**SAINT FANCHEA'S COLLEGE**

**CURRICULUM POLICY**

**2022-2023**

The Senior Leadership Team recognises the need to take a strategic approach to curriculum development across the college which staffing, resources, and pupil abilities into consideration. On entry to Saint Fanchea's College, pupils are organised into three class groups and all classes are taught the full range of subjects which conforms to the requirements of The Education (Curriculum Minimum Content) Order (Northern Ireland) 2007.

The curriculum offered to our pupils aims to:

(i) promote the spiritual, emotional, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of our pupils

(ii) prepare our pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of life by equipping them with appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills.

**AIMS OF SAINT FANCHEA'S COLLEGE**

Saint Fanchea's College promotes high achievement and learning for life by working with students to:

- develop a positive self image

- achieve their full potential as individuals

- have an enjoyment of learning both now and for life

- strive for high moral standards in keeping with the Christian values of the college

- be a responsible member of the college and wider community

We believe that each pupil will succeed through experiencing quality in:

- a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum

- a stimulating teaching and learning environment relevant to all pupils

- a positive pastoral learning environment

- an enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits

- partnerships between pupils, parents, college staff and outside agencies

# ORGANISATION OF THE CURRICULUM

At Key Stage 3 (Years 8 to 10), the curriculum is common to all pupils and all class groupings are of mixed ability. There is extra help for pupils experiencing difficulties in English and also for pupils with English as an additional language.

The Statutory Curriculum places an emphasis on the totality of pupils' experiences across the curriculum and challenges teachers to make meaningful links beyond their subject emphasis. Subjects no longer stand alone with their own discretely defined areas of knowledge and skills. Rather they are set out as strands within Areas of Learning which share curriculum objectives with common key elements and skills outcomes. In Key Stages Three and Four, the core curriculum of subjects provides the opportunity for pupils to acquire the cross curricular skills of using communication, mathematics and ICT. These skills are developed across all subjects in each Key Stage. In order to meet our statutory requirements, Saint Fanchea's College provides learning opportunities in relation to the following Areas of Learning.

| At Key Stage 3 | |
| --- | --- |
| **Areas of Learning** | **Main Contributory Subjects** |
| Language and Literacy | English<br>Library |
| Mathematics and Numeracy | Mathematics |
| Modern Languages | French |
| The Arts | Art and Design<br>Music<br>Drama |
| Environment and Society | History<br>Geography |
| Science and Technology | Science<br>Technology and Design<br>I C T |
| Learning for Life and Work | Employability<br>Local and Global Citizenship<br>Personal Development<br>Home Economics |

| Physical Education | Physical Education |
|---|---|
| Religious Education | Religious Education |

| At Key Stage 4 | |
|---|---|
| **Areas of Learning** | **Contributory Subjects** |
| Language and Literacy | English (GCSE or Entry level)<br>Essential Skills in Communication (Entry Level to Level 2) |
| Mathematics and Numeracy | Mathematics (GCSE or Entry level)<br>Essential Skills in Application of Number (Entry Level to Level 2) |
| Modern Languages | French (GCSE)<br>Polish (GCSE)<br>Russian (GCSE)<br>Arabic (GCSE) |
| The Arts | Art and Design (GCSE)<br>Music (GCSE)<br>Creative Arts & Digital Technologies (GCSE) |
| Environment and Society | History (GCSE)<br>Geography (GCSE or Entry level)<br>Business Communication Systems (GCSE)<br>Business Studies (GCSE)<br>Hospitality (BTEC)<br>Travel & Tourism (BTEC)<br>Digital Technology (GCSE)<br>Health & Social Care (GCSE) Certificate in Information Technology Applications (Level 2) |
| Science and Technology | GCSE Science (GCSE)<br>Double Award Science (GCSE)<br>OCN L2 Applied Science<br>Technology and Design (GCSE) |
| Learning for Life and Work | Learning for Life and Work (GCSE)<br>Child Development (GCSE)<br>Food & Nutrition (GCSE)<br>Occupational Studies (Level 2) Prince's Trust Award (equivalent to two GCSE grades) |
| Physical Education | First Award in Sport (BTEC)<br>Physical Education   (GCSE) |
| Religious Education | Religious Education (GCSE)<br>OCN L2 Religion |

In addition to the statutory requirements, Saint Fanchea's College also provides opportunities to enable pupils to develop their skills in Communication, using Mathematics,

using Information and Communications Technology, problem solving, working with others and self management.

It is college policy that all pupils have access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum and are entered for as many external examinations as are realistically within their capabilities and at the level which best suits their aptitudes. All pupils are offered courses leading to GCSE and other recognised qualifications.

During Key Stage 4, all pupils follow a curriculum, which ensures breadth and balance, and yet they have some choice of other courses. We recommend that all pupils take a creative or practical subject for examination and do not take more than eight GCSE subjects because of the heavy demands of coursework and assignments. All pupils study a core curriculum of Mathematics and English (either GCSE or Essential Skills) until the end of Key Stage 4, and there is also the opportunity for them to build around that a combination of other optional subjects. Quite deliberately, the School chooses each year to construct GCSE timetables around pupils' choices, and not the other way around; thus there are no predetermined "Option Bands". The college aims to run any course in which there is sufficient demand (Some of the GCSE courses are offered on the understanding that a viable group of at least ten pupils is necessary to operate most courses).

## POST-16 PROVISION

Pupils who return to Year 13 are offered a varied Post-16 two year programme which aims to enhance their existing qualifications and equip them to make a purposeful career choice. Successful completion of the programme leads to the award of Applied GCE Double Award in Health & Social Care (equivalent to two 'A' Levels) and a Level 3 BTEC Certificate in Business Studies (equivalent to one 'A' Level). Pupils may choose an A/AS level course from the collaboration block through the Fermanagh Learning Community if they do not wish to study BTEC L3 Business as the third A-Level option. The following list of subjects are currently offered by AS and A2 pupils at Post 16 through active collaboration with the Fermanagh Learning Community during 2022-2023:

| School | Course |
|--------|--------|
| Devenish College | Professional Business Studies ICT (BTEC Sub Dip) |
| St. Joseph's College | Professional Business Studies Art & Design |
| Enniskillen Royal GS | Music Further Mathematics |
| Mount Lourdes GS | Irish |
| Erne Integrated College | Mathematics Sport (BTEC L3) |

| | |
|---|---|
| South West College | Children's Play, Learning & Development (BTEC L3) |
| | Hospitality (BTEC L3) |
| | Construction & the Built Environment (BTEC L3) |
| | Engineering (BTEC L3) |
| | Travel & Tourism (BTEC L3) |
| | Performing Arts (BTEC L3) |
| | Agriculture (BTEC L3) |
| | Creative Media Practice (Games and TV & Film) [BTEC L3] |

The Post-16 course enables pupils to gain vocational qualifications which can be used for employment or as an entrance qualification to courses in further education colleges / universities. Careers guidance, work experience and group tutorial work are essential elements of these Post-16 courses. The curriculum offer is continually monitored and evaluated and annually reviewed using pupil progress data, pre-set targets, and transition into further, appropriate and flexible career pathways aligned with the pupils' interests, needs and abilities.

### LEARNING SUPPORT

Learning support is provided by all teachers and, at present, ten classroom assistants and is co-ordinated by a member of staff. Support is provided in a number of ways depending on the individual need: in class, small group work, withdrawal from class and/or outside help. Parents and carers are kept fully informed of pupils' progress. Newcomer pupils with English as an Additional Language (EAL) are welcomed and supported through the Pastoral Care System assisted by guidance from the Learning Support Coordinator.

### CATHOLIC EDUCATION

What is distinctive about Catholic Education is that faith in Jesus Christ is the centre point of all the pupil's personal and intellectual development. There is no separation between faith and life. In Saint Fanchea's, therefore, Religious Education is much more than a subject on the timetable. It permeates the whole life and ethos of the college and is expressed through the quality of relationships within the college community and the existence of proactive links with family and our local parishes. The Religious Education Programme taught in the classroom is based on the Diocesan Religious Education Programme and the requirements of the core syllabus laid down by the Department of Education and agreed by the main Christian churches.

### CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE & GUIDANCE (CEIAG)

With the current development of 'Learning for Life & Work' (Employability Strand) across Key Stage 3 & 4, all pupils will have many opportunities for CEIAG. Pupils in Years 10-14 have time-tabled careers lessons with a specialist Careers Teacher and one-to-one guidance is available on request. Information on careers is made available to pupils in the Careers Room both in written form and from computer data-bases. The local Careers Advisor (Maria

Monaghan) from the Careers Service works with Year 12 pupils throughout the year to provide guidance for Post-16 courses. Year 11 and 12 pupils complete a GCSE in LLW over a two-year period while pupils in Year 13 and Year 14 focus mainly on progression routes and applications through UCAS/CAO. Saint Fanchea's has close links with a wide variety of local employers who provide placements for senior pupils on work experience or speakers for careers classes. Work experience and mock interviews are also part of the Year 12 programme.

The college is an active member of the Fermanagh Learning Community, working in partnership with other post-primary schools in County Fermanagh in the development of increasing curriculum choice for all young people in the community in order to meet the requirements of the Entitlement Framework. The college also works in partnership with a range of local employers / institutions in order to provide Post 16 pupils with relevant workplace experience in the healthcare / education sectors at different stages over the academic year. Pupils are also given the opportunity to participate in Careers Conventions, University Open Days and Higher Education Fairs.

## OPTION BOOKLETS

These information booklets set out the key information necessary to assist pupils and parents make option choices for GCSE / Level 2 courses.

This policy will be reviewed on annual basis.

Principal ……………………………………………………….. Date ……………………………………..

Chair of the Board of Governors …………………………………………………….

Date …………………………………….