

Shared Education in Ballycastle

Pupils in Years 11 to 14 enjoy the benefits of a very close collaborative arrangement between Cross and Passion and Ballycastle High School which enables both schools to offer a broad, balanced curriculum that will challenge all of our young people and offer them opportunities to study subject of a wide range of subjects.

Key Facts

- Each school in the partnership retains its own identity and ethos. The partnership between the two schools has been recognised by the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools (CCMS) and the Education Authority (EANI) in Area Based Planning proposals for the North Antrim region.
- In recent years both schools have received substantial support from the Queens University Sharing Education Programme funded by Atlantic Philanthropies and International Fund for Ireland. This has enabled us to expand and strengthen the partnership as well as embed it firmly on the educational landscape local and regionally.
- The partnership was one of only three chosen to proceed with an exciting Capital Programme to provide an up to date Shared Campus with two new core schools and a Shared education facility on one site. The planning for this exciting project is under way at present.
- The commitment to sharing can be traced back as far as the 1960's, when pupils from Ballycastle High attended Latin lessons in Cross and Passion.
- The partnership is now well established and is deeply embedded in the life of both schools. In excess of 300 pupils from both schools share lessons on a day to day basis.
- The schools share 20% of the curriculum at Key Stage 4, pupils study the core curriculum (Maths, English, Learning for Life and Work, Science, RE, PE, Careers and PSHE) in their own school and may choose optional subjects from a menu offered by both schools.
- At Post 16, all subjects, of which there twenty seven, are offered on a shared basis. All non-academic experiences, including enrichment classes, careers, RE, Pastoral lessons, volunteering activities and so on take place in the home school.
- Pupils from both schools have a joint Student Council which meets regularly and represents the voice of pupils in making decisions about the partnership.
- The schools provide a number of shared extra- curricular opportunities for young people which include rugby, musical activities, school trips, and social activities.