



St. Patrick's Grammar School

PROSPECTUS



A very warm welcome to St. Patrick's Grammar School



I am delighted that you are interested in getting to know our school and considering joining our school community. I hope this prospectus will give you an insight into the rich, varied and full life of our school.

St. Patrick's Grammar School, founded by the De La Salle Brothers in 1934, has a long and proud tradition of success, not only in academic education but through the development of each individual's talents in a wide range of extra-curricular activities.

We moved to the new school building in November 2011 and, since then, our students and associated school community have succeeded in further strengthening the unique ethos that has defined St. Patrick's Grammar School over the past 85 years. Our school has never been about the institution or buildings, but has always focused on the student and his or her unique talents and needs. It is this focus that led to the successful awarding of 'Investors in Pupils' in November 2013 – the first school in Ireland, north or south, to achieve such an accolade.

We pride ourselves on the excellent home-school and staff-student partnerships and on the effectiveness of our Pastoral Care system, including the Counselling Service for students. We believe that our students' success is primarily due to the fact that we encourage and challenge them to explore our God-given gifts: spiritual, intellectual, physical as well as social, in a warm, friendly, caring and supportive atmosphere.

As a Catholic school, we work to build upon the values of home and foster a strong sense of faith and social responsibility in our pupils. These values underpin our school community, defined by its motto, Signum Fidei, (Sign of Faith). How we interact and support our students, how we develop values in our students to bring forward to successful lives, are influenced by the gospel values, as witnessed by the life and actions of Saint John Baptiste de La Salle, our founder.

The Lasallian tradition of empathy and service to others is very important to us and all pupils play a part in helping others, in school, in their local community and in areas of need throughout the world. We encourage and equip every student in St. Patrick's Grammar School to become thoughtful and caring citizens and to take his or her place with poise and assurance in our increasingly technologically advancing society.

St. Patrick's is, above all, a happy school; a place where pupils are expected to work hard to fulfil their true academic potential, but where they will also find enrichment, fun and lifelong friendships. I am particularly proud to lead a staff who take pride in their professionalism and in their students. We are confident that every student who comes to us will be very well prepared for the exciting challenges they will face as future leaders in society.

Signum Fidei

Joe McCann
Principal



Introduction

St. Patrick's Grammar School was founded in 1934 and moved to its present site on the Saul Road in 1937.

The school has grown and developed from those early days and now boasts state of the art modern facilities. It has an enrolment of 720 students with a co-educational Sixth Form of over 200 students.

As a voluntary aided grammar school, St. Patrick's is owned and directed by the De La Salle Brothers. The order was founded in Rheims in 1680 by St. John Baptiste De La Salle and the congregation has a 300 year tradition of directing schools and being involved in educational enterprises. De La Salle was canonised in 1900 and was declared the Patron Saint of all Teachers in 1950.

Working in close collaboration with the Brothers is a group of dedicated lay teachers who bring to the school a wealth of talent, expertise and experience to benefit our students.



Our Tradition

"Education and instruction, piety and knowledge, should be inseparable"

St. John Baptiste De La Salle

The first grammar school directed by the De La Salle Brothers opened in Irish Street, Downpatrick in 1934 with Br Alexis Galvin as Headmaster. Since then, there have been twelve brothers as headmasters and three lay headmasters. The new facilities were officially opened by Bishop Farquar on 16th March 2012.

St. Patrick's Grammar School has been serving the needs of the wider area for over eighty years and in this time it has built up a tradition of excellence and commitment to the people in the area. A large number of our students are either children of, or otherwise related to, past students of the school and this inspires a sense of loyalty on both sides.

The school is highly regarded in the locality and strives to live up to this reputation. Many past students of St. Patrick's occupy senior positions in civic and political life, industry, business, the professions, entertainment and the media throughout Ireland and further afield.

The school enjoys a fine sporting tradition and participates regularly in provincial sports competitions. Many former students have featured on successful Down teams, both hurling and football.



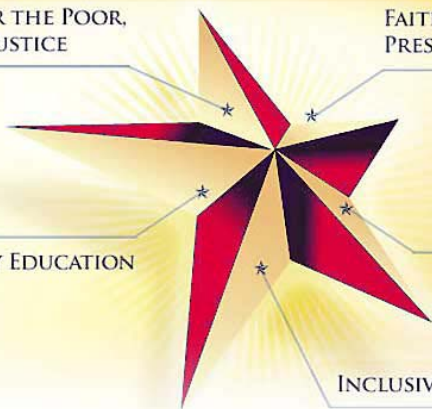
CONCERN FOR THE POOR,
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

FAITH IN THE
PRESENCE OF GOD

RESPECT FOR
ALL PERSONS

QUALITY EDUCATION

INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY



Mission Statement

Together with the Brothers' schools world-wide, St. Patrick's Grammar School shares a common mission statement, which is to give a human and Christian education to the young, in close partnership with the different groups associated with the school. These groups comprise the students, parents, teachers, other staff and governors. The aims of the school derive from this mission statement.



Aims

St. Patrick's Grammar School provides a human and Christian education which:

- shares the mission of the Catholic Church, by committing itself to live by Gospel values;
- pursues the spiritual formation, academic preparation and cultural development of its students;
- is characterised by the emphasis which it gives to the education of children who are disadvantaged;
- renews and updates itself to respond effectively to the social and religious challenges of today;
- recognises and respects the dignity of each individual;
- fosters attitudes of tolerance, care, concern for justice and of service to others;
- has an agreed code of conduct in place, is well managed, cultivates a welcoming, happy atmosphere and an environment conducive to good learning.

Curriculum

The curriculum in St. Patrick's Grammar School is designed to achieve the aims of the school by enabling each student to have a broad, balanced, enjoyable and relevant experience.

Excellence in learning and teaching is the core purpose of St. Patrick's. Our continued success is due to our ability to provide a modern, relevant and enjoyable curriculum for our students within the statutory regulations.

Students are imbued with the skills, dispositions and values that will lead to success both at school and in their adult life. As a high performing, self-evaluating school, St. Patrick's continually reviews its provision, mindful of the changing needs of society and the needs of individuals within the school community.

An excellent curriculum is supported by an outstanding Pastoral Care system and numerous opportunities for involvement in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Diagnostic assessment of pupil progress is central to our continued success. There are three internal assessments during each academic year which are reported to parents and opportunities for teacher-parent consultation, both formal and informal, are provided throughout the year. In addition to the one formal written report and Parent Teacher Meeting, the school maintains regular contact with home to ensure effective communication and sharing of information.





Years 8-10 (Key Stage 3)

The overarching aim of the curriculum of St. Patrick's Grammar School is to develop our students as lifelong learners, who strive to achieve to the best of their ability, thus enabling them as individuals and as contributors to society, the local, national and global economy and the environment.

The curriculum covers all the main areas of the Northern Ireland Curriculum (The Arts, Language and Literacy, Mathematics and Numeracy, Modern Languages, Environment and Society, Science and Technology, Learning for Life and Work & Religious Education). Cross Curricular Skills and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities are infused throughout the areas of study.

Students with particular needs are identified and supported both internally and in partnership with external agencies. Effective learning and teaching is supported by strong Pastoral Care.

Year 8 students are supported in their transition to the KS3 curriculum by a team of trained Year 14 Prefect Mentors.



Years 11-12 (Key Stage 4)

All students in KS4 study at least 9 subjects, with many increasing this number to 10 or 11 through accelerated programmes of study for the Gifted & Talented. The following subjects are compulsory at GCSE: English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Religious Studies. Students are encouraged to take at least one Science, at least one subject from the Environment and Society suite and at least one Modern Foreign Language. A wide range of additional subjects are included to ensure the needs of all students are met.

Students also follow Physical Education, Personal Development and Careers programmes designed to support their academic studies. Guidance on the selection of GCSE subjects begins in January of Year 10 and every effort is made to accommodate the combinations of non-compulsory subjects.

Subjects offered at GCSE:

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computing
- Drama
- Economics
- English Language
- English Literature
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- History
- ICT
- Irish
- Learning for Life & Work
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Politics
- Religious Education
- Science: Double Award
- Science: Single Award
- Spanish
- Technology & Design



Years 13-14 (Key Stage 5)

St. Patrick's Grammar School offers a wide range of academic and vocational courses at Post-16 and students can access others through our active involvement and leadership of collaboration within the Lecale Learning Community. Admission to the Sixth Form is dependent on GCSE performance and the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available each year.

Most students in Year 13 take four AS subjects with accelerated pathways and the opportunity to take additional subjects available to Gifted & Talented students. Our curriculum is designed to ensure that career options remain open and that entry to the high demand university courses remains a reality. Hand in hand with the pursuit of academic excellence is the strong pastoral support that ensures our students are able to make the transition to the demands of Higher Education.

Additionally, students follow a comprehensive careers programme designed to address and support their individual pathways and opportunities are provided for interaction with local businesses, the community and further education institutions. Our A Level students are successful in securing places locally at both Queen's University (including St. Mary's University College) and the University of Ulster and further afield including Oxford and Cambridge, Trinity College Dublin, St. Andrews, Heriot-Watt, The London School of Economics, Imperial College London and prestigious Ivy League Colleges in the United States.

Students are also encouraged to participate in a wide range of enrichment activities, such as sport, music, drama, voluntary work, charity work and outdoor pursuits as well as the many opportunities that exist within our School Outreach Programme. All of these are central to ensuring we develop our students as well rounded individuals, with the qualities and competencies that will render them capable of making a difference in society.

Subjects offered:

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Construction BTEC
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- Government & Politics
- Health and Social Care (Applied)
- History
- ICT – Cambridge Technical Level 3
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Media Studies
- Moving Image Art
- Music
- Physics
- Professional Business Services
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Software Systems Development
- Spanish
- Sport BTEC Single Award
- Sport BTEC Double Award
- Sports Science & the Active Leisure Industry
- Technology & Design
- Theatre Studies
- Travel & Tourism BTEC



Careers (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG))

A comprehensive careers programme is devised and delivered by our specialist careers staff. From Year 8 to Year 14, students receive one period each week of Employability or Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance. The ultimate aim is for students to leave school with:

- a developed sense of self-awareness;
- an awareness of career opportunities;
- the ability to make decisions and plans;
- the ability to take action.

Careers staff conduct individual and group interviews with our Year 13 and 14 students and a range of speakers visit the school to address these students on a range of important and relevant issues including study skills, application to university, interview preparation and student finance. A period of work experience is undertaken by each Year 13 student in June, upon completion of their external modular examinations. Visiting speakers from business, the professions and higher education make a valuable contribution to preparing our students to take their place in the world of work by participating in mock interviews with students and offering advice in the annual Pathways Day.

Furthermore, a comprehensive Careers Library is located in the main library to assist students in making their choices. Parents are invited to Year 10 and Year 12 Pathways Days to discuss their son's choice of GCSE and A Level subjects. A Careers Officer visits the school to meet individually with each pupil in Year 12, ensuring he is equipped to make well-informed decisions regarding his post-16 education. Great care is taken with UCAS, CAO, Oxbridge and US Colleges applications and Admissions Officers from a variety of universities visit the school each year for Pathways Day to assist with decision making.

Additional Educational Needs

St. Patrick's Grammar School has a number of students with special educational needs. Staff are kept well informed of the needs of these students and all staff engage in developing subject specific strategies aimed at assisting the student in achieving their potential. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) liaises with the Heads of Departments and subject teachers concerning the curriculum for students with additional educational needs and maintains a close link with Educational Psychologists and Medical Officers. Parents are invited to annual review meetings and end of Key Stage transition meetings to discuss pupil progress and needs.

Assessment and Examinations

Students are sometimes withdrawn for extra tuition. Classroom and General Assistants work at St. Patrick's as part of the support for students with special needs. The Board of Governors and staff have adopted a Special Educational Needs Policy drawn up by the school and regularly revised.

Assessment and Examinations

Assessment, through testing and ongoing monitoring of classwork and homework, is one of the ways in which the student can monitor his or her own progress and the school can gauge the success of teaching programmes.

Furthermore, it allows the school to communicate the progress of the students to parents, universities and the wider community. Assessment is not just simply an addition to the curriculum, but an integral part of the educational process, and is incorporated systematically into teaching strategies and practices at all levels. We believe in effective Assessment for Learning.

Subject teachers may use various assessment methods to determine the achievement of each student. These will consist of continuous assessment, including written or oral/aural work, as well as practical experiments/demonstrations and investigations. Such appraisal normally takes place during the class-teaching period but assessment may also be carried out through class and mid/end of year tests as well as homework, projects, fieldwork and coursework. The mid/end of year tests are standardised to facilitate comparisons within a class and between classes of the same year group. Parents receive two formal progress reports each year (one containing statistical information and one with individual comments from subject teachers), including public examination results. Additionally, there is at least one formal opportunity for parents to visit the school and talk to the various subject teachers and pastoral teachers about their child's progress.

The dates for the school's three assessment periods are set out in the school's calendar. The school has embraced the challenges of the NI Curriculum, infusing Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities into all areas of learning. This assessment takes the form of continuous assessment through externally moderated portfolios. Public examinations are taken at the end of Year 11 and 12 by GCSE students while AS and A2 modular examinations are taken in Year 13 and 14.



Homework

The school considers homework an essential part of the education process. It consolidates learning and helps the students develop study skills and self-discipline.

All students are issued with a Student Planner at the commencement of the school year in which they record each day the homeworks that they have been set by the teacher. Teachers will use the Student Planner to communicate with home and parents are asked to view the homework diary nightly and sign weekly.

Homework is considered an extension of work done in the classroom and will vary depending on the age of the student and the subject they are studying. Students are encouraged to use a variety of resources to assist with homework activities, which could include: practice exercises to review and reinforce recently learned skills; preparatory work to gain background information for use in future lesson and extension assignments which encourage students to pursue knowledge independently and imaginatively.

The recommended times for homework are:

Students in Years 8 - 10	1.5 to 2 hours per evening
Students in Years 11 - 12	2.5 to 3 hours per evening
Students in Years 13 - 14	1 hour per subject per evening

To facilitate students with homework and study the school library is open and supervised before school from 8.00am and after school each day until 5:30pm.

Reporting

In line with the school's assessment policy, a numerical progress report and a summative report for all students are sent to parents each year.

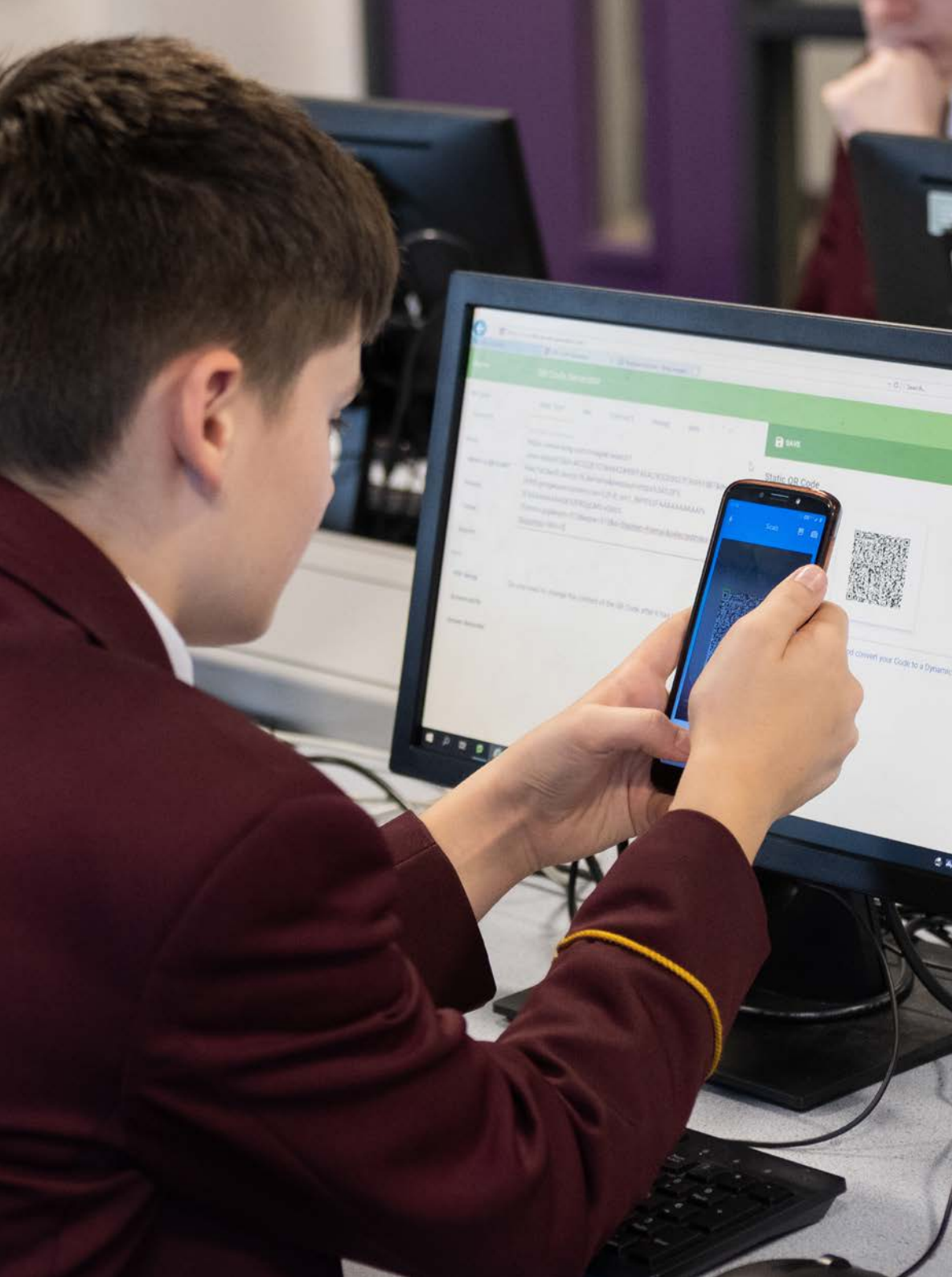
The numerical report includes:

- the student's scores, grades and effort level in each subject;
- the attendance record of the student to date;
- a comment from a member of SLT.

The annual summative reports will include:

- the student's scores, grades and effort level in each subject;
- the subject teacher's comments including recommendations for improvement;
- the attendance record of the student to date;
- a general comment from the Form Teacher and Year Teacher;
- a comment from a member of SLT.





Communication between School and Home

Recognising the importance of close communication between school and home, we take every opportunity to establish and maintain good relations with parents and guardians.

This is outlined in our Home-School Compact in the student planner. You will have legitimate expectations of us to teach your children well and prepare them fully for public examinations, to keep them safe and secure and to look after their welfare, and to keep you informed. We also have expectations of parents to support their children and our teachers in the learning process and to ensure that all students are respectful of their school and everybody within it.

Induction Evenings for parents and students are held at key transition points to provide curricular and pastoral information to parents and guardians

Parent-Teacher meetings are held annually. Parents are welcome to come to the school, by appointment, to discuss their concerns with staff in a spirit of trust and mutual confidence. Circular letters from the Headmaster are issued periodically and the Governors prepare a written report for parents each year.

The school website www.spgs.org.uk provides comprehensive information about the school and its policies and is regularly updated to keep parents and friends of the school updated with our news and achievements. We also have official Facebook, YouTube and Twitter accounts that afford us the opportunity to celebrate the diversity of life in St. Patrick's Grammar School.

In addition to the usual school reports, interim reports are sent to parents of students whose progress or attitude to work is causing concern. Parents may contact the school at any time on any matter of concern to them. Your child's Form Teacher should be your first point of contact if you have any concerns or queries. Teachers appreciate greatly the tradition of partnership and support for their work which has been evident through the years.

The Red High Parent's and Friend's Association (PFA) was formed in 2013 to mark the school's 80th anniversary and is open to all parents/guardians of past and present students and friends which include alumni and staff. The PFA is a vibrant body which seeks to support the work of the school, organising events and activities throughout the year as social occasions and fund-raising ventures and provides a wonderful platform for parents to engage socially with each other, staff and students in a variety of settings.

Pastoral Care

Developing the Whole Person

The staff of St. Patrick's Grammar School strive to create a happy and nurturing environment which will promote the overall development of the whole young person, so that they can be the best they can.

The staff of St. Patrick's takes pride in being the first school in Ireland to achieve Investors in Students status, in November 2013. The school embraces the motto of Investors in Students, 'Because Every Child Matters', the assessor noting 'parents were very happy that their children were known and encouraged to develop as individuals and ... able to achieve academic success, while at the same time experiencing an education which is wider than book learning'. Students are indeed encouraged to maximise not only their academic potential, but also to foster the special gifts and talents they possess in other areas, for example, in sport, music and drama.

The Red High Family

The priority of the Form Teacher is to get to know the young people in his/her care. Form Teachers are given time during the school week to meet individually with their students, to discuss academic progress and welfare concerns. Each student will have a one-to-one meeting with their Form Teacher each year, usually in the first term. With a detailed knowledge of the needs, emotional development, academic progress and attainment of each student, the Form Teacher is at the heart of our pastoral care system and he/she liaises closely with Year Heads, subject teachers and parents, to ensure the well-being and success of each young person.

Students in Year 8 also enjoy the support of Year 14 Prefect Mentors, who get to know them by playing an active role in all induction and team-building activities at the beginning of the school year and by participating in the weekly Personal Development classes that run throughout the academic year.

Form classes meet for fifteen minutes each morning, before lessons begin. This is a valuable opportunity, not just for registration, but for students to chat to each other and to their Form Teacher, to pray together and to discuss events and activities in which they may be involved. One morning a week, each of the three schools – Junior School, Senior School and Upper School – come together for shared prayer, to celebrate and give thanks for success and achievements and to celebrate religious feast days.

The staff of St. Patrick's is committed to building an effective partnership between home and school and we encourage parents to contact the Form Teacher to discuss any concerns which they may have. Each year group also has an afternoon set aside each year, for individual parent-teacher consultations.

St. Patrick's recognises that emotional wellbeing is critical if students are to achieve their potential and this is promoted by the school's policies and practices. Our students enjoy positive relationships with staff and in the event of a student requiring professional counselling support, two counsellors, visit St. Patrick's each week. Students may self-refer to the service or be referred by a parent or teacher. When necessary and appropriate, the school will invoke the support of other specialist outside agencies to assist students.





Personal Development Programme

All students have a weekly tutorial period in form class groups, during which the Personal Development programme is delivered, by the Form Teacher, supported, when appropriate, by external agencies. The aim of this programme is to empower students as mature, independent and responsible young men and women, able to cope with the challenges they will face in life in the twenty-first century. Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE), Health Education and Drugs Education, Road Safety and Safe Social Networking, make up part of this programme. Work on preferred individual learning styles and study skills are also central; students are encouraged to become independent, self-aware and motivated learners who, with the support of their teachers, set 'SMART' targets for themselves and evaluate their own performance, to ensure they maximise their talents and abilities.

Student Voice

St. Patrick's is a happy school environment, where students thrive, in the knowledge that their voice is heard. The school has three active student councils (Junior School, Senior School and Upper School) composed of elected members. The councils aim:

- to afford students the opportunity to play an active and positive part in their education and in the corporate life of the school;
- to help create the atmosphere conducive to positive and productive interpersonal relationships, characteristic of the Lasallian school;
- to encourage students to become confident, responsible, caring and independent individuals;
- to foster in students a sense of loyalty to and pride in the school;
- to improve communication at all levels, between staff, students and parents.

Students have the opportunity to attend leadership training courses which help them in carrying out the activities of the council and they are supported in their role by the Class Prefect.

The Student Leadership Team, consists of the Head Boy, Head Girl, their Deputies and elected Prefects from Year 14. This group meets regularly with senior staff to discuss issues pertaining to the student body.



Recognising Achievement

St. Patrick's Grammar School promotes commitment to study, good attendance and respectful behaviour. In the Junior School, students work towards individual bronze, silver and gold merit awards. The achievements of all our students, throughout the curriculum and beyond it, are celebrated at assemblies and in our annual Awards Evening. All students are encouraged to achieve their personal best, both individually and as part of their Form Class, through our commitment to the Investors in Students Scheme.

Serving the Community

Our students and families are renowned for their generosity and commitment to those in need. There are a number of fund-raising activities and events organised and run by students during the year. In Advent, money, gifts and food hampers are collected for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, who then distributes them in the local community. During Lent, collections are made for the Lasallian missions abroad. Breakfast fundraisers have allowed very generous donations to be made to charitable causes selected by our students, the most recent being made to Readathon. Annually, our school community raises some £25,000 for charitable causes.

As part of our Enrichment Programme, the Sixth Form is involved in outreach schemes with local Primary Schools and charities. Students in the Upper School are also encouraged to support younger students through the mentoring scheme and in learning support initiatives. In an assessment carried out by Investors in Students, the assessor stated that 'parents gave many, many examples of students making significant individual contributions to the life of the school and of students taking leadership roles.' He quoted a parent who stated, "Our children have developed a quiet self-confidence through these opportunities for leadership".



Spirituality

The Principal, Vice-Principal, Assistant Principals, Pastoral Teams, Counsellors and general staff work together to ensure that the school is a caring and compassionate community. As a community we celebrate our Christian ethos in daily prayer and in services and masses throughout the school year.

The Religious Education Department ensures that every liturgical celebration in school is a special celebration. The liturgical year provides opportunities

to highlight the liturgical seasons – Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter as well as particular feast days – St. Brigid, St. Patrick, St. John Baptiste de La Salle. As well as these occasions, there are special Masses to welcome the Year 8 students, to mark the departure of the Year 14 students and to celebrate Founder's Day in May.

The Oratory in St. Patrick's is an oasis of quiet, away from the hustle and bustle of everyday school life. Students are offered

the opportunity to enjoy time in prayer – through reflections, meditation and music, at various times throughout the school year e.g. Advent, Lent.

The Religious Education Department assists Year Heads and Form Teachers in the preparation of assemblies, which take place on a regular basis throughout the year.

The importance of time-out away from the school routine is emphasised through

the organisation of retreats. These give the students the opportunity to reflect on their spiritual lives. RE Department staff and the pastoral team in the Upper School seek to empower young people by encouraging their involvement in organising services, for example, the Leavers' Mass. Students are also encouraged to join the school's Saint Vincent de Paul society.



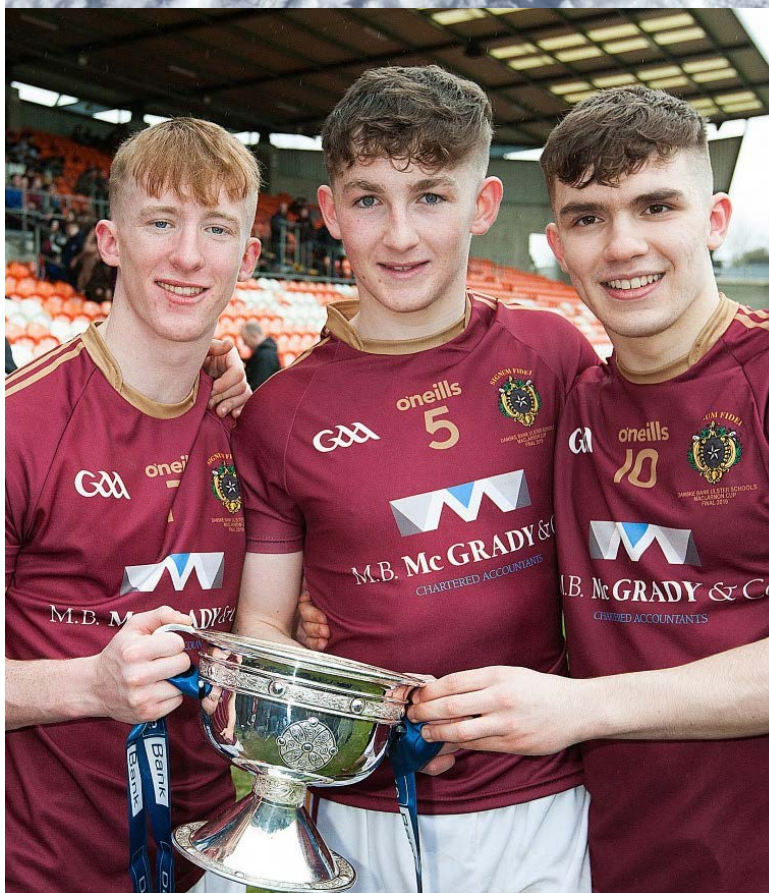
Extra – Curricular

In St. Patrick's Grammar School there are many opportunities for students to develop their talents and gifts both inside and outside the classroom. From the Breakfast Club in the morning to the Homework Club in the evening, there is a wide range of clubs and activities on offer which further develop self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience as well as numerous personal and interpersonal skills. Our extra-curricular programme also provides opportunities for our students identified as Gifted & Talented.

- Athletics
- Badminton Club
- Breakfast Club
- First Trust 'Build a Bank' Competition
- Chess Club
- Choirs
- Cross-Community Activities
- Cross-Country and Athletics
- Debating
- De La Salle Missions Fundraising Group
- Drama
- Eco School
- Essay writing Competitions
- Environmental Youth Speak
- Fitness Suite Club
- Gaelic Football
- Go4SET STEM Club
- Golf
- Handball
- Hurling
- Orchestra and Ensembles
- Olympiads (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics)
- Saphara
- School Newsletter
- Soccer
- Stomp
- St. Vincent de Paul Conference
- Swimming
- Tennis
- UK Maths Challenges

As a centre for GAA sports, the school specialises in Gaelic football (including senior ladies), hurling and handball and competes in Ulster Colleges' Competitions at all levels.

Throughout the academic year, students from the different form groups (Down, Killard, Lecale and Quoile) have opportunities to compete in Inter-House activities such as Gaelic football, soccer and track and field athletics. Students also compete in the provincial cup competitions in soccer.



The learning experiences of our students are greatly enriched through the variety of school trips organised:

- Camps international trip to Cambodia
- Careers Trips to Universities
- Confucius trip to China
- Fieldwork Trips
- French Trip to Paris and Euro Disney
- Gaeltacht
- Intensive Spanish courses in Alicante
- Local Music and Theatre Trips
- Local History Trips
- Outdoor Pursuits Trips
- Team-building Trips
- Theatre Trips to London's West End
- Saphara Trip to India
- Science Trips to W5, Belfast Zoo and Armagh Planetarium
- Junior and Senior Ski Trips





Enrichment Programme

Through our extensive programme, our aim is that students will leave St. Patrick's Grammar School as confident, happy and independent young adults, fully prepared for the challenges that life will provide. A programme of non-academic activities and experiences is offered in the Sixth Form and includes courses in:

- British Sign Language
- Business Enterprise
- Coding and Games Development
- Food Preparation and Hygiene
- GAA Coaching Certification
- ICT Certification
- Leadership Training
- Mandarin
- Mentoring – STEM, Literacy and Numeracy
- Mindfulness
- Peer Mediation
- Peer Ministry
- Personal Fitness
- Physical Education
- Road Safety Awareness
- Reading Partnership
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Songwriting and Recording
- SVP Conference and Fundraising
- Work Experience





Catering

The school catering is managed by Autograph in the school's Miguel Centre. A wide and varied menu of hot and cold food and snacks is served throughout the day, beginning with breakfast from 8:30am.

All of our main meal choices and snacks are cooked from fresh ingredients on site and we encourage students to follow a healthy diet. Students may bring packed lunches and the Miguel Centre provides a very comfortable,

inviting and spacious dining area for students and teachers.

We operate a 'Biometrics Cashless Catering Payment System' which all new students register for at the beginning of the academic year. This system involves students depositing money in machines placed throughout the school which then becomes allocated to their SIMS account with payment for food and beverages

simply requiring a finger scan. Free school meals are provided to those students on receipt by the school of the appropriate documentation and the value of the meal is automatically allocated to their account.

The school operates within the Nutritional Standards for School Meals and other Food Outlets for Schools as set out by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland.

Uniform

The school uniform identifies the boys and girls as students of St. Patrick's Grammar School. While wearing it, students represent the school, its values and its traditions.

Proper attire and good grooming, as well as neatness and cleanliness, is expected of the students at all times. The school reserves the right to set the standards in relation to uniform and appearance. Students are encouraged to wear their uniform with dignity and pride and parental cooperation is always greatly appreciated.

The school uniform may be purchased from suppliers in Downpatrick, Newcastle and Ballynahinch. It consists of black shoes, black trousers, white shirt, school tie, grey v-neck jumper with maroon and gold insert and black shoes. Girls wear a white blouse and a charcoal grey A-line, knee-length skirt, black tights or grey knee socks and low heeled or flat black shoes. The wearing of a school scarf is optional. A waterproof and fleece lined school jacket, which was designed by the student body, is available to order in the school.

All junior students wear the same PE kit, which consists of an O'Neills jersey, shorts and socks in the school colours. Orders for this kit are taken when students visit the school in June to meet with a senior member of staff as part of their induction prior to beginning Year 8.



Junior Uniform



Senior Uniform

Induction

We are keen to get to know all our students as individuals and the induction of new students is carefully arranged to promote this. All new students and their parents meet with a senior member of staff, prior to admission, to discuss individual requirements and to provide an opportunity for information to be exchanged on a one-to-one basis.

Every effort is made to ensure that the Year 8 students' transition from primary school to grammar school is straight forward and enjoyable. Year 8 students have the school to themselves on their first day which they spend with their Form Teacher and senior students who act as mentors throughout the school year. Students participate in ice-breaking and team-building activities, including a team-building day, to promote friendship building and familiarisation with their new surroundings. The Year 8 Mass and Induction Evening in October welcomes Year 8 students and their families to the Red High family and provides an opportunity for parents to meet the staff and other parents.

Similar care and vigilance is taken at the beginning of Year 13 to ensure that students at this stage of their education, including those transferring from other schools, are guided, advised and supported as they embark on A-Level studies.



WHY SHOULD YOU CHOOSE ST. PATRICK'S?

PASTORAL



At St. Patrick's we pride ourselves on the excellent care, support and guidance that we offer all of our students.

CURRICULUM



Our curriculum enables our students to have a broad, balanced, enjoyable and relevant experience.

SUPPORT



We work with students in a wide range of ways to enable them to achieve or surpass their potential.

FACILITIES



State of the art learning and leisure environments.

ENRICHMENT



A range of activities and opportunities to develop the whole student.

CAREERS



One to one support to ensure all students make informed decisions about their futures.

COMMUNITY LINKS



Strong and vibrant links with our alumni and local community provide numerous enrichment opportunities for our students.

RESULTS



We have a tradition of academic success based on outstanding pastoral care and

Applying to St. Patrick's Grammar School

Selecting a school, whether as a student or a parent, can be a difficult decision, particularly in this area of County Down where there are so many good schools. After reading this prospectus, you will have a flavour of the character of St. Patrick's Grammar School and how much we have to offer young people.

By visiting and speaking with staff and students, you will obtain a greater insight into our school.

If you wish to know more about St. Patrick's Grammar School, please contact the Principal's PA to make the necessary arrangements.





St. Patrick's Grammar School

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INVESTORS IN PUPILS

The Board of Governors reserves the right to amend school policies and practices should this be deemed desirable in the future. All information contained in this prospectus is correct at the time of printing.