



Curriculum Policy in Assumption Grammar School

(Specialist School for Music with PE as contributory subject)

The school offers a range of subjects over and above the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and lays particular emphasis on the pastoral dimension in the curriculum.

Our aim is to empower our pupils to achieve the very best of which they are capable, by enabling them to develop as individuals and as contributors to society, the economy and the environment.

Pupils with identified Special Educational Needs are supported and provided for in school in order that they can fulfil their potential. In addition, the school assists those who are experiencing difficulties with their studies through our Academic and Pastoral Tutoring schemes.

The cross-curricular skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT are developed across the curriculum. Opportunities to develop Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities are embedded in the schemes of work of each subject area. Emphasis is placed on transferring, applying and using these skills effectively.

AREAS OF STUDY

The Arts

Art and Design
Drama
Music

Language & Literacy

English

Mathematics & Numeracy

Mathematics
including Financial Capability

Modern Languages

French
Irish
Spanish

Environment & Society

History
Geography

Science & Technology

Technology and Design
Science

Learning for Life & Work

Home Economics
Personal Development
Citizenship
Employability

Physical Education

Physical Education

Religious Education

Religious Education

Although aspects of Learning for Life and Work (LLW) are addressed through the Areas of Study, the school delivers Personal Development (RSE), Home Economics, Local and Global Citizenship and Employability as discrete areas.

(Citizenship in Year 8 is delivered within Religion)

ICT and Latin are still delivered as part of our KS3 provision.

Year 8 pupils have one period a week to develop ICT skills which they will employ in the Learning Areas. Years 9 and 10 have a modular class of ICT.

The pupils are also trained in Library Skills by a qualified Librarian.

Languages at Key Stage 3

Year 8 pupils study French and Latin.

(Pupils who have come from a bunscoil study Irish in Year 8 instead of Latin)

Year 9 pupils study French, Latin, Spanish and Irish.

Year 10 pupils study French and two languages from Latin, Spanish and Irish.

Music at Key Stage 3

Year 8 pupils have a choral singing class for 10 weeks in addition to their music lesson.

A Music Theory course is available to those Year 9 pupils who receive instrumental lessons. These pupils continue Music Theory into a Year 10 module session.

Peripatetic teachers tutor pupils in a wide range of instruments, including brass, woodwind, strings and percussion.

Lessons in voice training are also available.

At the end of Key Stage 3 pupils are awarded a certificate based on their attainment in their summative examinations in June.

Year 10 pupils are entered for the Key Stage 3 examinations in English, Mathematics and Science.

Key Stage 4 (Years 11 and 12)

Through its Key Stage 4 curriculum, the school offers pupils a very wide choice of subjects for GCSE, thus keeping open to them a varied range of career options. 25 subjects are currently offered.

The subjects offered at Key Stage 4 are:

Core Subjects (Compulsory)	Religious Education
	English Language
	English Literature
	Mathematics

All students study these Core Subjects. In addition, they are obliged to study:

Science:	<i>Either</i>	Double Science Award (2 GCSEs)
	<i>or all 3 of</i>	Physics Chemistry Biology
	<i>or a combination of</i>	Biology with Chemistry <i>or</i> Physics with Chemistry

Environment & Society: *Either* History
or Geography

Languages: *Either* Irish
or Spanish
or French

Students may study both History and Geography and more than one language.

Most students study 10 GCSE subjects, composed of the requirements listed above and a choice of 1 or 2 from the following optional list:

- Additional Maths
- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Drama
- Home Economics
- Information and Communications Technology
- Journalism
- Music
- PE
- Technology and Design
- Latin
- Learning for Life and Work

Assessment at Key Stage 4 is through GCSE examinations.

All students take non-examination courses in Relationships and Sexuality Education, Citizenship and Careers.

Key Stage 4 pupils have two periods of Physical Education each week.

Cross - Curricular Themes

The following themes form an integral part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and are integrated within each subject:

Education for Mutual Understanding
Information and Communication Technology
Health Education

Economic Awareness
Careers
Cultural Heritage

Sixth Form (Years 13 and 14)

Pupils wishing to enter the Sixth Form must meet the published entry criteria. They are interviewed, and in the light of their career plans, advised on courses of study.

A range of 28 subjects is available for AS and A2 level.

Subjects Offered

Art & Design	Biology	Business Studies	Applied Business
Chemistry	Economics	English Literature	French
Geography	Health & Social Care	History	History and Appreciation of Art
Home Economics	Applied ICT	ICT	Irish
Latin	Mathematics	Music	Physical Education
Physics	Psychology	Government & Politics	Religious Studies
Spanish	Sociology	Technology & Design	Theatre Studies

Most students study 4 AS levels in Year 13. The majority of Year 14 students discontinue one AS level and continue with 3 at A2 level.

Year 13 and 14 pupils follow a General Religion programme two periods a week.

In keeping with the school's commitment to providing a broad and relevant academic experience for Sixth Form students, we offer an Enrichment Programme in Year 13. These pupils may choose from the following:

Home Cooking, Leisure Studies, Engineering Education Scheme, Deaf and Blind Awareness, School Magazine. There are links with the local Regional Colleges with tutors visiting the school on a weekly basis to offer courses in Digital Film Editing, First Aid and ASPIRE.

Additional Maths is offered in the Enrichment Programme to assist those students who opt for AS Maths and have not yet passed Additional Maths.

COPE (Certificate of Personal Effectiveness) at Level 3 which can secure 60 UCAS points is also offered during enrichment time.

A range of Leisure Activities is offered to Sixth Form pupils by the PE Department including aerobics, bowling, fitness training, horse riding, ice skating, squash and swimming.

Leadership

Two periods per week are devoted to Leadership/Careers. These sessions are intended to prepare the pupils for positions of responsibility and for life after school. Guest speakers from various professions are invited to address the pupils.

Area Learning Community

The school is a member of the Ballynahinch, Saintfield and Crossgar Learning Community and benefits from shared teaching in the areas of Music, PE, English Literature, History of Art, Beauty Science and Health and Social Care.

The school is working towards full implementation of the Entitlement Framework as required by the Education Order 2006.

Information and Complaints Relating to the Curriculum

If parents have a query or concern regarding curricular provision, they should contact the Vice Principal for Curriculum who will look into the matter. If the issue is not resolved, they may contact the Principal. If necessary, the matter may be referred to the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Governors.

This policy has been agreed and formally adopted by the Board of Governors of Assumption Grammar School.

Signature: _____
(Chairperson of the Board of Governors)

Date: _____

Signature: _____
(Principal)

Date: _____