



St. Patrick's College Ballymena



St. Patrick's College

BALLYMENA





Our Mission Statement

To nurture and value each person's worth
through living and practising our faith
and our commitment to one another.

Ethos

The Curriculum of St. Patrick's College is built upon the foundation of the Catholic ethos, which values the worth of each individual pupil. Teachers will therefore seek to develop their pupils' self-confidence, self-discipline and respect for others.

School Aims

Our College aims to actively promote, through co-operation between home, school and community, the spiritual and moral values of the Catholic faith and to help pupils to learn to respect and value themselves and others.

We seek to provide a caring, supportive and educational environment in which each pupil may develop his/her potential in the personal, social, intellectual, physical, cultural and environmental aspects of life.

We create a framework for pupils to experience success in various aspects of life. Pupils develop qualities such as self-discipline and independence, thereby preparing them for the experiences, challenges, opportunities and responsibilities of adult life.

Welcome to 'The St Patrick's WAY'

Respect:

In St Patrick's we practise an ethos which reflects the Church's teachings and values of the gospel. We have a great understanding and respect for people of different cultures and traditions. We recognise the individuality of everyone in our school, including those with special educational needs.

Reconciliation:

St. Patrick's provides a challenging, stimulating, learning environment where reconciliation is encouraged. Support is provided for pupils to play an active and responsible role in school and society whilst remaining committed to the Christian way of forgiveness.

Relationships:

St Patrick's is a school, where through our hard work together, healthy relationships flourish with teachers, pupils, support staff and the wider community. This provides the best possible education for all pupils.

Reward:

Rewards in St. Patrick's provide incentives for students, motivating them to strive to be the best that they can be. Recognition of successes achieved promotes a great sense of pride and happiness.





Welcome from the Principal



Dear Pupils and Parents / Guardians,

It is with great delight that I welcome you to the prospectus for St Patrick's College.

Here, in St. Patrick's, we are more than just a school. We are a community of educators and people who care. Our pupils receive an education appropriate to their needs. They are supported to achieve their maximum potential and most importantly – they succeed.

St Patrick's embraces the challenge brought on by change. Our pupils are the beneficiaries of our vision. Should you decide to come to us, you, too, will benefit from the uniqueness of our collective vision.

Take a good look at what we offer. Make an informed decision and remember, we are always available for a chat should you need advice.

Yours faithfully

Dr Martin Knox
Principal

Head Boy and Girl Welcome

We are delighted to welcome you to St Patrick's College Ballymena.

Hi my name is Caragh, I am Head Girl here at St Patrick's College. I would like to welcome you to our College. I have really enjoyed my time here at St Patrick's. From the day I first started to now, I have had excellent support from all the teachers and it is hard to believe that I am now studying towards my A Levels.



Hi my name is Maciej, I am Head Boy and I would also like to welcome you to St Patrick's College. I have made many new friends and I have found the staff to be very supportive and pastoral. I am studying for my A levels, and with the support of my teachers have developed sound knowledge and skills in preparation for my A level exams in the summer. I feel my time here has been good preparation for either Higher Education in University or in the world of work.



Year 8 Comments

"I came from a small primary school 'St Mary's Queen of Peace' so I was very nervous at starting St Patricks. I have now made loads of new friends and I am in the school Netball team. At lunch and break I go to the base and you can just hang out with other pupils." **Lois**

"I was worried about starting St Patricks as my English language is not very good but from the first day I have felt very welcome. Don't be nervous about starting big school as you will really enjoy our school." **Sebi**

"My favourite subjects are Maths, Art and Music. I enjoy being creative and using paints and pencils to shade and colour in art. We are having a Christmas rewards party for all our hard work this term. I love this school, and you are going to love it too." **Denisa**

"I have enjoyed St Patricks as I get to spend a lot of time with my friends. The teachers are very friendly and helpful and they take time to help me with my work if I am having difficulties. I hope you choose this school and love it as much as I do." **Tiernan**

"My favourite subject is Home Economics as you get to cook lovely food. I have made scones and baked an apple crumble. The canteen also has great food which you can get at break and lunchtime and it doesn't cost much money." **Eva Rose**



Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care programme is based on the belief that a child will be happier and perform better if someone takes an interest in them personally. Given that belief, the school has set up a Pastoral Care Programme whereby each first year pupil has the same Form Teacher, over the course of Years 8 to 12.

The role of the Form Teacher is to establish a positive relationship with each pupil to facilitate the development of the whole person through adolescence and in preparation for adult life.

The Pastoral Care system in St. Patrick's is based on the principle that the key to good learning and teaching lies in good relationships.

Induction

Our Induction Programme for Year 8 pupils includes seminars addressing specific issues important to the development of the child and not dealt with in the normal curriculum.

In St Patrick's we believe that the key to our pupils' success lies in the establishment of good relationships with all of our young people from when they first arrive in the school.

Student Mentoring

We have a well-established Student Mentoring programme for our Year 8 pupils which helps the young people coming to us for the first time to settle with confidence. Each Sixth Form Mentor is assigned one or two pupils to whom they make themselves available during break and lunch in order to befriend and support.



Promoting Positive Behaviour

In St Patrick's College we believe that it is an important aspect of a child's development that they behave in an ordered and disciplined fashion. In school we do all we can to encourage each pupil to take responsibility for his/her own actions.

Our Pastoral Care structure allows each child to build up a relationship with the Form Teacher in a small, secure tutorial group where each individual is valued and supported. We have developed close links with parents and the wider community in which there is mutual support, built up through organised Parents' Evenings and equally importantly through many informal meetings, interviews, visits and telephone calls.

Our Reward Scheme acknowledges positive behaviour and is based on good attendance, pupil presentation and pupil contribution to school life.

KS3 pupils are rewarded throughout the year with various different activities for those pupils who gain the designated number of merits. We encourage pupils to contribute to their own Pupil Profile which records positive achievement and progress in all aspects of school life.





Promoting Health and Wellbeing

Pupils in St Patrick's College are encouraged to take responsibility for their health and well-being by making healthy lifestyle choices. We provide pupils with opportunities to develop the knowledge and skills they need to keep themselves safe and healthy.

Through our Preventative Curriculum, our taught Pastoral Programme, Assemblies, Student Council and whole-school initiatives we raise our pupils' awareness of important matters such as: Anti-Bullying, Healthy Eating, Physical Activity, Mental Health, Substance Misuse and e-Safety.

We have a Student Health Officer who is responsive to the needs of pupils with specific medical conditions and those who may need to visit the Medical Room during the school day. A School Counsellor is also available.

Healthy Eating

St. Patrick's College aims to present consistent healthy eating and drinking messages through the taught curriculum and the provision and promotion of healthy food and drink during the school day and on school trips. We realise that a healthy diet is one of the best ways of maintaining young people's health, both now and in the future.

At lunchtime a selection of nutritionally balanced hot and cold meals are available, a pasta and noodle bar or individually prepared sandwiches. Pupils can enjoy their lunch in a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere in the Canteen.



Assessment for Learning

Assessment is an integral part of the learning process and informs our tracking of pupil progress, enabling decisions to be made about how best to support and develop progress to maximise the achievement of each pupil.

Our system of assessment, tracking, reporting and target setting helps to empower pupils to take responsibility for the progress of their learning. There are four assessments throughout the year and departments ensure the quality of assessment is high and the data used effectively to monitor the progress of students in order to set them challenging and achievable targets.

Homework Policy

It is school policy to set homework as this extends the learning experience. Homework can be used to support classwork, increase overall understanding, give evidence of progress to parents and teachers, develop skills necessary for independent study and sometimes undertake tasks which are time consuming in school. It is expected that pupils record all homework in their Student Planner.





The Student Voice

In St Patrick's College we have a very effective School Council. Every pupil has a voice and Class Representatives meet regularly throughout the school year to help make the school a better place, make appropriate positive changes and give pupils a voice so they can be heard.



Year 8 School Day – Timetable

Typical School Day for a Year 8 Pupil

Time	Activity	Lesson
8.20		Building open to students
9.00 - 9.15	Registration or Assembly	Form Class
9.15 - 9.55	Period 1	English
9.55 - 10.35	Period 2	Geography
10.35 - 10.50		Break
10.50 - 11.30	Period 3	ICT
11.30 - 12.10	Period 4	History
12.10 - 12.45	Period 5 - Junior Lunch	Lunchtime activities
12.45 - 1.20	Period 6	Science
1.20 - 2.00	Period 7	Maths
2.00 - 2.40	Period 8	RE
2.40 - 3.15	Period 9	LLW
3.15 - 3.30		Buses depart
3.30 - 4.30		Extra-curricular activities

Curriculum

At St Patrick's we strive to nurture and value each person's worth through living and practicing our faith and our commitment to one another.

We provide a caring, supportive and educational environment where each pupil is encouraged to develop their full potential in personal, social, intellectual, physical, cultural and environmental aspects of life and aspire toward Life Long Learning.

At all Key Stages we have high expectations and standards for all our pupils. Our curriculum is broad and balanced and offers all abilities the opportunity to learn and develop according to their needs.

Key Stage 3

Years 8 – 10

Key Stage 4

Years 11 & 12

Key Stage 5

Years 13 & 14



GCSE and A Level

The following subjects are offered to GCSE Level

Art & Design	History	Music
Business & Communication Systems	Home Economics	Performing Arts
Child Development	Irish	Physical Education
Construction	ICT (Applied)	Polish
English	Learning for Life & Work	Religious Education
English Literature	Mathematics	Science
French	Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies	



Post-16 courses offered in St Patrick's College

OCR Cambridge Tech Applied Art & Design
GCE English Literature
GCE Applied Health & Social Care
GCE History
OCR Cambridge Tech ICT
GCE Performing Arts
GCE Polish
GCE Religious Studies
BTEC Subsidiary Diploma/BTEC Diploma in Sport
BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Construction

Ballymena Learning Together Options

CTEC Applied Business
GCE Environmental Technology
GCE Chemistry
BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Engineering
BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Hospitality
GCE French
GCE Mathematics
GCE Travel and Tourism

Occupational Studies

Students in Years 11 and 12 have the opportunity to avail of Occupational Studies at the Northern Regional College one day per week.

These courses are designed to provide a more 'hands-on' approach to learning.

There are a number of areas of study from which pupils can select:

- Catering
- Brick Laying
- Motor Vehicle
- Plumbing
- Joinery
- Beauty
- Hair Dressing

Learners' achievements are based on evidence from practical work completed throughout their course.

These qualifications are approved by the Department of Education for teaching at Key Stage 4.

A Level 2 Certificate in Occupational Studies is graded at the same levels as a GCSE A* - C on the National Qualification Framework and a Level 1 Certificate at the same levels as a GCSE D - G on the National Qualification Framework.

Achievement below Level 1 is also recognised by CCEA as a First Skills Certificate which equates to Entry Level 1, 2 and 3.

These courses enable progression to other courses, particularly vocationally related courses, and to training and employment.



Transition Programme

Our Transition Programme is designed for students progressing from GCSE level who want to enhance their skills and improve their qualifications in order to make the most appropriate choices for their future career.

These new and innovative Post-16 courses develop relevant skills necessary for the very competitive world of work and also lay a solid foundation for further study at A Level.

This special curriculum affords the students a further year to mature as well as offering the opportunity to participate in a supervised and structured work experience programme which is now considered a valuable asset and much appreciated by employers.

The Transition Programme offers students a range of qualifications including:

- **BTEC Level 2 Health and Social Care**
GCSE A* - C (awarding body Pearson)
- **BTEC Level 2 Sport**
GCSE A* - C (awarding body Pearson)
- **BTEC Level 2 Money and Finance Skills**
GCSE A* - C (awarding body EDEXCEL)
- **GCSE English**
GCSE A* - G
- **GCSE Maths**
GCSE A* - G
- **Careers**
- **Work Experience**



Newcomers

We have been pleased to welcome to St Patrick's in recent years Newcomer pupils from a variety of other countries. We value the cultural diversity which these new pupils have brought to our school community, and we work to support Newcomer pupils in achieving their full potential.

Whether a Newcomer child is transferring to St Patrick's from one of our feeder primary schools, or is coming directly from a school in their own home country, we assess each child's level of attainment in English and provide an appropriate level of support to enable the child to further develop his or her skills, in a welcoming, inclusive environment which respects and celebrates the cultural diversity of all.

We have two Polish teachers and Czech, Romanian and Bulgarian Learning Support Assistants who work with our Newcomer pupils to help them develop their skills in English, as well as to help them settle into a new school environment.

Individual Pupil Support

This school believes that a supportive, educational and caring environment in which each pupil may develop his/her potential is best achieved for pupils who experience difficulties in learning by placing them in small classes. In this way they can receive specialist and individual help.



Education for the 21st Century

In St Patrick's College we believe that a 21st century education is one that responds to the economical, technological, and societal shifts that are happening at an ever-increasing pace. The rapid pace of change means a broad knowledge and transferable skills base is vital. It is an education that sets children up to succeed in a world where more than half of the jobs they may have over their careers don't even exist yet.

The use of ICT in St Patrick's not only improves the classroom teaching learning process, but also provides the facility for e-learning. ICT has enhanced the school blended and distance learning in the 21st century. All pupils now have access to their own Tablet or Chromebook in school and at home. This has had a very positive impact on teaching, learning, and pupil research.



Careers Education

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is an important part of the school curriculum. Pupils are involved in the process of Personal Career Planning throughout years 10-14. The programme aims to give pupils appropriate training and guidance in order to encourage them to set targets and take more responsibility for the direction of their own learning and development. Pupils in Senior School also receive individual guidance and support from the Department of the Economy's (DfE) Carers Service.





General

Black Blazer (with integrated School Badge)
Green Pullover (Optional) Years 8 - 12
Charcoal Grey Pullover (Optional) Years 13 & 14
School Tie (Clip-on)
School Scarf (optional)
Black School Shoes
School Bag
No Jewellery allowed except a Watch
No visible body art.

Girls

White Blouse
Black Knee Length Skirt (Years 8-10 Plain)
Black Knee Length Skirt (Years 11-14 Box Pleated)
Black School Fleece (Optional)
Black Tights
NO MAKE-UP
Hairstyle should be neat with no extreme colours.

Boys

White Shirt
Black School Trousers
Black School Fleece (Optional)
Black or Dark Grey Socks
Hairstyle should be neat, collar length,
with no extreme colours or less than
number 2 cut. Shaven patterns or
designs in hair are forbidden.
Clean shaven at all times.

P.E. Strip

Top (Green, Black and White)
Shorts (Black and Green)
Sports Socks (Green with Black stripes)
Tracksuit (Optional)
Swimwear - all Year 8 pupils.

Uniform

A high standard of personal appearance is expected of all students.



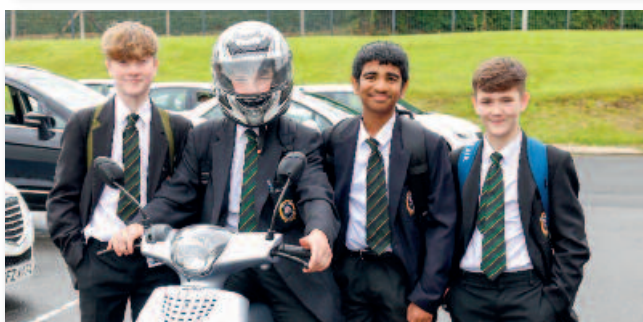
Uniform and PE strip available from:
Couples, Email: info@couplescoleraine.co.uk.
Wallace's, Church Street, Ballymena.

A scarf can be purchased at the School Office.
A cash grant towards the cost of a full School Uniform
may be available from Education Authority.

Sport and Extra Curricular Activities

The College seeks to provide opportunities for pupils to participate in a variety of sporting activities, both individual and team, through both the P.E. programme and after-school activities. The College has excellent indoor sporting facilities including a Sports Hall, a Gymnasium and a Fitness Suite, as well as an outdoor all-weather playing area. Regular use is also made of local facilities including the Seven Towers Leisure Centre. Coaching and competitions are held in a wide range of sports including Athletics, Badminton, Basketball (both boys and girls), Camogie, Cross-Country, Gaelic Football, Golf, Hurling, Netball, Soccer, Table Tennis and Volleyball. A range of lunchtime activities is arranged, organised and supervised by staff. All events will be subject to Covid restrictions and Department of Education guidance currently in force.





School Life







Our School Prayer

Dear Lord,

We thank You,

For our school community, here in St Patrick's,
For our friends and colleagues, and for all that we learn each day,
For the unity and fellowship that binds our school together,

Bless everyone who comes through our gates, to learn, to work and to teach.

May we make the most of the wonderful opportunities You give us
and guide us in the choices we have to make,

Be with each one of us, Lord, as we journey through our school life,
Give us the skills to use our talents wisely for the good of ourselves and others,
So that, when we leave, we go out into the world ready to love and to serve You,

Amen

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