

# St. Colmcille's High School



## PROSPECTUS

*Caring, Learning, Believing, Achieving*



*Caring, Learning, Believing, Achieving*



# Principal's Welcome



Dear Parents and Primary 7 Pupils

It is with pleasure that I welcome you to St Colmcille's High School. I hope that this prospectus can give you a little flavour of what it means to be a student of our school and I hope that we may welcome you as a member of our family at a time in the future.

The choice of post primary school is a significant decision for you and your child. The aim of our Open Night and Prospectus is to help you in this decision-making process and to give you the confidence to select St Colmcille's High School as your first choice. As parents we want to find that school which gives us the reassurance that our children will be safe, secure, happy and, very importantly, will be successful so that they can make their own choices and have positive options for their future.



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# Caring, Learning, Believing, Achieving



We promote excellence through providing a caring, supportive environment.

We develop each pupil to their full potential so that together, we achieve personal excellence.

St Colmcille's High School emphasises the four elements within our schools' motto of 'Caring, Learning, Believing and Achieving'. We believe that all children are unique. No two pupils are the same and how they grow and learn are as individual as they themselves are. Our school has built a pastoral and academic curriculum that is focused upon the individual needs of each child. Before our pupils even enter our school, we strive to discover the individual needs of each pupil, building upon our close relationships with our feeder primary schools.

Within our school, we recognise that our pupils are the centre of all our endeavours. All the decisions that we make and the all the initiatives that we introduce are based upon the needs of all pupils. In our rapidly changing world, we continue to respond and grow through building greater choice and flexibility within our academic curriculum and through enriching our pupils' experience with a wide range of extracurricular activities. High quality teaching and learning is essential to support our academic curriculum and our results are consistently above the Northern Ireland average for similar non-selective schools. Academic success has ensured our pupils have choices and access to successful career pathways, fulfilling ambitions and wonderful possibilities. Knowing the individual needs of our pupils is essential in order to provide additional learning support to those who need it and to stretch our gifted pupils, allowing them to reach their full potential.

Academic success is only one element of what makes a successful school. Wellbeing and the happiness of our pupils is intertwined within our teaching across the entire curriculum and all pupils continue to grow within our pupil-centred ethos. Our pastoral care supports our academic curriculum as we believe that pupils who are happy, safe and secure will learn and achieve best.

Our size and close connection to our community provides us with the unique opportunity to enrich the education experience of all our pupils. The close family bond that is created within our school allows pupils to have a positive voice within our school and our local community. Our school belongs to our local community and our school extends far beyond the final bell at 3:25pm.



# Pastoral Care

## Our Aims:

To create a positive environment so that learning and personal development can take place at all times.

To develop the values that underpin St. Colmcille's aims namely, self-discipline, self-respect, an appreciation of the needs, talents and contributions of others.

To enable pupils, staff and parents to communicate and work in an atmosphere of mutual respect, and support, where the learning and well-being of others is always respected.

## Our Ethos:

In order to work towards achieving our school aims, through our Ethos, in St. Colmcille's we promote Christian values, academic and vocational excellence, and the personal development of every pupil in a caring, happy and welcoming environment.

## Pastoral Care Provision:

Our Pastoral Care provision in St. Colmcille's aims to support all pupils, developing each pupil – physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. This requires a caring commitment by all of our staff and permeates all aspects of daily school life, contributing to the creation of our school as a caring Christian community of pupils and staff. Our school's pupil-centred Pastoral Care provision strives to ensure each pupil feels valued and who is encouraged to contribute positively to their own personal development as well as to daily school life. We listen to and are responsive to the individual needs, aspirations and talents of our pupils. Through our Pastoral Care provision and Preventative Education programmes, we help each pupil to identify those issues in their lives which they must deal with as part of their own personal, social and emotional development, enabling each to grow into a well-rounded young person who can readily meet the demands of school and the challenges of everyday life, now and in the future. Weekly, timetabled Form Periods in both KS3 & KS4 help facilitate the delivery of programmes to pupils, morning Year Group Assemblies, sessions with our school Counsellor (Familyworks), as well as regular visits from a range of external agencies, all provide additional care and support for our pupils.

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## Positive Behaviour for Learning

Our Positive Behaviour for Learning Framework helps promote this culture of growth, integral to our Pastoral Care provision, and is implicit in the ethos of our school. This framework creates and enables an effective, safe and secure working environment, high expectations of excellent behaviour and where quality learning and teaching can take place. Within this framework, pupils are recognized and rewarded every half-term in special Rewards Assemblies for both 'Attendance' and 'Achievement,' with opportunities presented for all pupils to achieve and experience success. Through this framework too, a mutually supportive, strong home school partnership develops and grows in the best interest of all our pupils.

It is through our Positive Behaviour for Learning Framework and pupil-centred Pastoral Care provision, that the whole school community of St. Colmcille's shows daily that we are Caring, Learning, Believing and Achieving, together.

## Child Protection & Safeguarding

In St Colmcille's High School we have a Child Protection & Safeguarding Team which includes a designated Governor, who work very closely with the Pastoral Teams and together, seek to promote a safe and secure environment in which pupils can learn and in which they feel safe and supported.

We want every child to be safe in their learning in school and to enable them to achieve their very best. Our Child Protection Policy is available which can be accessed via the school app.

I love being a Year 8 pupil in St. Colmcille's especially when you get rewarded for your attendance or achievements. I'm super proud because in the very first reward assembly I had 100% attendance and got stickers for my homework planner, reward points and a big chocolate bar!

Dara

St. Nicholas' PS, Ardglass



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## Pastoral Systems

In St. Colmcille's our Vice Principal, Mrs. P. Sloan, has overall responsibility for leading Pastoral Year Teams and co-ordinating the delivery of the school's Pastoral Care Provision.

Each pupil in our school is assigned a Form Teacher who assumes a caring, mentoring role for their Form Class. In addition, the Year Group is overseen by a Head of Year who, as well as supporting the work of the Form Teachers, is responsible for meeting the pastoral and academic needs of their Year Group through monitoring each pupil's general wellbeing, and academic progress as they move through the school year.

Pastoral staff work in close partnership with parents, and regular home-school communication is encouraged through the pupil's green Homework Planner. Additionally, should an issue or concern arise, communication or meetings can be requested through the school's Office with a pupil's Form Teacher or Head of Year.

What I have enjoyed most in Year 8 was writing and presenting my speech to my fellow classmates in trying to become their representative on our School Council—I was successful! As a School Councillor, a very important job for me has been talking to my classmates and finding out all of their different opinions on what is positive in school life and some areas where we can have improvements. I attend meetings and enjoy listening to everyone's opinions and ideas which has been a great opportunity for me.

Isobelle - St. Nicholas' PS, Ardglass



## School Council

The School Council is a very important vehicle for ensuring St. Colmcille's pupils have opportunities to have their voices heard on school life! Pupils are elected to sit on the School Council by other pupils in their class to represent their views, along with members of the Senior Prefect Team. The School Council reconstitutes during the year to maximise opportunities for different viewpoints to be raised by pupils and discussed as well as coming up with practical solutions for improvement in all aspects of school life. Other opportunities to step up to ensure your pupil voice is heard and encouraged are when you take on additional roles of responsibility such as becoming a Class Prefect, a Bus Prefect, a Senior Prefect & a Peer Mentor. Pupils are selected across these roles to represent the views of all of our student body in the School Council.

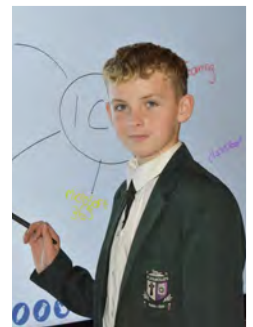
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# KS3 Curriculum

Our intention is to provide a broad, balanced curriculum for all the pupils in St. Colmcille's, regardless of age or ability. All pupils follow a 5 year course of study leading to GCSE and other externally validated examinations.

We believe that everyone has a talent and hope that through providing a wide range of activities and opportunities, every pupil will find something of interest.



## Subjects offered at Key Stage 3:

- Art & Design
- Careers
- Drama
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- ICT
- LLW
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Technology and Design

'Personalised Learning - meeting the needs

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# KS4 Curriculum

Our options at Key Stage 4 (Years 11-12) are structured yearly, offering subjects from the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Courses in any subject will only operate if numbers are viable. Pupils should be guided by the subject teacher and possible future careers requirements when making choices.

A special booklet is prepared annually for parents and pupils of Year 10 about the Key Stage 4 Curriculum. This is circulated in March of each year, with a covering letter to explain about option choices. At Key Stage 4, an Information Evening is provided for parents and pupils in Year 10.

## Subjects offered at Key Stage 4:

All students study the following at GCSE or equivalent level:

### Core Subjects:

English Language

Mathematics

Religious Studies

Science (Single or Double Award)

### Other subjects offered at GCSE or equivalent level:

Art & Design

Business Studies

Child Development

English Literature

French

Geography

ICT

Health & Social Care

History

Home Economics

Learning for Life & Work

Media Studies

Motor Vehicle Studies

Music

Performing Arts

Photography

Sports Studies

Statistics

Technology & Design

Travel & Tourism

Occupational Studies in Carpentry & Joinery, Hair & Beauty, Land Based Technology

### Non - exam subjects:

Physical Education

Careers



Land Based  
Technology



## Year 8 Induction



In my new school I love lots of things: travelling to school on the bus, all the different subjects I learn in, playing football outside, the food in the canteen and tuck shop—and so much more! You will love it here too as you get to make lots of new friends and do lots of fun things.

Tommy

Cedar Integrated Primary,  
Crossgar

Open Night and the Induction Evening in June were great being with my friends and other new Year 8s for the first time. I enjoyed going on the bouncy castle and walking around the school with my new Peer Mentor. It was really good fun and helped me to get to know my new school before I started.

Katie Rose

St. Joseph's PS, Crossgar

Part of our Year 8 Induction was the Teambuilding day. We had a huge climbing wall and were able to take a trip down memory lane playing with the big coloured parachute just like we did in Primary school. We also made personalised ceramic tiles in Art and went orienteering in the woods. I have had the BEST first term!

Eva

St. Patrick's PS, Legamaddy



# Admissions Policy

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria, punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 30 January 2024 at 12 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 22 February 2024 at 12 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on 22 February 2024 and up to 4pm on 4 March 2024 will be treated as a late application.

## **Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to Admissions to the school**

The Board of Governors has delegated responsibility for the selection of admissions to the Principal and Vice Principal.

## Admissions Criteria

All children are welcome to apply to our all-ability co-educational High school. The Board of Governors of St Colmcille's has determined that the following criteria shall be applied, in the event of the number of pupils, applying for places in year 8 in September being greater than the admissions number, in the order set below.

**Within each criterion, priority will be given to pupils normally resident in NI.**

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence, as it may determine, to support or verify information on any Transfer Application

Pupils whose parents/guardians are resident in the parishes of Kilmore, Killyleagh, Loughinisland, Saintfield Carrickmannon.

Pupils transferring from the school's partner primary schools located in the parishes listed in Criterion 1 whose parents/guardians are not resident in those parishes.

Pupils whose parents/guardians are resident in the parishes of Dunsford & Ardglass and Drumbo.

Pupils who, at the date of their application, have a family member currently enrolled at the school.

Pupils who, at the date of their application, are the eldest child of the family.

Pupils for whom St. Colmcille's is the nearest suitable all-ability maintained school to their home. (As measured by Ordnance Survey).



## Year 8 Admissions

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## My Day in St. Colmcille's ..... by Rory Green

Hi my name is Rory Green and I am a Year 8 pupil in St. Colmcille's High School. I would like to share with you a little 'snapshot' of a day as a pupil. I hope you enjoy it!

9.15am During Registration, I go to my Form Class and meet my Form Teacher, Mrs Mulholland, and my classmates.

9.25am Drama is my first class of the day and we play some games that help us improve our acting and performance skills. We are working on our Christmas Play, 'A Christmas Carol' and I am hoping to play Scrooge!

9.55am We have double Music next and we are working on our keyboard skills and I've played lots of songs already.

Break time At break time, I get a snack and talk to my friends from my own class and across Year 8.

11.15am Next I go to my favourite subject—PE! We get changed and then we go out onto the pitch. My favourite activity is playing Gaelic so we do some drills and then we get stuck into a match which is always fun. I play midfield or in defence.

12.45pm In Form Period, we get to talk about some important issues like study skills, keeping safe online and about how we are getting on with everything—it's a good catch up time for busy Year 8s.

Lunch time At lunchtime, I go to the canteen or lunchroom and after I've eaten, I play football on our huge football pitch until the bell goes.

1.55pm Next is Art class where we get to paint, sketch and work with clay. I like this because we are creative.

2.55pm Last class of the day and it's Geography. I chose France as my favourite country to research as I've been there before and loved learning more about it's culture. Also my map reading skills are improving!

Well, that's my day in St. Colmcille's. I hope you've enjoyed it—looking forward to seeing you next year!





# A Snapshot of Key Stage 3

| PERIOD | MONDAY      | TUESDAY   | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY    | FRIDAY  |
|--------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|---------|
| 1      | History     | English   | LLW       | Form Period | ICT     |
| 2      | Art         | English   | Science   | Careers     | French  |
| 3      | Art         | Maths     | English   | French      | English |
| 4      | Maths       | RE        | Drama     | ICT         | PE      |
| 5      | French      | RE        | Drama     | Drama       | PE      |
| 6      | English     | History   | Maths     | Maths       | PE      |
| 7      | English     | History   | Maths     | Maths       | LLW     |
| 8      | Form Period | Home Econ | Geography | Geography   | RE      |
| 9      | Science     | Home Econ | Music     | Geography   | Science |
| 10     | Science     | Home Econ | Music     | Library     | Science |

In my first term of Year 8 what I enjoyed most was my time in Home Economics. We have made: soda bread; pizzas; chicken nuggets and apple crumble! I have learned new skills in a very fun and exciting way. I know that it is not just me who loves St. Colmcille's—but all of you will too!

Lorcan

St. Macartan's PS,  
Loughinisland



I am in 80E and everyone has made me feel super welcome. In Science, I enjoy using the Bunsen burner and love feeding the lizards. I love acting in Drama and my performance skills are getting better every day!

Keeley

St. Mary's PS, Killyleagh



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# School Uniform



- Bottle green 4 kick-pleat skirt (must touch the knee)
- White shirt
- Bottle green jumper (with white stripe around the neckline)
- School tie
- Green blazer with school badge
- Black tights only during autumn and spring terms
- Bottle green socks or black tights during summer term
- Black, plain flat shoes with a height of no more than 3cm. (no colours/branding permitted)
- School scarf (optional)\*



- Black trousers
  - White shirt
  - Bottle green jumper
  - School tie
  - Green blazer with school badge
  - Black, plain flat shoes - not boots
  - Black socks
- (no colours/branding permitted)

## PE Uniform for all

PE uniform is available from O'Neill's website, [www.oneills.com](http://www.oneills.com)

(pathway - education\schools\St. Colmcille's Crossgar)

**Unisex compulsory kit includes:** a St. Colmcille's O'Neill's training jersey top; black shorts (O'Neill's or other); socks (black/green)

Other PE items are **optional** and can also be purchased from O'Neill's website (\*Parnell half-zip squad top; crew neck St. Colmcille's sweatshirt; trainers and/or football boots; black sports bottoms and sports bag)





# School Life



Continued success at GCSE



ABP Angus Youth Challenge winners



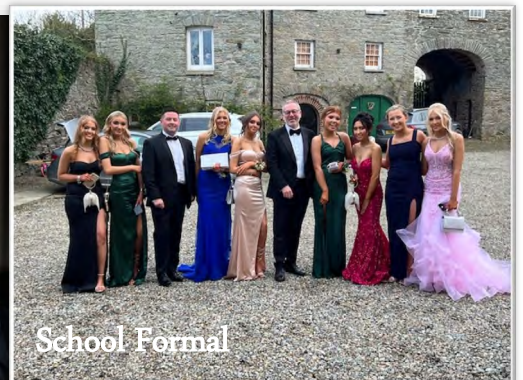
Film Festival



NI Water Ceramic Project



Drama



School Formal



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# Sporting Success

U13.5 Flynn Cup

Final Winners



Eventing



Camogie



U14.5 Brother Sharkey  
Cup finalists







Hurling

Camogie

Soccer

Extra Curricular

Gaelic



Drama



Netball



Guitar Club  
Art & Photography Club  
Dungeons & Dragons  
Book Club  
Choir  
Studio Ghibli  
(Japanese anime)



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# Our School in the Community

St. Patrick's Choral Society performances  
(Legally Blonde and All Shook Up)

Kilmore Football Club Training

Mourne Water Initiative

Kilmore Cross-Community Foodbank

Teconnaught GAC Hallowe'en Camp

Irish Dancing School

Choir Initiatives

Drama Festival

Film Festival/3Fortyfive Film Company Links

Bells Supervalu Sponsorship (Breakfast Club & Rewards)

Monastery use – e.g. Year 8 Fun Day

PTA Initiatives

Uniform Recycling Scheme

Uganda Link Group

Bells Car Sales Business Studies Event

Down GAA Coaching sessions



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Careers Education is a core aspect of the KS3 and 4 curriculum and makes a significant contribution in helping prepare young people for their journey through life. Timetabled classes allow pupils to investigate the world of work and develop their own personal action plan which enables them to make informed decisions about pathways at Post 16 and beyond.

A range of visiting speakers form an integral part of the KS4 programme and this enables our pupils to hear from industry experts on their experiences in the world of work.



# Careers

We have an independent Careers Officer, Louise Murray, who meets individually with all Year 12 pupils to give them personalised, up-to-date and relevant information. We have annual events held in school, and within the local Area Learning Community, that further enhance the knowledge and understanding that the pupils have about Careers and opportunities available to them.

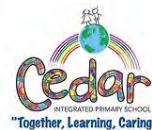
## What Primary Schools do our pupils come from?



**ST CAOLAN'S  
PRIMARY SCHOOL**



**St. Joseph's PS,  
Strangford**



**St. Nicholas'**



**Our Lady and St. Patrick Primary School  
Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phádraig**



**Academy PS**



**St. Joseph's PS,  
Crossgar**



**St. Mary's PS**



**St. Brigid's PS**

# Additional Learning Support

The school focuses on the 'inclusion' of all pupils - regardless of any physical disability or learning difficulty. Our main aim is the provision of quality teaching and learning matched to the individual ability of each pupil in a pupil centred manner.

If you have any special needs issues you wish to discuss or you would like to seek further information, please arrange to speak with our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. We invite you to read our Special Educational Needs Policy.

The admission arrangements, with respect to the majority of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), are consistent with the school's general arrangements for all other pupils. St. Colmcille's provides for pupils with a wide range of special needs within both mainstream classrooms and within small support groups.

Children with statements of SEND are placed in schools at the request of Education Authority. When seeking to place a pupil with a statement, the Education Authority will take into account the ability of the school to meet the child's special educational needs, the provision of efficient education for other children in the class or school and the effective use of resources. When the school is approached by the Education Authority, a careful examination of the child's needs, matched to the resources available, is undertaken by the Principal and Special Needs Co-ordinator. The decision is then passed to the Education Authority.

The school is well supported with provision from the Education Authority and works closely with all its advisory agents and Outreach Support for pupils. The Education Authority, through the Medical Officer, supports the needs of children with medical, emotional and physical disabilities. Adaptations have been made to facilitate wheelchair users.

Pupils who require support are identified at the beginning of Year 8 through Education Authority referral by the Educational Psychology Department, through assessment in school and through parental and staff concerns. Our main aim is to improve the self-esteem and the basic skills of each child. Many children have specific learning difficulties and require some extra help in overcoming, and by-passing their difficulties. Some pupils may also receive extra support from External Agencies whilst others have access to a Classroom Assistant.





# Home School Communication

We work closely with parents and communicate through different channels including the School app, school website, Parent text, Phone calls, Parent Teacher Meetings and the Student Planner.

## Parent Teacher Meetings

For each Year Group a parent/teacher consultation is scheduled annually where parents have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with their child's subject teachers and key pastoral staff, i.e. Form Teacher or Head of Year. Pupils may also accompany their parent(s) to this meeting.

This is an excellent opportunity to discuss your child's progress, where their strengths can be highlighted and key areas for improvement identified.

## Website/Facebook

We encourage our parent to follow the school's facebook page as we regularly post information on the latest news and events. It is a great way for parents and carers to see what happens in school on a daily basis.

On the school website you can find information on term dates, School Policies, etc. There is also a link to allow pupils to access their school documents.

The school website is  
[www.stcolmcillescrossgar.org.uk](http://www.stcolmcillescrossgar.org.uk)

## School App

Our custom-designed school app is available for free download from Google Play or the App Store. It is designed to improve communication as it contains all the information that you require at your finger tips!

This is our main method of communication with parents.



Secondary365 app  
available on App  
Store or Google  
Play Store

Enter code 7722

Email: [info@stcolmcilles.crossgar.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stcolmcilles.crossgar.ni.sch.uk)

[www.stcolmcillescrossgar.org.uk](http://www.stcolmcillescrossgar.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/stcolmcillescrossgar](https://www.facebook.com/stcolmcillescrossgar)



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