

St. Patrick's Grammar School Downpatrick



1934 – 2021

Information for Students

Student's name: _____ Class: _____



Your First Day at St. Patrick's Grammar School

Wednesday 1st September 2021



Please bring the following with you:

- this booklet;
- pens and pencils;
- a school bag;
- Please also ensure your uniform i.e. coat, blazer, jumper etc. is labelled with your name.

Depending on advice regarding social distancing when the new term begins, some of the events noted in this booklet may not be able to take place - we will keep you updated though.

When you arrive at the school for 9.00am, go to the main entrance. Year 14 student mentors and some of your teachers will meet you there and tell you which Form Class you are in (8D, 8K, 8L or 8Q). You will then be directed to the McGrady Hall and asked to sit with your Form Class, where you will see other students from your primary school.

Activities for Your First Day

- There will be assembly, with Mr McCann (Principal), your Year Head and Form Teachers, for all Year 8 Students, in the McGrady Hall at 9.00am.
- You will be introduced to your Form Teacher and Year 14 Student Mentors and then you will go with your Form Class to your Form Room.
- You will be given your timetable and bus pass.
- You will be taken on a tour of the school.
- You will engage in some ice-breaking activities to help you get to know others in your class.
- You will be registered for the cashless cafeteria system and learn how to use this. Remember to bring a packed lunch or money for the cashless system (students entitled to free school meals will have the credit automatically added to their account). St. Patrick's has a healthy-eating policy and students are not permitted to bring fizzy drinks and sweets/chocolate/crisps to school. **Nuts and products containing nuts must never be brought to school.**
- The school day will end at 3.10pm (five minutes earlier than the usual time, to allow you to get to your bus stop or the bus station).



Your Second Day at St. Patrick's

- Make sure you know where to get the bus to school, if you did not get a bus on the first day.
- Arrive at school in good time for the 9.00am bell which marks the beginning of Form Class; the Miguel Centre is open for breakfast from 8.30am.
- Go directly to your Form Room when you hear the bell ring at 9.00am.
- In Form Class you will have the chance to speak to your Form Teacher. Remember, if you are unsure about anything, there are lots of people, including your Form Teacher, who are here to help you find your feet.
- Your Form Teacher will explain how to use your Student Planner.
- You will look closely at the Home School Agreement - your Form Teacher will explain what is expected of you in terms of your behaviour, the school rules, relationships with others and also work, both in class and at home.
- Time-tabled classes will begin after morning break.
- You will meet students from all the other year groups. Years 8 and 9 have lunch together.
- Year 8 students will be dismissed at 3.10pm to allow time to get to the bus stop. Teachers will be on bus duty to guide you.
- Cover all your text books and exercise books at home and clearly label each of them with your name, form, subject and teacher's name.



Who will look after YOU in Year 8?

Four Year 8 Form Teachers look after our Year 8 students. You will meet your Form Teacher every morning in Form Class and you will have the chance to speak to him or her about anything that concerns you. If you or your parents have any concerns, your Form Teacher is the person to contact.

We also have a school counsellor who is there to help you, Miss Rachel Johnston - you will be introduced to her inside the first few weeks. If you want to see the counsellor, just ask your Form Teacher, Head of Year or Ms McLoughlin (Head of Pastoral Care) to arrange an appointment for you, or, go to Reception and complete a *Request to See the School Counsellor* form. If you do not want to speak to anyone about seeing the counsellor, you can simply put a note with your name and class on it, in the small grey post-box at Reception, marked 'Counselling'. This box will only be opened by Mr Ms McLoughlin, who will arrange an appointment for you with the counsellor and let you know when it is, in such a way that nobody in your class will know about it. You can also use this box to post comments or concerns you have on any aspect of your life at school.

In Year 8, Form Teachers work hard to make sure all members of the class get to know each other and work well together.

'The night before my first day at the Red High, I was a bit worried about how my first day at grammar school would go. But in the morning I woke up in such a good mood and I was really excited about making new friends and seeing some of my old friends from primary school. We played games most of the day with our mentors and Form Teacher and everyone had a great time!'

Usually we have a teambuilding day out of school for our Year 8 students to have fun and to help everyone get to know each other. Our Mass of Welcome for students and their families, is also normally held in September.



Who will look after YOU in Year 8?

Senior Student Mentors

Four or five senior student mentors will work with your Form Class. The mentors are prefects who will help you to settle into St. Patrick's and who you will get to know well throughout the year as they will assist your Form Teacher in the delivery of parts of the Personal Development programme.

People you will need to know:

Mrs N McArdle
Ms K McLoughlin
Mrs R Savage
Mr J McCann
Miss R Johnston
Mrs J Averell
Mrs S Yeo (Reception)

Mr D Oakes
Mr G Cullen
Ms E Cotter

Head of School
Head of Pastoral Care
Vice Principal
Principal
School Counsellor
Librarian
Bus Passes/Dinner Tickets/
Lost property
ICT Technician
Technology Technician
Lunchtime Supervisor



What will you study in St. Patrick's Grammar School?

You will study many different subjects in St. Patrick's:

- Art
- Citizenship Education
- Drama
- Education for Employability
- English
- Home Economics
- French
- Geography
- History
- ICT
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Mindfulness
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religion
- Science
- Spanish
- Technology



Your teachers will expect you to work hard in class and to complete all your homework to the best of your ability.

There are three periods of assessment throughout the year. Marks for the Autumn Assessment, in November, are based on tasks set by your teacher, done at home or in school. Spring Assessment and Summer Assessment, in February and June respectively, are timetabled examinations, which are followed by reports sent home to parents. Your student planner, which you will be given in September, will contain all the relevant dates of assessments.



STUDENT TIMETABLE FOR YEARS 8 AND 9

Registration 9.00 - 9.15am <u>every day in Form Class Room.</u>	Monday - Friday Every Friday at 9.00am students should go to the McGrady Hall for Junior School assembly
Period 1	9.15 - 9.45am
Period 2	9.45 - 10.15am
Mid-morning Break	10.15 - 10.30am
Period 3	10.30 - 11.00am
Period 4	11.00 - 11.30am
Period 5	11.30 - 12.00pm
Period 6 LUNCH	12.00 - 12.35pm
Period 7	12.35 - 1.10pm
Period 8	1.10 - 1.45pm
Period 9 includes 5 minute brain break at 1.45pm for Year 8	1.45 - 2.20pm
Period 10	2.20 - 2.50pm
Period 11 (Year 8 students finish at 3.15pm)	2.50 - 3.20pm



Some thoughts of former Year 8s on some of the subjects you will study...

Art

One of the subjects I enjoyed most during my first year in the Red High was Art. It was very fun and opened my eyes to a whole variety of different techniques. My favourite activity was making fish models from clay and I really enjoyed making my design. The teacher always helps us with our work and encourages us to do our very best.

Drama

In the first term in drama we took part in the Drama Festival which was great fun. Our class performed *The Three Little Pigs* - Roald Dahl's version. I was the narrator for the piece. In drama class we do lots of group work and play fun games with our teacher, Miss McCorry.

English

In English this year we have learned to write stories and poems. I really enjoyed the Spy Project, writing descriptions of suspicious characters and designing clever gadgets useful to spies. I am currently reading a great novel called *The Hobbit*.

French

Salut! Je m'appelle George. French is a very interesting subject and our teacher Mr Toner always makes the classes fun and exciting. We have learned so much French this year and we play lots of games and do lots of quizzes. I'm looking forward to learning more French in Year 9.

Geography

I have really enjoyed geography this year - my favourite part of the course was learning about the different types of clouds and rainfall.

History

I've really enjoyed History this year, especially learning about the Normans and the Black Death. Mr Gallagher is very funny and he always allows plenty of class discussion which is great.

Home Economics

I have really loved HE this year. I've learned how to make fairy cakes, pizzas and smoothies. At the end of each lesson, we get to try our own food which is great. I can't wait to learn how to make more things in Year 9.



ICT

ICT is really fun! I have learned how to do lots of new fun things on the computer like programming. Miss Lynch is our teacher who makes sure we enjoy the class and have good craic with our friends.



Irish

Dia duit - Jay an t-ainm atá orm! Irish is one of my favourite languages in the Red High. It is fun learning new ways to express yourself. I hope to learn lots more Irish in the years ahead so that one day I will be a fluent speaker.

Mathematics

I enjoy Maths because I think it is very challenging and also interesting. I really enjoyed the Maths Challenge when everyone had the opportunity to win Gold, Silver or Bronze awards. Mrs Rice also turns the Maths classes into fun competitions and sometimes you can win different prizes.

Mindfulness

I liked practising mindfulness this year. Now we all know how to calm ourselves down if we ever feel stressed or anxious about anything by doing finger breathing. I also enjoyed learning about how our brains work.

Music

One of the subjects I enjoyed during my time in the first year was Music, the reason why because I played a couple of instruments growing up and every music lesson is different and extremely fun.

Physical Education

I enjoy PE and love taking part in all the different sports. This year we did hurling, circuits, swimming, football and dodge ball. Hurling was my favourite. Mr Devlin is my teacher and he is a great PE teacher. He makes the lessons fun.



Religion

Religion is one of my favourite subjects. We have learned a lot about our Founder, St. John Baptiste De La Salle and we got the chance to enter a competition about his life. Six students went with Miss McMullan to Castletown in Co. Laois, to represent our school at a meeting of all the De La Salle Schools in Ireland, in recognition of the tercentenary of the death of our Founder. We also had a great fun doing group activities on our retreat day, spent in the Parmenie Centre in Downpatrick.

Science

I love Science class so much - we have Miss Carson and she is so nice. I didn't really know anything about science before I came here and now I know loads and I love it. We get to do lots of fun experiments and learn how to use all the equipment like the Bunsen Burner and the microscope.



Spanish

HOLA! Me llamo Alec. I have really enjoyed learning Spanish in Year 8. Our teacher, Mrs Canavan, is very funny and always makes the classes very interesting. I am now able to talk about my family in Spanish. I'm looking forward to going to Spain with my friends on a school trip.

Technology

I really enjoy Technology class in the Red High. It is one of my favourite subjects. I enjoy getting into the workshop to make things. This year I made a picture frame and the circuit board for a torch. My teacher is Mr Gibson and he is always there to help - he is friendly and good craic.



Homework and Study Tips

- Record the homework given to you by teachers in your Student Planner. Your parents and teachers will also use this planner to communicate with each other. Your parents will be asked to sign your planner each week to show that they have monitored your homework. Parents are also asked to sign any comments made by teachers in the Student Planner.
- Set a regular time every day for homework and study (about one to one and a half hours). Remember that reading and learning homework are as important as written homework. When you are finished homework tasks, spend some time going over what you have studied in class that day. You could also read over the next few pages of your text books if you have time!
- Talk to your parents about homework tasks and ask their advice if you need to. When your teachers mark your work, check your exercise books for teachers' comments on your work and remember to do all your corrections.
- Don't miss school unless you absolutely must. If you do, you must take responsibility for catching up on the classwork and homework you have missed.
- Ensure that you have the books, paper, and other materials and equipment necessary for written work.
- Display a copy of your timetable at home and each night check that you have put the books you need for the next day, into your school bag. Keep a copy of your timetable in your Student Planner also.



CAT (Cognitive Abilities Test)

In the first term students will take a computerised test consisting of four parts. The first part, the verbal battery, tests ability to think with words; the second, the quantitative battery, tests ability to think with number and the third and fourth tests, the non-verbal and spatial batteries, test ability to think with shape and space.

You do not need to do anything to prepare for this test. This test will help your teachers identify your strengths and weaknesses so they will be able to help you develop your abilities. This test will also help your teachers to guide your target-setting, making sure that you challenge yourself to achieve the very best you can.

REMEMBER:

Success is 20% skill and 80% attitude and active study!

When you are studying, just reading is not enough! Your study must be

ACTIVE STUDY!

In general we remember:

10% of what we read;

20% of what we hear;

30% of what we see;

50% of what we see and hear;

70% of what we talk over with others;

80% of what we use and do in real life;

95% of what we teach someone else to do!



What Kind of Learner are You?

This chart will help you determine your learning style; read the word in the left column and then answer the questions in the successive three columns. Your answers may fall into all three columns, but one column will likely contain the most answers; the dominant column indicates your primary learning style.

When you..	Visual	Auditory	Kinesthetic & Tactile
Spell	Do you try to see the word?	Do you sound out the word or use a phonetic approach?	Do you write the word down to find if it feels right?
Talk	Do you talk sparingly but dislike listening for too long? Do you favour words such as <i>see</i> , <i>picture</i> , and <i>imagine</i> ?	Do you enjoy listening but are impatient to talk? Do you use words such as <i>hear</i> , <i>tune</i> , and <i>think</i> ?	Do you gesture and use expressive movements? Do you use words such as <i>feel</i> , <i>touch</i> , and <i>hold</i> ?
Concentrate	Do you become distracted by untidiness or movement?	Do you become distracted by sounds or noises?	Do you become distracted by activity around you?
Meet someone again	Do you forget names but remember faces or remember where you met?	Do you forget faces but remember names or remember what you talked about?	Do you remember best what you did together?
Contact people	Do you prefer direct, face-to-face, personal meetings?	Do you prefer the telephone?	Do you talk with them while walking or participating in an activity?
Read	Do you like descriptive scenes or pause to imagine the actions?	Do you enjoy dialogue and conversation or hear the characters talk?	Do you prefer action stories or are not a keen reader?
Do something new	Do you like to see demonstrations, diagrams, slides, or posters?	Do you prefer verbal instructions or talking about it with someone else?	Do you prefer to jump right in and try it?
Put something together	Do you look at the directions and the picture?	Do you prefer verbal instructions?	Do you ignore the directions and figure it out as you go along?
Need help with a computer application	Do you seek out pictures or diagrams?	Do you call the help desk, ask someone for help?	Do you keep trying to do it or try it on another computer?

Adapted from Colin Rose (1987). *Accelerated Learning*.



Visual Learners should:

- make posters with mind maps and diagrams;
- use post-it notes with key facts on them;
- use colour, highlighter and drawings to emphasise facts in your exercise books/notebooks;
- watch any relevant videos you can find.

Auditory Learners should:

- read notes out loud;
- make recordings of your notes and listen to them several times;
- make your notes into a story and say it out loud;
- create rhymes and catchy mnemonics to remember facts;
- talk through the topic with your friends or teach it to a parent;
- sit near the front of the classroom so you can hear everything clearly.

Kinesthetic Learners should:

- walk about while reading notes aloud;
- use lots of colour and highlighting in your note-making;
- make mind-maps;
- teach a topic to a friend or parent;
- take regular breaks and change position/location of study;
- set yourself goals and reward yourself for achieving them.



The Junior Merit System

St. Patrick's Grammar School promotes positive behaviour. The Junior Merit System is a scheme which rewards students for good attendance, behaviour, homework and classwork. Teachers may comment on individual student's performance in every lesson, using the computerised Lesson Monitor system. You will receive merit points for every day you attend school. You can achieve more merit points each time you demonstrate a positive attitude towards your learning by being attentive, respectful and ensuring that classwork and homework are completed. You can work towards achieving awards.



Remember, at St. Patrick's Grammar School, we expect that that you will:

- Attend school regularly and on time;
- Bring all the equipment you need every day;
- Wear your school uniform correctly and with pride;
- Abide by the school rules and procedures in school and on transport to and from school;
- Respect others in the school community by showing a caring attitude;
- Demonstrate respect in your interactions on social media;
- Complete all your classwork and homework as well as you can;
- Allow teachers to teach and other students to learn;
- Respect the school environment, including books, equipment and resources;
- Ensure that you do not bring any items to school, or on school transport, that breach the Health and Safety Policy, Positive Behaviour Policy;
- Ensure that you respect the school's Healthy Eating Policy and that you do not bring nuts or nut products to school, or on school transport.

Sanctions will be applied to those students who do not comply with school rules and procedures. Lunchtime Detention for students in the Junior School runs from 12.40 - 1.00pm and After-School detention from 3.25pm - 4.25pm, on the last school day each week. Parents are informed in advance of detention issued.



What Can You Do After School or at Lunch Time in St. Patrick's?

There are lots of activities for you to get involved in after school:

Orchestra	Homework Club	Music lessons	
Choir	Tennis	Drama	
Chess	French Club	Cross Country	
Gaelic	Soccer	Handball	Hurling



Gaelic Football and Hurling

I have enjoyed playing for the school in both Hurling and Gaelic this year. In hurling we won the Ulster Schools' Mc Greevy Cup. Mr Gibson was the manager of the team. In Gaelic we took part in a blitz in Belfast and we won all our games.

Handball

I've enjoyed handball at lunchtime and after school this year. It's really good fun and it will help you to make loads of good friends. Before I came to the Red High I'd never even heard of handball and now I play it every day.

Soccer

One of my best experiences this year has been taking part in sports after school. You have plenty of opportunities and I have made so many new friends. We took part in the Year 8 Soccer Inter-house Competition, which involved each class playing against each other and Mr Burns picked a first year team to play in the Northern Ireland Cup. We did really well and won three matches before losing to a team from Belfast. It was a great experience travelling to and playing different schools.

I really enjoy all the sports at school, I am part of the Year 8 soccer and Gaelic teams. We train some days after school. We have had a few away games this year which I really enjoyed, especially the wins!

Chess



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

St. Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick



The Chess Club at the school is fun because we get to play chess and also develop our strategic thinking while having fun with our friends. The club runs twice a week - on Wednesday and Friday. Come along and try it out!

Music

Guitar - I have guitar lessons once a week with a great teacher called Mr. Quigley. I am on Grade 5 at the minute. One of my favourite songs that I've learned to play is 'Sweet Child of Mine'.

Fiddle - I love playing the fiddle. Once a week I have a lesson with Brian who is a really nice teacher. I get to play in the school's Traditional Music Group at all sorts of different events in and out of school. We get to go places and have great fun.

The Junior Student Council

The Student Council meets to make decisions on different things that can greatly affect the Red High. Since I have been elected as the Student Council Representative for my class, we have decided many things: we have met with the Interserve Manager to discuss food choices and prices in the canteen and we have played a part in the election of the Head Boy/Girl - just two examples. The Student Council is the voice of students in the Red High.



Some Tips for New Students from Current Junior Students

- Don't over think it - just enjoy it!
- Work hard but make sure you have fun too by getting involved in games at lunchtime and in after school activities.
- Be yourself - be open to everyone because you might have something in common with them!
- Answer questions in class - the first time you put your hand up is the hardest!
- Try not to miss any days - it can be hard to catch up.
- Listen to your teachers and take all the advice you are given.
- Any worries - speak to your Form Teacher!
- Be nice to people and they will be nice to you!
- Put your head down and work - it will pay off!
- Pack your school bag at night - if you leave it until the morning you'll forget something.
- Use your Student Planner and do your homework the night you get it.
- Listen to the prefects, mentors and teachers - they'll all want to help you.
- Keep a copy of your timetable in your pocket and make sure you're on time for class.
- Try out for a school team or the choir - it's a great way to make friends.



Ten tips for keeping safe online and on the phone:

1. Don't put up with abusive texts, photos or videos. Show them to a parent or teacher and make sure the person who sent them knows you are taking action to stop them.
2. Think about the language you use in texts. If you wouldn't like it said about you, don't say it about anyone else.
3. Don't lend your mobile to anyone unless it's a real emergency.
4. Don't allow anyone online to trick you into doing something against your wishes or something you know you shouldn't do.
5. Remember that any e-mails you send or photos you upload to the internet can't be destroyed. They're there forever; think before you post something you might later regret.
6. Never arrange to meet up with someone you meet online until you tell your parents or another adult.
7. Block any users who you are unsure about and break off contact with anyone who makes you feel worried.
8. Don't use your real name in chatrooms or use any handle or nickname that reveals personal details, such as the town or street you live in.
9. Report internet abuse at the click of a button on a really good website www.thinkuknow.co.uk
10. If you do give out your personal details or upload a message or photo you later regret, tell a trusted adult about it; anyone can make a mistake.



What about Bullying?

St. Patrick's Grammar School will not tolerate bullying behaviour in any form. You can be confident that the teachers at St. Patrick's will do everything possible to ensure you are safe and happy at school.

Bullying can be a one off incident/action or repeated, deliberate behaviour which makes others feel uncomfortable or threatened, whether this is intended or not. Some different types of bullying behaviour are:

- physical bullying - hitting, kicking, "horseplay", stealing, hiding, damaging or destroying personal property;
- verbal/written bullying - verbal threats, taunting, name-calling, racist comments, homophobic comments, malicious rumours, writing on books, unkind notes;
- cyber bullying - bullying through online social networking sites or via email, on-line gaming;
- extortion bullying - demanding money, property or homework;
- gesture bullying - different forms of non-verbal, threatening, insulting or provocative gestures which carry intimidating messages;
- emotional bullying - being deliberately unfriendly, excluding an individual from peer group, tormenting.

It must be remembered that not every action of another or others which makes a person feel uncomfortable or hurt, can be described as bullying. From time to time everyone will experience occasions where they feel embarrassed or uncomfortable. The process of growing up includes learning to cope with such incidents.

**What will I do if I am being
bullied or I think someone I know is being bullied?**

TELL!



TELL

- Tell any teacher or your parents. Don't wait for the bully to stop bullying;
- The sooner you tell, the sooner the bullying behaviour can be stopped;
- Keep a record of all incidents—in case of cyber-bullying, keep all messages/postings;
- Don't retaliate — this may make the situation worse.

What will the school do if I report that I am being bullied or I think someone I know is being bullied?

- Investigate all incidents of bullying;
- Deal consistently, fairly and firmly with all students involved;
- Provide prompt and ongoing support for victims of bullying and those who bully, using appropriate procedures;
- Draw up a clear action plan to be followed by all those involved;
- Ensure parents of all involved are contacted if the incident is unresolved or serious in nature.

PEOPLE I CAN TALK TO IF I NEED HELP...

Are you worried about something that is happening to you or someone you know?

Do you need help?

Do you just want to talk to someone?

Why not talk to your **Form Teacher**, your **Head of Year/School**,
The **School Counsellor** is Ms Rachel Johnston —speak to
Ms McLoughlin or put your name in the grey box at Reception, if you would like to talk
to the counsellor.

If you are unsure about talking to someone in school, you can call:

- **Childline**, on 0800 1111 or **NSPCC**
- **Child Protection Helpline** 0800 800500.

These calls are free and they do not show up on your telephone bill. On the end of the
line are people who will help you work out what to do next.

Other useful numbers/websites:

- NSPCC Belfast 02890 351135
- Northern Ireland Childline Belfast 0870 3362945; www.childline.org.uk
- PSNI Care Unit 02890 650222
- Samaritans 0845 790 90 90 or 028 9066 4422
- Children's Law Centre 0808 8085678
- Lifeline 0808 808 8000
- Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum <http://niabf.org.uk>



What if...? Answers to frequently asked questions...

If you are travelling to school by car, parents should drop you/ pick you up in the visitors' carpark or at the set down points clearly marked.

If you are unable to attend school, your parents should contact the school in the morning; if not, a text message will be sent home to inform a parent of your absence. Bring a note to your Form Teacher on the morning of your return. You are expected to attend school every day; **holidays, or activities with clubs outside the school, must not be arranged during term time.**

If you are late, you should go to Reception where you will be asked to sign the 'Late Book'. Form Class begins at 9.00 am sharp and Registration is taken immediately. Persistent late arrival to school will result in detention being issued.

If you miss your bus in the afternoon, you should report back to Reception and one of your teachers or the school secretary will contact your parents.

If you have an accident at school, there are First Aiders to help you. Should the injury necessitate a trip to Accident and Emergency, your parents will be contacted and asked to accompany you there. In the case of an emergency and an ambulance being called, your parents will be contacted and advised of the hospital to which you are being brought. They will arrange to meet you, and the staff member with you, there.

If you feel sick during the school day, you must ask the subject teacher/ supervisor you are with for permission to see your Form Teacher, Year Head or Head of School. You must not go to the toilets, or anywhere else if you feel ill, without a teacher's permission. The Year Head or Head of School will decide if you need to be sent home and in this case your parents will be contacted using the contact numbers provided. Paracetamol will not be administered to you without first gaining parental consent. Your parents are asked to update the school with any changes in personal details and contact numbers.

If you feel sick in the morning and want to bring tablets to school, you must bring an accompanying note from a parent to be signed by the Form Teacher and Year Head.

If it is hot and sunny, you are expected to take responsibility for your own safety in the sun. You must be particularly careful on trips and on Sports Day when prolonged periods of time may be spent outdoors, possibly in strong sunshine. For medical and legal reasons the school cannot provide sun protection lotions.



If you have a Medical or Dental Appointment you must bring a note requesting permission to leave school, noting the arrangements. This must be signed by your Form Teacher and Year Head. Only then can you sign out at Reception on leaving and you must sign in when you return. Where at all possible, you should try to schedule these appointments outside of school hours.

What about social networking sites?

Respect everyone in school. Treat all other students and staff with respect; never use social networking sites to express negative comments about students or staff of St. Patrick's.

Where do I get text books and stationery? These are provided for you. You must look after these well, cover them and note your name and class clearly on the front of each. You will be expected to return text books at the end of each year in sound condition.

What about ICT facilities?

When you use the school's ICT Facilities you are expected to use them sensibly and responsibly. Students who misuse facilities will have their access to these facilities withdrawn. At the beginning of each academic year you will be given five hundred print credits. If you need more, these may be purchased at breaktime from the ICT Technician's office on the first floor.

What about Mobile Telephones? If mobile phones are brought to school, they remain the responsibility of the student. They must remain switched off during the school day. If students need to contact home, they should speak to their Form Teacher. Parents who wish to contact their children during the school day, should ring the school and staff at reception will ensure any necessary information is passed on.

What do I do at Lunch/Break Time? - The Miguel Centre is a cashless, self-service style canteen, operated by *Mount Charles*. Students put money into their account at one of the stations in school and in the canteen, students use the fingerprint pad to 'pay' for items they purchase. There is a wide selection of food on offer each day, including vegetarian and healthy options. The school promotes healthy eating and encourages students to bring healthy food to school. If you forget your lunch or you do not have money to purchase a lunch, you should report to Reception. Never bring nut products to school, on transport to and from school, or on school trips or extra-curricular activities.



Your School Uniform

The school uniform is compulsory. You must wear it going to and from school and on all school related occasions. Your uniform and how you wear it, is checked by the Form Teacher each morning during Form Class.

Boys' Uniform

school blazer with crest

black school trousers

school jumper

black or grey socks

school tie

plain black leather shoes (not trainers)

white school shirt

Plain black coat and school scarf (optional)



You must wear a blazer and black shoes (not trainers) coming to and going from school. You may wear a plain black hat and plain black gloves when travelling to and from school. Only a black coat may be worn over blazers and they should not be worn in class. Only plain white vests should be worn underneath the shirt.

Boys may wear one plain ring. No other jewellery is permitted. The Pioneer pin, the Life symbol, the Fáinne, or other school related badges e.g. the prefect badge/student council badge, are the only emblems or badges permissible on the uniform. Any item of clothing or jewellery worn in contravention of school uniform regulations is liable to confiscation.

Hairstyles must conform to convention; noticeably coloured hair is not permitted. **Boys' hair must not be longer than collar length, nor shorter than a No. 2 cut.** The school reserves the right to determine the acceptable standards of uniform, dress and appearance of students attending St. Patrick's Grammar School.

Suppliers of the school uniform are:

Name	Proprietor	Location
Bingham's Menswear	Adrian Bingham	Newcastle
J.J. Donnelly's Menswear	Gavin Rogers	Ballynahinch and Downpatrick
John McKenny Menswear	John McKenny	Castlewellan
Minder's	Liam Smyth	Downpatrick
Pricewise	Siobhan King	Downpatrick
Eamon McAuley's	Eamon McAuley	Ballynahinch

PE and Sports Clothing

Please order online from <https://bourkesports.ie/>

LABEL ALL ITEMS OF SCHOOL UNIFORM CLEARLY WITH YOUR NAME



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

St. Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick



St. Patrick's Grammar School Downpatrick

Summary Calendar 2021 – 2022

Please consult carefully to avoid holidays/breaks during term time.

Term 1 – 2021

Wednesday 1st September
Thursday 2nd September
Friday 1st October
Monday 25th October – Friday 29th October
Monday 15th November
Wednesday 22nd December

Year 8 Induction
All students return for term one
Student Holiday
Mid-term break
Student Holiday
Last day of term



Term 2 – 2022

Wednesday 5th January
Tuesday 1st February
Monday 14th – Friday 18th February
Thursday 17th & Friday 18th March
Wednesday 13th April

Term two begins for students
Student Holiday
Mid-term break
Student holiday
Last day of term

Term 3 – 2022

Monday 25th April
Monday 2nd May
Thursday 2nd & Friday 3rd June
Thursday 30th June

Term three begins for students
May Day holiday
Student Holiday
Last day of term

Thanks to the current junior students who contributed their ideas, thoughts and views for this booklet.



INVESTORS IN PUPILS

St. Patrick's Grammar School, Downpatrick

