



MOUNT LOURDES GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Prospectus



Welcome to Mount Lourdes

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Mount Lourdes Grammar School. This prospectus will provide you with an insight into the life and work of our school and what the Mount Lourdes school community can offer your daughter.

We are an all girls' Catholic Grammar school founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1909. Our Catholic ethos and Mercy tradition permeate all aspects of school life making Mount Lourdes a caring and supportive community. Each individual student is valued here. We are committed to nurturing and fostering the holistic development of each student. Mount Lourdes provides a warm, happy, welcoming atmosphere with high standards of pastoral care and support.

Our approach is founded on a special partnership between parents, the school and the students. We therefore work closely to ensure each young person achieves the very best and reaches their full potential. We believe in setting high standards across all aspects of school life. We pride ourselves on our academic opportunities and achievements. The broad curriculum we offer at all key stages provides a varied and enriched learning experience. We are focused on providing our students with the skills and knowledge young people need in a fast changing world. Our dedicated team of teachers and support staff ensure that students have access to high quality learning and teaching experiences as well as personalised guidance and mentoring. We are particularly proud that all our students leave with qualifications which enable them to access a vast array of career pathways.

We aim to provide the very best extra-curricular opportunities for our students to further develop self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

In Mount Lourdes we strive to enable all students achieve high standards, realise their full potential and become successful learners, confident individuals and positively contribute to the school and wider community.

I hope that this prospectus, in conjunction with your visit to our annual Open Night will support you in making an informed decision about the next stage of your daughter's education.

Mrs Sinead Cullen
Principal





When Mount Lourdes Grammar School was established in 1909 by the Sisters of Mercy, its founders were inspired by the need to provide an education that would qualify the girls of Fermanagh for the full range of employment opportunities that were available at the time. That vision continues to guide the work of the school today.

Over the years the school has adapted in response to growing student numbers and the requirements of an ever changing curriculum. Mount Lourdes now has buildings and resources which facilitate the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum to the highest standards. It is a member of the Fermanagh Learning Community which provides students with access to an extended range of courses at Post 16 Level.

Students coming to Mount Lourdes will experience a welcoming environment in which they can develop their abilities and talents to the fullest extent. We endeavour to give students opportunities and experiences that are designed to help them develop into mature young adults and make informed decisions about their futures.



The School Aims

Recognising that everybody is unique, the school strives to create a community atmosphere so that each student and member of staff is respected and appreciated as a person of importance.

- to motivate our students in the pursuit of a high standard of academic achievement and critical thinking by providing a varied range of learning experiences in a stimulating environment.
- to ensure that our students have access to a curriculum which makes explicit the links between school-based learning and Life and Work.
- to enable each student to make the most of her talents by providing opportunities for participation in a range of aesthetic, cultural, skills based and leisure activities.
- to create and maintain a pastoral environment in which the needs of the individual student are recognised; an attitude of self-discipline and responsibility for her own actions is encouraged and a sense of self-worth is fostered.
- to foster a sense of team spirit among staff and to encourage each teacher to develop his/her personal qualities and professional expertise.
- to work in partnership with parents in the promotion of the overall good of the student, acknowledging the role of parents as primary educators of the young person.
- to help students acquire and develop Christian values, attitudes and moral standards - based on Catholic teaching - that will influence and inform their choices and behaviour throughout life.
- to promote among staff and students a sense of personal identity and citizenship and encourage mutual respect for cultural diversity.



Curriculum Information

The curriculum offered in Mount Lourdes is designed to give each student the opportunity to realise her full potential and to develop her interests and talents. Students follow a broad range of subjects and are given a wide variety of learning experiences. We encourage our students to develop independent learning strategies and to show a commitment to their studies.

In Mount Lourdes we believe that students should have equal access to all areas of the curriculum. In line with DENI's Code of Practice 1998, SENDO 2005 and the SEND Act NI 2016, we aim to identify, assess and make provision for students who have specific learning needs and/or medical conditions. We aim to work in partnership with parents/guardians and other external agencies to ensure that each student has the opportunity to maximise her academic and personal potential.

Documents relating to the curriculum and how it is delivered, to which the public have right of access, may be examined at the school by appointment.

Complaints regarding the curriculum shall be dealt with in accordance with Article 33 of the Education Reform (NI) order 1989 and subsequent regulations.



Careers Education (CEIAG)

Careers Education within the school helps students acquire the skills, attitudes and values to enable them to become effective decision makers in order to select a fulfilling and worthwhile career.

Careers Education, referred to as Employability at Key Stages 3 and 4, is offered through the Learning for Life and Work Programme in Years 8-11 and as a distinct Careers Education class in Years 12, 13 and 14.

Students are guided in their choice of subjects and are made aware of the range of career opportunities which are available to them. Individual advice on completing university and college applications is given. Each student undertakes a work experience placement in Year 13 and is given formal training in interview technique during Year 14.

The Careers Education Department hosts speakers from Irish and UK universities who advise Post 16 students about the application processes, the writing of personal statements, the range of courses and entry requirements, campus life and financial matters.





Religious Education

All students participate in the school's Religious Education Programme throughout their time in school. This gives them opportunities to deepen their spiritual life and extend their knowledge of the Catholic Faith.

Their growth in the faith is supported and further encouraged by participation in whole school liturgies, class liturgies and school retreats. They are guided towards an appreciation of the importance of prayer and worship in their lives.

A significant number of Post 16 students undertake training as Ministers of the Eucharist and participate in the Pope John Paul Award Scheme.

Students who are involved in the Millennium Volunteers' Programme have the opportunity to fulfil their obligations through participation in school based fund-raising work. This work develops a sense of commitment to others who are in need and reflects the school community's dedication to faith in action.



Pastoral Provision

Personal Development

The pastoral curriculum is designed to assist the personal development of each student in order that she may take full advantage of the opportunities offered to her in school, and be prepared for adult life.

On entering Mount Lourdes each student is assigned a form teacher who delivers the school's Learning for Life and Work Programme. This enables the teacher to establish a close relationship with a small group of students and so allows for the development of trust and support within the form group. This system enables each student to play her full part in the life of the school and permits her academic progress to be monitored.

Relationships and Sexuality Education, Drug Awareness and advice on personal safety measures are included in the Personal Development Programme.

We appreciate the challenge that the transition to our school poses for new students in Years 8 and 13. The Heads of Year, Form Teachers and subject teachers aim to help these students manage this change with ease, giving them support, encouragement, guidance and advice. A Pastoral Evening is held for all Year 8 Students during Term One.



Child Protection

A Child Protection Policy operates in Mount Lourdes. We aim to protect the students in our care by ensuring that all personnel have clear guidance on the detection and management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.

In all their contact with students, staff in Mount Lourdes follow the guidance and procedures described in the DENI publication Safeguarding and Child Protection: A Guide for Schools' Circular 2017/04 (updated September 2019)

Copies of the school's Child Protection, Pastoral Care, Electronic Information and Substance Use and Misuse Policies are made available to parents/guardians biannually.

Mentoring

An Anti-Bullying Policy operates in the school. To make it easier for students to raise concerns about bullying behaviours, a group of senior students have been trained as mentors. Referrals are treated in a confidential manner and reports of bullying incidents are dealt with according to agreed procedures.

School Counselling Service

Familyworks Schools Counselling Service offers a school based counselling service which operates in line with DENI guidelines.





Physical Education

Through the Physical Education Programme the school aims to stimulate and maintain interest and enjoyment in sport among students, and to promote their health and fitness for current and future lifestyles.

Students in Years 8-12 are allocated two periods of Physical Education per week while Post 16 students are encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle and to participate in extra curricular sporting activities.

All students have access to a range of activities in the areas of athletics, dance, games, gymnastics and health related Physical Education

A comprehensive extra curricular programme is in operation. School teams and individuals have the opportunity to compete in a variety of sports and they have enjoyed success at provincial, national and international level.



Extra Curricular Provision

Participation in extra-curricular activities is actively encouraged in Mount Lourdes. It helps develop positive relationships between students, staff, parents, the wider community and other schools and helps students develop confidence and a positive self-image. A varied and challenging range of activities is provided in which students may choose to participate. Some of these activities are offered at lunchtime and others are available after school.



- An Cumann Gaelach
- Badminton
- Ceili Band
- Crafts
- Cross-Country
- Current Affairs (Junior and Senior)
- Dance
- Drama
- ECO Club
- French, Irish and Spanish Clubs
- Gaelic Football
- Gardening
- History
- Homework Club
- Junior and Senior Grupa Ceoil
- Millennium Volunteers
- Netball
- Science Club
- Senior and Junior Choirs
- Sports Hall Athletics
- String Orchestra
- Taekwondo
- Theatre Visits
- Track and Field
- Tuition in a range of instruments
- Vocal Tuition
- Wind Band



Subjects Offered

Subjects Offered at Key Stage 3 (Years 8 - 10)

- Art and Design
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Information and Communication Technology
- Irish
- Learning for Life and Work
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Spanish
- Technology and Design

Students are arranged in classes without reference to ability. The range of subjects studied in each class differs only in the area of Modern Languages, where students take two languages from the three which are offered.

Subjects Offered at Key Stage 4 (Years 11 & 12)

Core Programme

- Careers (CEAIG)
- English Language
- Learning for Life and Work
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Physical Education
- Science - Double Award

Optional Subjects

- Art and Design
- Digital Technology
- Drama
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Irish
- Music
- Spanish
- Technology and Design

All students take nine subjects at GCSE level.

Subjects Offered at AS/A level

- Applied Health and Social Care (Single and Double Award)
- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business Studies (BTEC Level 3)
- Chemistry
- Creative Media Productions (BTEC Level 3)*
- Digital Technology
- Economics
- Engineering (BTEC Level 3)*
- English Literature
- French
- Geography
- German*
- Government and Politics
- History
- Irish
- Life & Health Science*
- Mathematics
- Moving Images Art*
- Music*
- Nutrition & Food Science
- Performing Arts (BTEC Level 3)*
- Physics
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Software Systems Development*
- Spanish
- Sport Science and the Active Leisure Industry
- Technology & Design
- Travel & Tourism*

*Subjects marked * are currently offered through the Fermanagh Learning Community*

Students may study three or four subjects to AS Level and three subjects to A Level.

In specific circumstances a student may be permitted to study four A2 subjects.

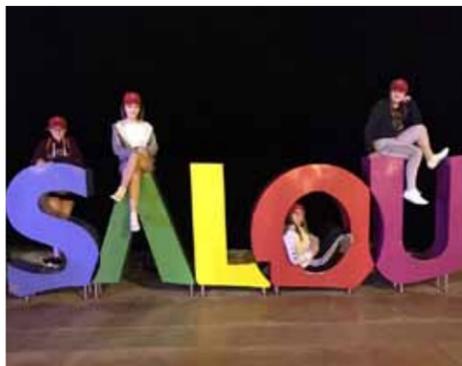
Students are normally expected to have achieved a minimum of a B grade in a subject at GCSE if they want to pursue it at AS/A Level. (This guideline applies to subjects that are available on the Key Stage 4 curriculum.)

Choice of subjects at AS/A level is unrestricted, but in practice certain combinations are not available due to organisational challenges.

All Year 13 and 14 students follow the Religious Education and Living, Careers Education Information and Guidance and Personal Development Programmes.

Examination Boards

- CEA
- AQA
- Pearson



Educational Visits

The school organises one educational visit abroad each year; normally for Year 10 students. Our students have the opportunity to spend time in the Gaeltacht and to take part in summer schools abroad, as part of their studies in Modern Languages. Students also enjoy many opportunities to participate in educational visits as part of the work of individual departments.

Student Participation

Year 14 Committees

In order to develop leadership skills in our senior students, prefects are elected each year from our Year 14 student body. The prefects are assigned to committees where they work with teaching staff to support the work of the school. They also act as positive role models for younger students.

The committees include:

- Key Stage 3 Prefects
- Eco Group
- Extra Curricular Activities
- Fundraising Group
- Literacy Mentors
- Liturgy Group
- Numeracy Mentors
- School Magazine

Student Council

The Student Council provides a forum through which students can raise and have issues which are a matter of concern for them addressed. This enables students to develop an understanding of the democratic process and to become involved in the decision making processes of the school.

There are two student elected representatives from Years 8-13 and Year 14 is represented by the Head Girl and Deputies.



Monitoring Progress

Fostering Achievement

In Mount Lourdes we aim to foster the academic ability of each student to the highest possible degree. Through our commitment to quality learning and teaching and our robust assessment procedures, we encourage students to achieve their full potential. Each student is expected to take increasing responsibility for her own learning by evaluating her performance and setting appropriate learning targets. A system of mentoring is in place to support students who are at risk of underachievement.

Homework

Homework helps reinforce the learning which has occurred in the classroom. It helps consolidate the student's grasp of newly acquired knowledge and skills. We require support from parents in encouraging students to do their homework regularly and submit coursework assignments on time.

Reports and Parents' Meetings

Two school reports are issued to the parents/guardians of students in Years 8-11 each year. Students taking public examinations at GCSE, AS and A Level are issued with one school report in Years 12-14.

Formal Parent/Teacher Meetings are held annually for each year group. On these occasions parents and teachers can meet to discuss the progress being made by the student, or any matter of mutual concern. Parents are encouraged to come to these meetings as they allow us to build up the strong links between home and school which are of benefit to the students.

If parents wish to discuss their daughter's progress with a member of staff at any other time, they should contact the school's office to make the appropriate arrangements.



Behaviour Management

The school endeavours to establish a community in which the full potential of each person can be developed and in which understanding and tolerance are fostered. It strives to promote respect for the individual and to create an atmosphere in which learning can take place.

The Behaviour Management Policy of the school seeks to encourage students to assume personal responsibility for their actions and to have due regard for the well being of all other members of the school community. To encourage high standards of behaviour the school adopts a positive approach to behaviour management employing praise, encouragement, and rewards.

To ensure the safety of the students and the smooth running of the school there are rules which we require the students to follow. Failure to observe these rules incurs sanctions. These sanctions are applied as part of the school's referral system, the aim of which is to bring about a positive change in students' behaviour.



Complaints Procedures

Parents who wish to raise matters relating to any aspect of the work of the school about which they have concerns should contact the Principal. All matters so raised will be replied to within one week. If their concerns remain, parents should submit them in writing for the attention of the Board of Governors. All issues raised with the Board will be investigated and a report will be made to parents/guardians.



General Information

The School Day

Registration: 8.55am
Class Begins: 9.05am
Morning Break: 10.50am - 11.10am
Junior Lunch: 12.20pm - 1.00pm
Senior Lunch: 1.00pm - 1.40pm
Class Ends: 3.25pm

Policy Documents

All school policies can be accessed from the school website (www.mountlourdes.com) or on request from the school office.

Information for Parents

Information is sent to parents each August on matters relating to school closures for the new school year, uniform requirements and other relevant matters.

School Canteen

The School canteen provides a cafeteria service during lunch times. It offers a range of hot and cold meals and snacks at a reasonable price. The canteen provides a breakfast service from 8.30 am. to 8.50 am. Sixth Form students may avail of the canteen's facilities at break time.

Students wishing to bring their own food may eat it in the canteen.

A biometric payment system is used in the school canteen. Students who are entitled to free school meals will have the cost of their meal added automatically to the system on a daily basis.





Mount Lourdes Grammar School

Voluntary Grammar School For Girls

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