Honour Roll which is compiled each trimester and consists of the top ten percent of students in each class in the Asset Portfolio System. Rewards for getting on the Honour Roll include students having their names set out on the Honour Roll Noticeboard, on the school app, website and on social media. Honour Roll students also win a school trip or a prize.

1.3 Annual Awards Ceremony

Our Awards ceremony in May of each year is a memorable highlight of the year and affords the school the opportunity to celebrate the success, effort, tenacity, commitment, and dedication of our students in a vast array of disciplines and areas. Student achievements are recognised in the following areas:

- i. Group Awards
- ii. Subject Awards
- iii. Core Values Awards
- iv. Sporting Awards
- v. Leadership Awards
- vi. Participation Awards
- vii. Special Awards

1.3.1 Group Awards

Group Awards are presented to groups of students who work together on various projects which culminate in a worthy achievement. Such groups might include; the Amber Flag Committee, School Bank Team, Gaisce Medals, TY groups such as Junk Couture, GAA Future Leaders, Microsoft Student Ambassadors, Model United Nations etc..

1.3.2 Academic Awards

Subject Excellence Awards are given to the top performer in terms of academic excellence, effort and dedication in each subject area in each class in each year group. These are teacher nominations.

Each year we invite the student with the Best Leaving Certificate Results back to receive an award, to speak to the students about how it has impacted their lives and how they achieved their results.

We also recognise the student in senior cycle who achieved the Best Junior Certificate results the previous year.

1.3.3 Sporting Awards

Sporting Awards are presented to the two outstanding Junior and/or Senior Cycle students for their contribution to sport both in school and outside of school. There are also awards for teams or individuals who excel in their own discipline or competition.

1.3.4 Leadership Awards

Leadership Awards are presented to students who have given of their time to support other student, to contribute to school life or whose work results in the expansion of supports or activities in the school. Such awards go to the following leadership groups;

- Prefects
- Student Council
- The Sports Council
- Senior Mentors
- Junior Mentors

1.3.5 Core Values Awards

Our Core Values are Care, Respect, Creativity, Safety, and Inclusion. Core Values Awards are presented in each group to students who epitomise our Core Values of Care and Creativity.

- **The Care Award** is presented to students who demonstrate care, empathy and kindness in all of their interactions with students and staff . (Awarded by students)

- **The Creativity Award** celebrates the student who has shared their creativity, innovation, expression, and fresh thinking for the betterment of the school community
- **The Student of the Year Award** is based on our Learning Code and Asset Portfolio System. It recognises students in each year group who have shown outstanding growth, leadership, and personal responsibility. These students embody the core values of Athboy Community School.
- **The Community Award** : In Sixth Year we present an additional Award which is based on our core value of Inclusion. This award is presented to a student who has contributed to the community beyond the school and who have represented the school in some outstanding way during their time in school.
- **The Mol an Óige Award** : The final award is based on our motto ‘Mol an Óige agas Tíocfaidh Sí’. This award recognises a student who has shown resilience, who has overcome obstacles and has worked hard to achieve their goals, for getting involved in so many aspects of the school community, and for being a kind and generous individual in all aspects of their school life.

The recipients of these awards are nominated by staff and students in receipt of most votes are then brought to a meeting of the year heads, the principal and deputy principal.

The recipient of the Care Award in Sixth Year is nominated by the students themselves.

1.3.6 Special Awards

Each year students are awarded for their special achievements in Music, the Arts or any other areas of life.

1.3.7 Attendance Awards

In line with our Attendance Strategy, students receive a certificate of Attendance for achieving over 90 % and 100 % attendance at the end of each Semester. These certificates are presented by Year Heads and Tutors at Assemblies.

Students who achieve 95 % and above are recognised at the end of Year Award Ceremony.

2. Review of Awards

Each year the Learning Code is reviewed through a process of student, staff and parent surveys and focus groups to ensure that our positive behaviour system is analysed and tweaked as necessary to ensure buy in from the whole school community.

Recent changes have focused on ensuring equity for all students in terms of the recognition of all types of learning, skills and attributes of students in our Asset Portfolio. Students have asked that the same students not receive Student of the Week too often and that Honour Roll recipients may remain on the Honour Roll for consecutive semesters but do not receive prizes every time.

We recognise the importance of constantly reviewing our Awards System to reflect our context and to reflect our core values.

Signed: _____ Chair Date: _____

Signed: _____ Secretary Date: _____