




# St. Joseph's Secondary School Castlebar, Co. Mayo.



## SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

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## *Welcome to St. Joseph's Secondary School, Castlebar Co, Mayo.*

Planning your child's pathway in education is one of the most important decisions one needs to make as a parent. I am sure you will find this prospectus informative and helpful in enabling you to make wise decisions about your daughter's future. This prospectus is designed to give you a feel for the many great things that are happening every day in our school. In St. Joseph's, we enthusiastically prepare students for the challenges of tomorrow, particularly through our curriculum choice, with its emphasis on new technologies, the sciences, continental languages and the broad arts.

With your support, we will strive to motivate and encourage your daughter to achieve her full potential. This will be realised through our excellent teaching, wide and varied curriculum and commitment to the Arts, together with our sincere dedication to your child's social and personal development. I am confident that should you choose to send your daughter to St. Joseph's, that on completion, she will look back on her time here as the most enjoyable and productive experience of her life. I look forward to working with you towards the realisation of your daughter's dreams!



*Marie Mac Cabe.*

**Principal**

### **St. Joseph's Secondary School Mission Statement**



*Ann Farrell*  
**Deputy Principal**

St Joseph's Secondary School is a Voluntary Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship of CEIST – Catholic Education – an Irish Schools Trust.

We aim to provide holistic Christian Education in co-operation with staff, students, parents/guardians, Board of Management and the community.

We work to create equality for all in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

We strive for excellence in learning and endeavour to help each student to reach her full potential in a positive, caring and happy environment.



# Curriculum

*"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire"*

W.B. Yeats

## School day:

9.00am – 3.45pm

Our school has a qualified Career Guidance Counsellor who is available to our students.

Supervised after school study is available Monday to Thursday.

## LEAVING CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS

Art	Mathematics
Biology	Music
Business Studies	Physical Education
Physics	Religion
English	Economics
French	Chemistry
German	Accounting
Irish	Home Economics
Geography	Agricultural Science
History	Applied Maths

## JUNIOR CERTIFICATE SUBJECTS

Art Craft & Design	Mathematics
Business Studies	Physical Education
C.S.P.E.	Religious Education
Choir	Science
English	Home Economics
French	Music
German	S.P.H.E.
Irish	Computer Studies
Geography	
History	

## LEAVING CERTIFICATE VOCATIONAL PROGRAMME

The Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme provides students with the opportunity to realise their potential for self-directed learning, for innovation and for enterprise. Students follow this programme as part of the Leaving Certificate. It is currently available to students who select particular combinations of Leaving Certificate subjects.

## TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year is an optional programme for students entering senior cycle. This is a fantastic programme with a balance in the programme between the academic and the practical. In addition to the academic programme our students have experienced some of the following: Enterprise, Build a Bank, ECDL, work placement, visits to local voluntary organisations, school trips abroad, production of a musical, Peer Mentoring Course, Driving Lessons, Coaching Courses, First Aid, Cookery, Interior Design and Archaeology to name but a few.

## STUDENT PROGRESSION

On average 90% of our students proceed to high level where they secure places in our universities, institutes of technology, teacher training colleges and PLC colleges. This figure is significantly above the national average. Each year a number of our students are awarded University Entrance Scholarships. We are proud of our past pupils and always welcome them back to visit our school.



# EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



*At St. Joseph's Secondary School we offer a wide variety of extra curricular activities. These activities expand our students' experience which enhances their learning and contributes to a well-rounded education.*



## SOCIAL

Students have the opportunity to participate in the following:

- Debating
- Public Speaking
- BT Young Scientists Exhibition
- Texaco Art Competition
- Credit Union Art Competitions
- Business Studies Quiz
- Irish Maths Teachers Competition
- Pope John Paul II Community Awards
- Rotary Club Leadership Awards
- Student Council
- Green Schools
- Eircom Young Spiders Competition
- Fine Dine At Mine



## CULTURE

- Musicals - we have a long tradition of producing musicals. Our most recent productions include *High School Musical*, *Thank You for the Music*, *Grease*, *Footloose*, *Back to the 80s* and *Annie*.
- Choir & Orchestra- Every year group in the school has its own choir. Every year the choir and orchestra sit music exams as well as performing in public for liturgical and community events.
- Creative Writing
- Theatre/Film Visits
- Seachtain na Gaeilge – A celebration of our language and culture.



## SPORTS

Students are encouraged to join the wide variety of sports clubs which the school offers. Clubs include:

- Swimming
- Basketball
- Athletics
- Gaelic Football
- Camogie
- Soccer
- Volleyball
- Badminton
- Tennis





## School Uniform

School uniform must be worn during the school day  
There is a junior and senior uniform.

### The junior uniform is as follows:

- Grey pinafore with school crest
- Blue gingham blouse
- Airforce blue jumper with crest and name of school
- Black shoes and black tights

### Senior Uniform:

- Airforce blue jumper with crest and name of school
- White blouse
- Plaid skirt
- Navy shoes and navy tights

Trousers are optional for junior and senior students



## P.E. Uniform

- Grey hooded tracksuit top
- Royal blue t-shirt
- Navy tracksuit bottom

## Mentoring Programme for 1st years

Our mentoring programme enhances and develops the existing induction process for 1st year. Mentoring provides an opportunity for the mentoring students to develop leadership skills while helping first year students to develop a sense of what it means to be part of the school community in St. Joseph's. It also helps first years adapt to day to day life in a new school.



## Student Council

The student council is elected each year by their peers. The council is a representative structure for students only, through which they can become involved in the affairs of the school, working in partnership with the management, staff and parents for the benefit of the school and its students.

# SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

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We in St. Joseph's work in partnership with our Board of Management, Parents' Association, Students' Council, trustees and the wider community to ensure that every student in our school receives the best possible education.

## Board of Management

The school is managed on behalf of the Department of Education and Skills by the Board of Management. Its members are teachers, parents and representatives of our trustees CEIST.

## Parents' Association

The school has an active Parents' Association that supports all aspects of school development. It meets regularly and consults with the school principal, teachers and students.

## Students' Council

The contribution of our pupils is also appreciated through our vibrant Students' Council. Each class elects a representative who actively participates in the affairs of our school under the leadership of their Chairperson. They play a central role in the following:

- Supporting management and staff in the development of the school.
- Representing the views of students on matters of concern to the student body, thereby influencing school policy.
- Enhancing the school environment and promoting respect and co-operation between students.

## Home School Links

Every effort is made to maintain contact with the student's home through Parent/Teacher Meetings, Parent/Teacher Appointments, Student Academic Reports, Student Journal, Newsletters, School Year Book, Information Sessions, Parents' Council activities, text messaging and through other formal and informal gatherings.







## Our Facilities

- Two computer suites fully equipped with computers, printers and scanners.
- High speed broadband of 100 megabytes with up to date software.
- All rooms networked for internet access.
- Computer and data projector in every classroom.
- Renovated fully equipped Home Economics Room.
- Sewing Room with top of the range sewing machines.
- Two modern fully equipped Science Laboratories.
- Specialist Physics Room with tiered seating.
- Gym/Assembly Hall.
- Fitness and Aerobics Room.
- Music Room with facilities for Choir and Orchestra.
- Range of musical instruments.
- Newly refurbished library with a range of modern titles.
- Well - equipped Art Room with metal work test kiln, printing press, moving making technology, and Apple Mac for Graphic Design.
- Designated Canteen facilities, operated by a qualified chef offering a range of hot and cold food.
- Career Guidance and Counselling Rooms.
- Special Needs and Learning Support Rooms.
- Meeting Rooms.
- Meditation/Prayer Room.
- Individual lockers in assigned areas for each year group.
- Basketball and Tennis Courts.

