



JOINT PROTESTANT-ROMAN CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

2007

**Joint Protestant-Roman Catholic
Schools, Colleges and Universities
INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY 2007**

“It was a case of building on the things we have in common. There are still some fundamental differences; but we have chosen to build on the things we hold together”.

Ms Madeleine Brennan
Principal
St Columba College
Andrew’s Farm
South Australia
Australia

“...it is what we have in common which binds us as a community. What we do, we do together”.

Dr Joe McAuley
Head Teacher
St Francis Xavier School
Richmond
North Yorkshire
UK

“The idea of people coming together and being enriched and acknowledging and tolerating our differences ... The questions of religious difference are handled with respect; we have a vision to nurture everyone – we’re not about conversion...”

Dr Richard Enemark
Headmaster
The Doane Stuart School
Albany
NY
USA

“As the local committee elected are representatives of both Christian traditions in our Parish, it is important that the religious ethos of the school reflects this... We envisage the Gaelscoil to be a progressive, vibrant and safe place encompassing our Christian and Cultural traditions. It will be warm and welcoming lying at the heart of our community, where the wellbeing of the children is at all times the priority of the school”.

Founding Committee
Gaelscoil an tSlí Dála
Borris in Ossory
Co Laois
Republic of Ireland

“We have a christian ethos with compassion, respect and understanding. If people would only come here and see how it worked and feel the whole atmosphere, then they would see how it can work really well”.

Trinity School
Teignmouth
Devon
United Kingdom

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Introduction

We are pleased to introduce this first Directory of schools around the world which are run jointly by the Catholic and Protestant churches.

We trust that this Directory will be of use to the schools themselves as well as to people interested in the experience of these schools in a world of significant inter-community, inter-faith and inter-ethnic division.

We are grateful to the Integrated Education Fund, Belfast, Northern Ireland, for its financial assistance which allowed us to collect and publish this information; and in particular to its Board Member Dr Brian Lambkin, for his participation and advice on the editorial working group. We thank the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education for its encouragement. And we thank both IEF and NICIE for hosting this Directory information on their websites: www.ief.org.uk and www.nicie.org.uk.

We wish to express particular gratitude to Dr Gareth Higgins, our researcher, for compiling this scattered information with such interest and enthusiasm. And of course we take the opportunity to convey our gratitude to the individuals and schools who gave freely of their time to help us draw together the scattered information which now forms the first Directory of these schools internationally.

We thank the members of The Foyle Trust for Integrated Education for their support and encouragement.

We welcome amendments, updates and details of additional schools worldwide for the next edition of the Directory.

We hope that updates can be entered immediately onto the internet edition of this Directory, which will thus be as up to date as possible at any given time.

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St Columba College

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Ms Madeleine Brennan

How did the college come into being?

The area in which the college is located was being newly developed; there was an obvious need for a new school in the area. Both the Anglican and Catholic Archdioceses of Adelaide South Australia were keen to establish a school and it was clear at the time that the area was not big enough for two, so discussions began about a joint venture. While there were a few schools in South Australia that shared facilities across different campuses, there were no examples of totally integrated ventures. St Columba was the first and to date the only such example in Australia. Discussions began in 1994 and the school opened in January 1997.

College Motto

Unity in Faith.

College Vision Statement

St Columba seeks to nurture in students and in the community a close relationship with God, a passion for living and a life-long love of learning.

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

It displays a good model of co-operation between the two traditions. According to the principal:

“We get on really well with each other and we respect each other. It provides the students with a richness of traditions; we work hard not to water down the teaching of either and so stay true to both traditions. In an age when the expenses of running an educational establishment are escalating, integration is cost-effective.”

Both churches have four nominees on the college's governing council; both archbishops have the final say on the appointment of the principal; and they regularly visit the college. The leadership team is made of people from both traditions, coming together weekly to look after the day to day running of the college. There are two directors of spirituality for the college, one from each tradition.

How many pupils?

There are 1200 students from 5-18 years. There is an open enrolment policy, with no specified numbers from either tradition; in practice there are currently 25% Anglican, 25% Catholic, 15% from other traditions, and 35% from no stated religious background. The principal says:

“We see the college as a place of evangelisation. Even among the 50% who regard themselves as Anglican or Catholic, there are very few who have a direct link with a worshipping community. St Columba provides such a link.”

Gaelscoil an tSlí Dála

Principal: Ms Nuala de Brún



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How did the school come into being?

The school opened on 1st September 2005 under the joint patronage of Bishop Michael Mayes, Church of Ireland Bishop of Limerick and Killaloe, and Bishop Willie Walsh, Roman Catholic Bishop of Killaloe. It is the first school to be established under the joint patronage of the two main Christian denominations in Ireland.

The life of the school is conducted through the medium of the Irish language. It also has a Christian ethos that will be highly respectful of both the Roman Catholic and the Church of Ireland traditions. The school provides for religious instruction in accordance with the Roman Catholic catechetical programme “Alive O” series and the “Follow Me” series approved by the Church of Ireland, Presbyterian and Methodist Boards of Education.

The new school has come about through the initiative of the Ballaghmore Muintir na Tíre Community Council who requested both Bishops to act as joint patrons.

Statement of Founding Committee:

“This venture began as a result of a local community survey conducted in September, 2002, with the election of a new Muintir na Tíre Community Council. One of the priorities listed in the survey was the re-opening of the Ballaghmore Primary School, which has been closed since 1984. Currently the parish does not have a Primary School. The children from the locality travel to a number of different schools and as result, the community, unlike other areas, doesn’t have a central focus. The consensus of the committee was to establish a Gaelscoil as the option of having a child educated through Irish is not currently available to the community or the surrounding areas. As the local committee elected are representatives of both Christian denominations in our Parish, it is important that the religious ethos of the school reflects this.

“Although it is an unusual step to establish a school under joint patronage, the committee feel the leaders of the two main Christian denominations better serve the deep-rooted Christianity, the Culture, Heritage and Traditions of the locality. Since Bishops Walsh and Mayes were approached to act as joint patrons of the school, the committee are delighted with the enthusiasm and encouragement that they have given to our endeavours.

“We envisage the Gaelscoil to be a progressive, vibrant and safe place encompassing our Christian and Cultural traditions. It will be warm and welcoming lying at the heart of our community, where the wellbeing of the children is at all times the priority of the school.”

Statement of Bishop Willie Walsh and Bishop Michael Mayes:

“We welcome the possibility for the new venture in joint patronage of a primary school. The request for our joint patronage was made in the first instance by the parents group at Ballaghmore. While this is a new entity in the concept of the patronage of primary schools we are happy to support the request of the parents that their new school would incorporate a firm Christian ethos that is highly respectful of both traditions. We congratulate the Ballaghmore Muintir Na Tíre Community Council in the work they are doing to ensure that there is educational provision for the children of their area who wish to receive a Christian primary school education through the medium of Irish.”

The Doane Stuart School

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Dr Richard Enemark.

How did the school come into being?

The Doane Stuart School was born in 1975 by the merger of the oldest private Catholic convent school and the oldest Episcopal school in the region – funded and regulated by, respectively, the Society of the Sacred Heart and the Episcopal diocese of Albany. In 1975 the schools had separate campuses and identities, and were competitors in terms of sports. However, they were both struggling financially and struggling for enrolment; according to the head teacher “the thought of a merger was attractive, but for many people this was the last thought on their mind.” Albany, as one of the oldest cities in America, founded by the Dutch, well precedes the English colonization of America, and has a rich heritage, including religious ties to the reformed church. In the 19th century the city was a citadel of Episcopalian power in America; while the Irish Catholic population became politically more influential in 20th century. The city has a history of being dominated at different times by each of the two groups.

When the merger was proposed, “Nobody believed it would work other than the people on the boards of the schools – they said this is bigger than that. They had come through Vatican II; they saw that this could not only solve financial problems, but really make a difference in the world beyond simply teaching about peace. The school was consolidated with a formal charter for both schools, tying their destiny to each others. The school is totally independent of both denominations, but with representatives of both church sections on the board by by-law. Initially it made for a school with a rocky road – early days it was hard to decide who was in charge. This needed to be beaten out like a silversmith – it didn’t come ready-made. Sometimes this was painful; it refined things but left a lot of people feeling bruised. It probably happened because people didn’t realize ’til after the merger what they had taken on. For example, the Catholic school had a long standing



The Doane Stuart School.

tradition of educating people who were not of means; they had a dedicated line in their budget that educated young people who couldn't afford tuition at all. The Episcopal school did not have this in their charter or *raison d'être*. On the other hand, the Episcopal school had a long tradition of looking past religious differences and welcoming people of varied backgrounds – they were the first school in upstate New York to educate Jews in a private setting. These were two examples of going [much deeper than] ecumenism, respect for people who are different from yourself. The students were enriched by being with people who weren't like themselves.”

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

According to Dr Enemark:

“Especially in an area like this, in a city where two religions have dominated, where the city has literally been perceived as either a very English Protestant city or a very Irish Catholic city, the idea of people coming together and being enriched and acknowledging and tolerating our differences. And it means that our children will be better educated and more decent human beings... We have a convent on one side and a Buddhist temple on the other.

“I would point those who [have concerns about diluting one tradition or the other] to the Jews who attend the school, and ask them if there has been any attempt to proselytize – [on the contrary, they actually feel stronger in their faith]. The questions of religious difference are handled with respect; we have a vision to nurture everyone – we're not about conversion, we're really about the likelihood that a well-informed, well-read person is more likely to find the rich veins of his/her own faith. We've had a Buddhist temple beside us for six years, and I know of no student who has converted to Buddhism, although I know a lot of kids who have been ignited in their interest in religion through their studies of Buddhism – one who is planning to study for the Catholic priesthood.

“The Episcopal diocese and Catholic diocese have always been supportive, not financially [as we are a private school], but through sending reps to board of trustees. Traditionally the bishops sit on the board or are represented; both bishops have participated in every graduation, awarding diplomas and blessing every child simultaneously together at the same altar. The dioceses have made it easy for people to see that they have made a wise financial and spiritual investment. Not all independent schools are accredited in the state; we are fully accredited by the New York State Association of Independent Schools and the Society of the Sacred Heart – we are the only school in America in the Catholic directory and the Episcopal directory.”

How many pupils?

275; age 3 to grade 12; 100% of graduates go on to competitive colleges. The school provides space on admissions forms for pupils to indicate their religious background, but it is not compulsory to do so.

What is the school mission statement?

The mission of Doane Stuart is education. In a college preparatory context, where the joy of discovery is valued, Doane Stuart emphasizes serious study, educates to social responsibility, and lays the foundation for a strong faith.

Associated Sixth Form of St Aidan's Church of England High School and St John Fisher Catholic High School

Head Teachers: Mr Dennis Richards (St Aidan's) and Mr Paul Jackson (St John Fisher)



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How did the associated sixth form come into being?

St Aidan's and St John Fisher are two separate schools with distinctive identities, but their sixth forms have been totally integrated from 1973 onwards, through an arrangement between the Catholic diocese of Leeds and the Anglican diocese of Ripon. According to Mr Jackson, *"It was originally a matter of do or die. We were two schools in the shadow of a grammar school, regarded as secondary modern, with low numbers staying in post-16 education. Our association developed from the need to have Christian education post-16. The association has been so successful that St John Fisher has over 300 sixth form pupils and St Aidan's over 600 now – so we now do it out of choice because we believe in the value of the relationship... There has been no controversy whatsoever; there is great interest and challenge in our own approach to our faith, etc. We get the best out of each other; and there is even some friendly rivalry."*

School motto

Educating for life.

"Our mission is simply to create a community of faith and a place of learning."

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

"Big is beautiful – the range of courses offered is wider; all within a Christian community. We have our different traditions, but the overall Christian ethos is held in common. Over 80% of students stay on and come into our associated sixth form; some pupils feel like time for a change, but they often benefit within a pastoral system where the teachers know them etc. Teaching happens on both campuses – the schools are about 250 yards apart; and there is a totally joint timetable. You give up autonomy over your own diary; and our work is always based on dialogue – it's a sacrifice but the benefits outweigh these. The sixth form curriculum is totally integrated. No money changes hands between the schools, but the ratio of teaching is proportionate to number of pupils from each school."

The majority of members of the governing body is appointed by the bishops. A joint governing body meets to give an advisory overview of the association to the governors. Both dioceses are fully supportive. Joint services happen termly; chaplains from both churches attend.

St Cuthbert Mayne School

Headteacher: Mrs Catherine M. Gilfillan



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How did the school come into being?

As its website says, “St Cuthbert Mayne has a unique place in the history of the English education system. It was the first Joint Catholic and Church of England Comprehensive school in Britain. As a Joint Church School we are proud of this achievement and we have an exciting future.”

In 1974 there was a need in the area for Anglicans to have a secondary school; there was already a Catholic school with this name. A chance conversation between the local LEA education officer and the head-teacher took place, discussing the need for Anglicans to have a school. There are two parishes on top of a hill over-looking Torquay, one Anglican, one Roman Catholic, where the two priests got on well; they also discussed the issue, and thought it was possible. According to the head teacher, the school arose from “*basically a practical need: there were about 400 Catholic pupils and the school wanted to expand, but there weren't enough Catholic children in the catchment to justify this; and not enough Anglicans to justify a Church of England school. Agreement was reached between the Catholic diocese of Plymouth and the Anglican diocese of Exeter. The governing body reflects the school make up – until recently there was a Catholic majority with Anglicans as junior partners. However the school is expanding dramatically, and there is now more of a balance, which will be reflected in the way the school is governed.*”

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

“The variety with two traditions is better than one; there is a richness of worship, a real feeling that you're in the heart of the ecumenical movement, exemplifying the cutting edge of Jesus' prayer that we may all be one. Looking at the key issue of Eucharist – we have something unique – we have a tabernacle that contains the ciboriums of the two churches – we have joint liturgies, both clergy participate, and the kids experience this. It's been an amazing experience. We review it periodically to be sure that we don't tread on sensitivities. We do everything we possibly can together, and only separate when it's essential. Also when we have big feast days we do things separately – we are two traditions and need to respect that.”

How many pupils?

1,100 in total: 605 Catholic / 405 Anglican; and it is moving toward 50/50%. There is also a suggestion that it will become more ecumenical in years to come, although the fact that the school is consistently oversubscribed may inhibit this.

School Motto:

Christ is our cornerstone.

St Bede's School

Headteacher: Mr Christopher Curtis



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How did the school come into being?

In 1975, there was a re-organisation by the local education authority when neither the small Church of England nor the small Catholic school was felt to be viable. The re-organisation would have left no church school in the area. Under the auspices of the Catholic diocese of Arundel and Brighton, and the Church of England diocese of Southwark, the governing bodies of both schools submitted to the consultation on re-organisation a proposal for a joint church school. According to the head teacher, "after a lot of persuasion, then it happened." The school was opened by the then Bishop (now Cardinal) Cormac Murphy-O'Connor, who continues to support it along with the Church of England Bishop of Southwark.

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

"Survival – there would be no joint church school in this area without it – alongside the richness of what we offer in terms of education. We have a better community – the proportion of active church-going families is higher here, and we are very explicitly a Christian learning community. Once you put that mixture of people into the school, the school becomes its own community. There's an awful lot that isn't consciously ecumenical, it's just the way we do it. In the lower school there is some time given over to denominational groups. We have services of all the churches involved, and ecumenical chaplaincy, etc.

"In the early stages of developing the school, there was a lot of anxiety about religious education, worship, but there was no fundamental theological problem with Anglicans... Being a joint school, that does not imply a watering down of anybody's faith. I can understand the anxiety; but what shines through is the strong common Christianity. The second thing I would say is that we don't have an argument with the Catholic church's teaching on the importance of Catholic education nor the Anglican church's desire for kids to be nurtured in their own church – we do work



Mr Christopher Curtis, Head Teacher.



very hard to assure our Catholic community that the kids in this school do receive everything that they would in an exclusively Catholic school. They get 'everything plus'. We can say to both communities they are getting everything, perhaps a bit differently, but plus the richness of the ecumenical experience. This is about the whole of the Catholic and the Anglican experience in the school."

How many pupils?

1700 pupils; 40% RC, 40% Anglican, most of the remaining 20% are from the free churches; there are 10 places a year for non-church kids with a particular need – defined as “family, medical, social, or spiritual need”. According to the Head Teacher:

“The admissions policy provides 220 places per year for Anglicans and Catholics - no quota is set between them, but in practice recruitment is close to 50% of each. 40 places are provided for Free Church students - again there is no quota between the different Free Churches. 10 places are provided on the basis of “pressing need” for students who may not have any Church affiliation - some of these in most years are Muslim, Jewish or Hindu. These proportions are reviewed to match the local population in each category - i.e. each category is similarly oversubscribed so no group has an advantage or disadvantage.”

Roehampton University

Vice-Chancellor: Professor Paul O'Prey



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University 

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How did the institution come into being?

Roehampton's origins lie in four women's teacher training colleges, each founded in the 19th century. Three of them were church-related. Whitelands College was founded by the Church of England in 1841, Southlands College was set up by the Wesleyan Methodist Conference in 1872, and Digby Stuart College was established by the Society of the Sacred Heart (Roman Catholic) in 1874. The fourth college, Froebel, was established in 1892 to train teachers in line with the educational philosophy of Friedrich Froebel.

In 1975 they came together to form the Roehampton Institute, a broadly-based higher education institution open to women and men. The Institute developed significantly over the next 25 years and in the 1990s gained taught and research degree-awarding powers. In 2000, it became one of the founding institutions of the Federal University of Surrey with the title University of Surrey Roehampton. In August 2004 it gained fully independent university status as Roehampton University.

What is the nature of the relationship with the churches?

The "Providing Bodies" for the three church colleges (two churches and a religious society) retain ownership of the colleges but provide them for the use of the University. They are represented on the University Council and are thus able to help shape the character, ethos and policies of the University as a whole and of their particular college.

While educational provision is a matter for the University, the colleges are dedicated to creating communities which enrich the experience of the students and staff who work, socialise and live in them. A College Strategy Group brings together Chairs of the College Governing Bodies, College Principals and members of the University Executive to share information and to develop and take forward initiatives that enhance the experience that the colleges are able to offer. Each college also has a Chaplain whose work helps to foster community and reflect the ethos and traditions of its Providing Body.

What are the benefits of having an inter-church dimension to the university?

The University is a diverse community. The fact that a diversity of faith and other traditions lies at the foundation of the University itself, is a spur to ensuring a sensitive and affirmative approach to the much wider and richer diversity of the University community today, one that enhances student experience, both academically and in other ways.

The Colleges have opportunities to interact with each other in ways that reflect the interactions of their Providing Bodies. For example, Whitelands and Southlands are exploring the implications of the Anglican Methodist Covenant. The churches' links with the University provide it with opportunities to explore how it can act as a resource for them in terms of training, engagement with the community and as a venue for events and activities.

Each of the Colleges also links into an international network of educational institutions. This has the potential to enable the University to achieve its international ambitions more easily and provide opportunities for its students to be educated in an international environment.

Trinity School

Headmaster: Mr Colin Ashby



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Mr Colin Ashby, Headmaster.

How did the school come into being?

Until 1979 it was a convent school, dating from 1904; the Sisters of Notre Dame decided to close the school in 1977/78. As there were not many options for Christian education in the area; small group of parents approached the order about buying the school over a 20-year period. They formed a charity and gave a great deal of thought about what form it should take. It was decided to establish a joint Church of England and Roman Catholic school, but to open admissions on the basis of “if we spread the base it will be easier to recruit”. The name ‘Trinity’ was chosen to respect the faith and Christian basis of the school. The two dioceses involved are the Roman Catholic diocese of Plymouth, and the Church of England diocese of Exeter; there are close links to the Anglican cathedral in Exeter. There has been no controversy over the school; according to the school’s Development Officer *“in fact it was applauded and has worked extremely well; both bishops sit on the governing body; and this model of dialogue and co-operation filters down to good relationships between local priests; there are regular ecumenical services.”*

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

According to the Development Officer: *“Obviously, it brings about understanding of the two faiths; helps the pupils to understand other faiths as well. There is no fear of diluting one tradition over another; we recognise both faiths – we have mass and communion on the same day, although not in the same place. The existence of the two traditions alongside each other makes them stronger because it shows the two churches working together. We have a christian ethos with compassion respect and understanding. If people would only come here and see how it worked and feel the whole atmosphere, then they would see how it can work really well.”*



How many pupils?

Just over 600, starting from 3 months old up to 19 years; the denominational breakdown is approximately 60% Anglican, 35% Catholic, 5% other.

School Motto

Optimism, Confidence and Charity

Liverpool Hope University

Vice-Chancellor and Rector: Professor G. J. Pillay

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How did the institution come into being?

In the 1840s St Katharine's, an Anglican college for women teachers, was founded in Warrington; later it moved to Liverpool. In the 1850s the Catholic Sisters of Notre Dame also founded a college in Liverpool. Later, in 1965, a mixed-gender Catholic college of education was founded. These were completely separate. As Professor John Sullivan says: "In 1970 we [the Catholic college] were right next door to the Anglican college but knew nothing about it."

Around 1980 in response to pressure from government, those three colleges came together, rebranded as 'Liverpool Institute of Higher Education'. A special relationship existed between two bishops – David Sheppard and Derek Worlock contributed significantly to nurturing the new institution. In 1995 the Institute rebranded again as 'Hope University College' and with a new rector came a new seriousness about the ecumenical experiment.

How do the churches relate to the institution?

According to Professor Sullivan: "*The two local bishops still are the presidents; they nominate some members to the governing council, and have an input regarding selection of rector etc. As for staff, the only reserved positions are the rector who has to be Catholic or Anglican, and of course the two chaplains.*"

"In addition to the governing council there is a body of trustees for both the Anglican and Catholic side; both boards of trustees include the bishops and they ensure that the traditions are upheld. In terms of the day to day life of the university, there is daily ecumenical prayer every day that the university is open; regular celebration of eucharist in both traditions; and ecumenical services punctuated throughout the year. There is also a weekly foundation hour where the timetable stops and there is a mission-oriented activity. Finally, the rector has two PhDs in theology – the bearing of Christian faith on academic activities is vitally important."

What are the main benefits of being a joint church institution?

Professor Sullivan says: "*I see places like ours as one of the places where the church does its thinking... It would be to deny God's gifts to not be at the cutting edge – the church needs it.*"

"Secondly I think the church has a great deal to offer in terms of a worldview and a spirituality and a wholeness to challenge higher education not to be hijacked by the idols of measurement – performativity, hedonism, consumerism. The church says there's more to life than the budget. Universities need to be in touch with other organizations outside their boundaries."

"As for specific benefits to the joint church relationship – for one thing, the discipline of knowing that you have a very mixed audience is a salutary one and stops you taken things for granted. It's a much better

witness – we should only do apart those things that we can't do together. The Church in Britain has not been really serious about ecumenism – it's only been blandly supportive. We try to be supportive, we follow the disciplines of the church about. We have MAs in Anglican studies and Catholic studies. Ecumenism does not happen by watering down but by each partner bringing something to the table – it's not about warm fuzzies and people who don't know their own tradition.

“To those reluctant to support – I would want to have a conversation with them about the universality of God's grace, that God's work is not restricted to the institutional church and that this does not mean watering down important truth. You have to tread carefully and find common ground and build up from there.

“One other point – if you only live in your own country and never go abroad you don't actually see your country properly – and the same goes for religious traditions. My work across the denominations is about helping us understand our own traditions better. It is an extremely beneficial work to know other traditions so we can know ourselves better.”

St Augustine of Canterbury School

Headteacher: Mrs Gail H Crees



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Mrs Gail H Crees, Headteacher.

How did the institution come into being?

St Augustine of Canterbury was founded in 1982 as a joint Catholic-Anglican school. It is a non-selective state voluntary aided school for boys and girls aged 11-16.

In 2003 it was designated a Specialist Science College, benefiting all students with our state of the art computer and science facilities.

What are the main benefits of being a joint church institution?

We are a Church School where every child matters and will be encouraged to achieve their full potential in the classroom and in their wider communities.

How many pupils are there?

The school has 420 pupils.

School motto:

Believing Belonging Becoming Through Christ.



St Edward's Royal Free Ecumenical Middle School

Headmaster: Mr Rod Welsh



St Edward's Royal Free
Ecumenical Middle School
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How did the school come into being?

According to the headmaster: "In Windsor there is a middle school system; by the 1980s there was too much capacity in schools in Windsor; part of the solution was school closure and amalgamation. In the mid-1980s St Edwards middle school (RC) merged with Royal Free middle school (Church of England)."

The school is supported by Portsmouth (RC) and Oxford (Anglican) dioceses; both dioceses are involved in staff recruitment and admissions and buildings.

What are the main benefits of being a joint church school?

We are an ecumenical school and our mission is based on Christian values; we have each week visiting clergy from one or other local church. I think our diversity shows that although many of the children come from different traditions they see that it is possible for children of different traditions to come together. We emphasise the commonality, the fact that it is fully inclusive. As a result we have no children at present whose parents opt out of any element of our school. I would say not doing this is a missed opportunity... We focus on what unites rather than what divides.

How many pupils are there?

90 entry places every year; 360 pupils in total. 25% Catholic, 45-50% Anglican and other Christian, 25-30% other faiths.

St Francis Xavier School

Headteacher: Dr Joe McAuley



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How did the school come into being?

St Francis Xavier School was built in the 1960s as an 11-16 Catholic secondary school; about 200 pupils were enrolled. Around 1988 the Church of England was keen to establish a school in the area. An agreement was reached between the Church of England diocese of Ripon, and the Catholic diocese of Middlesborough, representatives of which had already wanted to develop diocesan links. The numbers of children in the catchment area happened to work in favour of the establishment of a joint church school.

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

The nearest church schools are quite a long way away. According to Dr McAuley the school is *“a beacon of Christianity in the area; for the children – you need to see it to believe it. There is no distinction in what we do we do together; it is a wonderful example of ecumenism. We have joint services, and a voluntary service every week – alternating between Roman Catholic and Church of England Eucharist. The Eucharistic traditions of both churches are respected with all children receiving communion or a blessing as appropriate. I appreciate the reluctance that some people have toward joint church education, but if they would come and see just how things work here; it can be done. Looking out over the playground the children are playing together, they make no distinction. Parents, children and staff all share the same value system. Although there may be differences in belief they are not manifest and it is what we have in common which binds us as a community. What we do, we do together.”*

Because the school was established as a Catholic school, the Catholic diocese takes the lead in governance, and the headship is reserved for a Catholic; the deputy headship is ideally Anglican, but could be either Anglican or Catholic. The governing body is 2/3 Catholic, 1/3 Church of England.

How many pupils

Approximately 400 pupils; in practice it's about 50/50 Catholic/Anglican, while technically 2/3 of the places are reserved for Catholic pupils and 1/3 for Church of England children. The school is oversubscribed every year. Because of the success of the school a new building is being built.

School motto:

Gratia perficit naturam : Grace Perfects Nature

St Bede's Interchurch Comprehensive School

Head Teacher: Ms Jan Hunt

Senior Management team members Mr Richard Matthews and Mr John Breslin



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Comprehensive School
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www.st-bedes.org.uk
info@stbedes.camb-schools.net

How did the school come into being?

The school began as a Catholic school of the diocese of East Anglia, around the mid-1970s, and most of the staff were sisters. By the late 1980s pupil numbers were beginning to dwindle, and the school was becoming financially nonviable. Governors were very reluctant to contemplate closure. They decided to approach the Church of England diocese of Ely and see if there was any hope of becoming a joint church school with both denominations equally represented. Ely diocese was very open to this, and a great deal of time was spent working out the foundation statutes of the school, allowing for equal representation from each diocese.

To ensure efficacy of denominational teaching the children initially had separate assemblies; eventually this became seen as counterproductive. The decision was taken to ensure that Catholic teaching was absorbed more fully within the Religious Education curriculum, but that the teaching would also have some emphasis on Church of England teaching; as long as the differences are highlighted as needed.

An ecumenical lay chaplain was appointed in 2002; she is a Catholic, but her remit is to explore the commonality of worship between the two traditions. There are regular voluntary eucharists during the lunch break with priests from both denominations coming in to celebrate; children from both can go to both, so long as they understand whether they are receiving the sacrament or not. In the Year 7 syllabus all children experience a Catholic mass, and have an opportunity to speak to someone from the Church of England as well in order to learn the distinctiveness. There is a major emphasis also on the children constructing their own liturgies.



Ms Jan Hunt (right), Head Teacher, with Senior Management team members Mr Richard Matthews and Mr John Breslin.

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

It explodes the whole area of ill-informed prejudice; we have some Irish staff from each of the denominations – there is a delight in being able to safely tease each other. We do a trip once a year called the “Bede Trail” – St Bede is a useful saint because he is recognized in both dioceses; there is a lot of very good working between both dioceses. There is a lot of working together – our prospectus has both bishops on the front, who are committed to funding our chaplain and always supporting. The children do recognize differences, but it’s the same principle as having disabled children in the school – it means that you are supportive and you modify your own behaviour in order to learn from each other. We certainly feel that our children are much less bigoted and the ethos of the place is much more caring.

According to the head teacher: *“There were things that need to be hammered out – such as careful thinking and discussion about sex education policy, equal opportunities policy, etc; producing our own school mission statement was a long journey. But we have a very powerful base because nobody feels that they’re compromised, because they do realize that there is a bit of identified ground for them to stand on... The sorts of problems that we have had to overcome have not been anything like as difficult as it might have seemed at first. When you actually sit down and have a cup of tea and start talking you find that you have the commonality of a love for God and a love for children; and it is perfectly possible to sustain everything that you hold to be true without needing to be in a different building and a different system.”*

School motto:

Cum Deo – with God

How many pupils?

680 at present, five-form entry, and consistently expanding.



The Bishops' Church of England and Roman Catholic Primary School

Head Teacher: Mrs Angela Sumpton



The Bishops' Church of
England and Roman Catholic
Primary School
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CM1 6ZQ
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www.bishops.essex.sch.uk

How did the school come into being?

An old Church of England school outgrew its premises; a piece of land was bought, a church was planted. The Church of England diocese of Chelmsford, and the Catholic diocese of Brentwood had ecumenically-minded bishops, who decided the church should be the site for an ecumenical project. Instead of building two schools either side of the church they decided to build a joint school; it was initially opened as a Church of England school; the Anglican school then moved up into the premises. Mrs Sumpton was appointed as a Catholic deputy head in order to transition to joint school status; 18 months after opening it became a joint church school as intended. "We had to close the school one day as a Church of England and re-open as a joint church school the next day!" This was a decision motivated simply by the then bishops Thomas McMahon (RC) and Bishop John Wayne (C of E) personal commitment to ecumenism. When a bishops' visit takes place, both bishops visit together.

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

According to the head teacher: *"The children learn from each other about their faith; there are no barriers, they talk freely about what they're doing. There is no bigotry, they know they're all part of God's family; they have a much greater understanding of each other's denomination. The children hold no stereotypes about each other's faith. They talk openly; there is lots of friendship and support formed between families of both denominations; and the school is a good environment for the children of mixed marriages. All the staff have extra responsibilities to support both communities – this is important, but can be time consuming... In the early days of the school's existence, some of the Catholic parishioners felt the school wasn't a 'proper' Catholic school, that it might be watering down a Catholic ethos – but this was traditionalism which has disappeared because the number of Catholics in the school has grown. Both the head and deputy head teacher are Catholic at present; the school uses the Catholic syllabus in Religious Education – with agreement of Anglican diocese... We share the sameness and celebrate our differences. We share confirmation and first communion prep. We do have some shared worship. We go to a church service once a week; clergy take it in turn to do service."*

School motto:

"The teaching, celebration, worship and example of Jesus Christ are at the centre of our school life."

How many pupils?

370 in total; 60 entry places. Admissions criteria state that first places are reserved for practising members of the church community from

the parishes the school supports, then siblings of existing pupils. The denominational breakdown varies from year to year, but balances out to equal numbers Anglican/Catholic; between a quarter and a third non-Anglican/non-Catholic, including a small number of Muslim children.

St Edward's School

Headteacher: Ms Pola Bevan



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www.st-edwards.poole.sch.uk

How did the school come into being?

St Edward's serves the Roman Catholic, Anglican and Free Church communities of Poole and environs.

The school started life in 1964 as a Catholic secondary modern school, under the auspices of the diocese of Plymouth. The school always had an ecumenical makeup; Poole has a history of ecumenism of people working together across the Churches Together network. Discussions took place in the late 1980s about transitioning to joint church school status. Mr Richmond is the third head teacher since 1964. The first head always found places for children who were not Catholic; the second head was instrumental in bringing about the joint church arrangement. This was partly driven by economics – wanting to have a church school that was viable and successful so that a formal arrangement between Plymouth and the Church of England diocese of Salisbury was reached. The school lands were owned by the Plymouth diocese; but if the school was to move forward it would need more buildings and capital investment. This elicited a concurrent need for more pupils. It was agreed that a maximum of 75% planned admission number (PAN) would be reserved for Catholics; (admission is based on normal criteria of entry into a Catholic school having been baptized a catholic, and come from one of the two feeder schools), and a minimum of 25% Church of England children. Agreement was formalized in 1991.

The Board of Governors then decided that because of the tradition of ecumenism in the school that other applicants from Christian backgrounds other than the Church of England could come out of the maximum 75% of places reserved for Catholic pupils.

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

According to the head teacher: *“My view is that to some extent the controversy may be place-related though I do understand the reservations are genuinely and deeply held. There should be a wider debate about the need for joint church schools especially in areas where there may be a question mark placed over the future viability of church based education within the main Christian church traditions or where there is a clear demand from the local church community to ensure that this option should be available to the children of families within the wider area. My own view is that to offer this within a single institution is both a powerful one and very popular one. It is greatly supported by parents and church communities within the local area and further afield.*

“The support and continued encouragement of the local diocesan Bishops is a crucial one for us and clearly it is only through their authority that the school exists and has prospered. There has been great support from them for this continuing experiment in practical ecumenism. We now offer the opportunity for our Church of England students and staff to attend a eucharistic service within their tradition on a voluntary

basis before school. Both Catholic masses and Church of England eucharistic services are attended in a voluntary capacity by members across the different traditions which is very important for us as a visible sign of ecumenism. It is very clear that the local Catholic church communities give their support – through funding; on every formal occasion both bishops appear together; we follow the Roman Catholic syllabus. There is a great tolerance and belief that the traditions are to be respected; neither of the traditions to be diluted. Our chaplaincy committee blesses us through sharing liturgy, providing for the whole community. We have maintained the Catholic sacraments – confirmation classes are run within the school and there is voluntary catholic mass on the main feast days. We are always seeking to see what can unite us... My own feeling is that there isn't a magic formula for joint church education; it depends on the local context, and where people are prepared to give respect to each other's traditions.”

How many pupils?

897 pupils; 12-18 school with nearly 200 in sixth form. Catholic 57%, Church of England 40%, the remainder from other churches.

All Saints Inter-Church Primary School

(Roman Catholic – Church of England)

Headteacher: Mrs Rachel Voss



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How did the school come into being?

The school is 13 years old, having been established in 1994. Housing provision had been increasing in the area and there was a concurrent need for extra primary education provision. There was at that time no Roman Catholic school in the Fens, nor any Church of England school in this part of the Fens. Yet neither the Catholic nor Church of England population in the area was large enough to justify a single-denominational school. The decision was taken to establish a new school for Catholic and Anglican children, with other spaces offered for ‘catchment children’. The decision was made by the Catholic diocese of East Anglia and the Anglican diocese of Ely, in conjunction with the local Education Authority.

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

As neither denomination locally has enough children to justify a single denominational school, the principal suggests that this is the best way to provide an education about what church life means for local children. All groups get to benefit – the principal says: *“We try to provide exactly what a Catholic school or Anglican school would. Local clergy are very instrumental; we are linked to 3 Church of England parishes and 1 Catholic parish. The governors’ committee that meets half-termly invites all the clergy to attend. The dioceses are very supportive of us.”*

The relevant sacraments of both churches are affirmed in the school. The principal is also officially mandated to carry out inspections of RE and religious practice in both Catholic and Church of England schools. Put simply, in such a small market town, “there wouldn’t be any Catholic education without us; this is co-operation for the sake of each other. And our success is borne out by the fact that many of our pupils opt to travel 20 miles away for the Catholic and Church of England secondary schools once they reach secondary education age. There has been no noticeable controversy whatsoever. This is especially due to the participation of both Catholic and Anglican bishops and others from both denominations on the board of trustees.”



How many pupils?

203 pupils in total. 30 entrance places: 15 of these places are for church children; the remaining 15 for other children living in the catchment area. These children are engaged under the auspices of Churches Together in England.

School Mission Statement:

A Christian Community:

Pursuing excellence in Teaching and Learning,

Challenging children to reach their full potential,

Nurturing Spirituality, Respect for self and others,

Inspiring Values for Life.

Emmaus Church of England and Roman Catholic Primary School

Headteacher: Mr Frank Maguire



Emmaus Church of England and
Roman Catholic Primary School

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Liverpool

United Kingdom

L12 OJE

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emmaus-ht@

emmaus.liverpool.sch.uk

How did the school come into being?

It is situated in Croxteth Park, the biggest private housing estate in western Europe – which had no schools until Emmaus was established. People campaigned for a school from the late 1980s, and a working party under the auspices of the Roman Catholic archdiocese and the Church of England diocese of Liverpool was set up in 1992. Although land had been set aside for a school, the city council was reluctant to build because they had surplus places in other schools; yet children had to travel some distance to get to these schools. Two churches came together – St Cuthberts (Church of England) and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs (Roman Catholic). There was a good relationship between the priests, Fr Sean O'Connor and Rev Trevor Lathom. They organized the working party, campaigned, and finally won approval at a meeting between Archbishop Derek Warlock and Bishop David Sheppard who wanted this to happen for ecumenical reasons. In spite of funding difficulties they said “We are not going to let this opportunity fail.” 15% of the building costs came from the dioceses. Building work began early 1996; Mr Maguire was appointed in January 1997, and the school opened in September 1997.

Has it been controversial?

According to the head teacher: *“Liverpool has been a fairly sectarian city in its past; but because of the bond between the two bishops and cathedrals it was felt to be good work; there has not been the slightest jot of trouble. Our concerns have actually been with government bureaucracy... We regularly have two clergy celebrating together in shared services, with the children prepared for communion by parish workers. Our choir and orchestra members come from all denominations. It is a great relief for families to have the school – which is absolutely beautiful in its design – two wings opening like two arms of welcome. We have become so successful that we received mention in the chief inspector’s annual report for all schools.”*

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

“It’s a more natural thing to do in a society such as ours; we are in a Christian school. We have not diluted the teaching of either church; it’s not a religious “soup” where we take an easy line. People listened to each other and were totally sensitive to each other. We decided it was the responsibility of the Catholics in the school to ask themselves ‘what do I need to do to make this work for the Church of England people’, and vice versa – when planning a service, for instance, am I being sensitive to the needs of the other tradition? The traditions are different, but we’re doing things together so that when kids come to the school they don’t pay attention to the differences. There’s no way that these kids are going to be bigots – I hope they’re not, because they have worked together. We share

the responsibility and support from both dioceses in buildings and finance and clergy who can help, apart from the educational aspect. We are a community which is successfully modelling cohesion. With more funding we will welcome others from other traditions. Emmaus was the first school opened for no other reason than the desire to have a joint church school, and its success is shown in the fact that if the school is to promote ecumenism it needs to be successful in other ways too.”

How many pupils?

435 primary level; 60 nursery places; 52 staff; 50/50 entry on a denominational basis, but this is flexible; the staff has balanced out fairly equally.

School Mission Statement

“We have a mission statement that reflects the need for sharing; our four school houses are called Corrymeela, L’Arche, Iona, and Taizé.”

St Michael's Catholic and Church of England High School

Headteacher: Mr Karol Grabowski



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of England High School
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Karol Grabowski, Head Teacher.

How did the school come into being?

It was a Catholic secondary school set up in 1960, yet eventually, partly due to falling numbers in the Catholic primary schools, the Catholic diocese of Hallam approached the Anglican diocese of Wakefield about a joint venture. It became the 9th of the English joint schools. In September 2001 the Catholic school was closed down and re-opened as a joint church school on the same site and same buildings. A Bishops' working party was established to help enhance the development of the joint church education experience; this continues to meet termly. Its remit is to look at the development of the school from a number of different perspectives, including supporting the governors and school in rewriting the mission statement... According to the head teacher, *"the most important thing is where we're going spiritually... The working party tries to keep abreast of all the things we're doing in the school. On the working party we have two clergy chaplains, a lay chaplain, head teacher, two directors of education and representative clergy from the different denominations. Their task is to hold the school in prayer and to offer support to the governors"*

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

"We hold regular acts of worship with half the school or a year group together – these tend to be fairly general Christian worship rather than specifically Catholic or Anglican. We regularly draw on the liturgy of one or other tradition for our inspiration and themes. Eucharist is open access in the sense that everyone is welcome to come to any mass; and the mass/communion are offered according to the traditions of the respective churches. Children may receive a blessing if not receiving the sacrament. The pupils all know what they're supposed to do and we help to keep them from stepping over the boundaries.



“Our bishops are extremely supportive of the school and we do see ourselves as a pioneering School in some respects – the two groups of children come to understand that while there are differences, there are more similarities. We are very clear that this is not an ecumenical endeavour per se – St Michael’s is both fully Catholic and fully Church of England – the two sets of theologies sit alongside each other... The benefit to us as a community here is that it gives a very strong message to the local Barnsley people that church education is important enough for the dioceses and the Local Education Authority to work closely to keep the school open; in a population of falling rolls across the borough it is an important statement. At night the light from the chapel looks like a lighthouse – this is a positive symbol to the rest of the community.”

How many pupils?

673 in total; in the last headteacher’s report there were approximately 30% Catholics, the remainder nominally Church of England, with some Baptist, some Methodist, and 3 Hindu pupils. Our admissions policy states that up to 60% of pupils can be Catholic, and 40% can be Anglican. Having said this, even when it was a Catholic school there was a substantial number of Anglican pupils.

Since September 2006, St Michael’s has been a Science College.

School Moto:

“Following Jesus Together”.

School Mission Statement:

St Michael’s Catholic and Church of England High School offers a caring and challenging Christian community, fully Roman Catholic and fully Church of England, where the value of every person is upheld.

School Theological Statement:

The life of St Michael’s school is rooted in the belief:

That God is One and God is Love:

Father, the Creator who loves everyone and everything equally;

Son, who makes Love real by healing the broken and, through forgiveness, restores everyone to themselves, each other and God;

Spirit, who enables us to be like the Son, delighting in love, joy and peace.

We show this belief in action:

By mutual courtesy, respect and love towards each other;

By giving honour to all members of the school community through service;

By every part of the school’s life and studies being informed by the truth – God is Love.

We can see the effect of our Faith in action when:

The value of every person is upheld;

Every individual’s human potential is explored and encouraged to grow;

Everyone serves the common good of all.

The Academy of St Francis of Assisi

Principal: Mr Jim Burke OBE



The Academy of St Francis
of Assisi

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How did the School come into being?

Bishop James Jones, the Anglican Bishop of Liverpool, was involved in urban regeneration and local people told him they wanted a high school. There had never been one there before, but there were not enough Church of England children to create a new school. There was an existing Catholic school, Our Lady's Catholic High School, but it was not very large.

At this time the government began to promote its new policy to create city academies. Bishop Jones spoke to his Catholic counterpart Archbishop Patrick Kelly and the two churches decided to develop a joint Catholic-Church of England Academy from the existing Our Lady's High School. All the current Catholic pupils would transfer to the new St Francis of Assisi Academy; but its new first year intake in 2005 and each subsequent year, would comprise children from both churches.

The Academy opened in September 2005 and has been a great success.

How many pupils?

The school will eventually have 900 pupils – five years with 180 pupils in each. It caters for 11 to 16-year olds.

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

The principal, Mr Burke, comments that there have been no problems at all. Benefits have been the working of the Academy with both the local Catholic parishes and Anglican parishes; and having the local religious advisors from both denominations making use of the Academy.

Using a common Religious Education curriculum has been trouble-free.

From the pupils' point of view, Mr Burke thinks, the main benefit is that pupils get to know personally friends from different faiths (mostly Protestant and Catholic) and see for themselves how much they share and how many similarities there are.

College Vision Statement:

“We believe that through its Christian ethos and Environmental specialism, our vision is that the Academy will be dedicated to the community it serves and will provide”:

- A caring community
- A healthy environment
- New and exciting ways of learning to equip people for good jobs and a happy life

“The Academy of St Francis of Assisi is a very special school. It is a joint foundation of the Anglican and Roman Catholic Dioceses of Liverpool and it has a unique specialism ... the environment.”

The Academy's mission is to:

- Provide a new form of education open to all in the Kensington area of Liverpool
- Develop and encourage a concern and a respect for the environment and sustainable ways of living
- Work with the local community and other schools in Liverpool to raise aspirations, expectations and educational achievements of all its members

Eco Council

As an Academy **specialising in the Environment**, everyone connected with us plays an important part in protecting the environment. This means looking after and improving the school buildings and grounds and also helping to care for the local area and indeed the planet! We can do this by recycling, re-using, and where possible, by saving energy. Our Academy has been built with these principles very much in mind.

The students are crucial to the success of our Environment specialism and following elections we have appointed **Eco Councils** in each year group and an Academy Eco Council. These councils **represent the views of all students** and become actively involved in events, activities, displays and competitions related to the environment.

St Joseph's Catholic and Anglican High School

Headteacher: Mr John Kenworthy



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www.stjosephs-wrexham.net

How did the school come into being?

St Joseph's Catholic High School was originally founded in 1959 as a Catholic School, a non-selective state voluntary aided school for boys and girls aged 11-16.

Discussion of the enlargement to becoming a Joint-Church School began in 2001 when the Catholic diocese of Wrexham was approached by the Anglican Church in Wales's diocese of St Asaph, with the proposal that they join forces on education. At that time the Church in Wales had 13 primary schools, but no secondary school. "They get six years of faith-based education, and suddenly there's nothing for them."

Mr Kenworthy, who was headmaster of St Joseph's Catholic High School, then opened a long period of consultation. "The more we discussed this option, the more convinced we became that this is the way forward," he said. In 2004 it was agreed to have a joint Catholic-Anglican school. "We've tried to keep the best of what St Joseph's has always represented but carry it through to a new era, says Mr Kenworthy. "It's legitimising what the real position was. We've always welcomed Anglican children".

The new joint school cost £10.2 million to re-construct and has roughly equal numbers of Catholic and Anglican pupils. It opened in September 2006, the first Catholic-Anglican secondary school in Wales.

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

John Kenworthy, head teacher of the inter-denominational school, said the opening was a landmark for faith education in Wales. "The launch of the school affirms that all Christians have a shared journey in Christ," he said. "It sends a message to the nation, namely that faith schools have an important contribution to make."

He added the school had spent a number of years investigating the possibility in order to "get it right for both parties". "I'm delighted to say that by and large very little will change. We have a good reputation for academic standards, standards of discipline, uniform and behaviour. "We've tried to keep the best of what St Joseph's has always represented but carry it through into a new era because we will have to change and to a certain extent we have to encompass new ideas. Although we share so much there are differences in our traditions but the starting point is we respect those differences."

Mr. Kenworthy spoke of "the magical transformation of the heart" that had occurred as the idea of the new school was discussed, bringing Anglican resources and children into the Catholic St. Joseph's.

The Catholic Bishop of Wrexham, Right Reverend Edwin Regan said: "The school will provide an excellent opportunity for youngsters in the town to receive a religious education. It is the first in Wales but there are good examples of good practice in England. It is very



important that us as Christians should understand and appreciate each other. It's a small school and will remain a small school. Academically St Joseph's seems to gain more and more awards each year."

Anglican Canon Geoffrey Marshall, Rector of Wrexham said: "I hope it will be a sign of a flourishing Christian community in which unity and diversity can be celebrated."

Reverend Edwin Counsell, education officer for the Church in Wales, said: "The Church in Wales and the Roman Catholic church have been cooperating closely in the education sphere for very many years. With the opening of St Joseph 's school we now have a wonderful visible sign of that close co-operation of recent years."

How many pupils?

The school has 650 students. Some 60% of pupils will be Catholic: 40% Anglican, but children from other faith journeys will always be welcome

School motto:

I am the way, the truth and the life.

Christ College (opening September 2007)

Headteacher: Mrs Teresa Gilpin



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Headteacher, Mrs Teresa Gilpin

How did the school come into being?

In 2001, the Church of England Diocese of Gloucester approached the Roman Catholic Clifton Diocese with a request to explore expanding Church of England provision at a secondary level in the Cheltenham area. St Benedict's Catholic College, a small comprehensive school had only 40% of its pupils as baptised Catholics. For five years both Dioceses worked together and the result will be the opening of Christ College, a Roman Catholic and Church of England Sports College, in 2007. It will replace St Benedict's.

What are the key benefits of being a joint church school?

Christ College will build on the strengths of St Benedict's. The School will develop and extend the Chaplaincy team with both a Roman Catholic Chaplain and Church of England Chaplain. Their work will strengthen and enhance the opportunities we already offer our pupils on their faith journey.

We will continue to have Eucharistic celebrations and opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation but we will also have other liturgies which will draw on Anglican tradition.

The Admission Policy will be 40% Roman Catholic, 40% Church of England and 20% from the local community who want a Christian education for their children. This will ensure the majority of pupils are from a Christian background.



Students in Chapel.

A new R.E. syllabus has been written with approval from both Bishop of Clifton and Bishop of Gloucester. This syllabus takes account of both traditions, emphasising our shared beliefs but also being explicit about the differences.

We see this as an exciting time in the history of the School and a great opportunity for Catholics and Anglicans in Cheltenham to educate their children in a school rooted in the teachings of Jesus Christ.

How many pupils?

Christ College will be five form entry, with an admission number of 135. (There are at present 666 pupils in St Benedict's.)



Students playing tennis on the college's astro turf.



Amendments/updates/details of new schools are welcomed for the next edition and for immediate updating of our internet edition c/o: www.ief.org.uk and www.nicie.org.uk.

You can send these to us:
by Email c/o: info@oips.liderry.ni.sch.uk ("For Attention of FTIE").

or by post to: The Foyle Trust for Integrated Education
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