

Prospectus



Our Lady of Lourdes School Ballymoney

Caring, Sharing, Learning together to meet the future



It is with a great sense of satisfaction that we introduce the work of our school to you through this Prospectus.



At Our Lady of Lourdes School we do our very best to ensure that all our children hold a positive view of themselves and are ready to approach the future with confidence. We build pupils up; we educate to achieve "human fullness". We continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of school life and have achieved

outstanding success in academic outcomes, in the wide variety of our extra-curricular activities and in a wide range of community service projects and charities whilst maintaining a warm, friendly school environment where the care and welfare of our pupils is of the utmost importance.

This school, in striving to meet the challenges of providing a quality education in the 21st Century, has a clear and progressive agreed, purpose and vision, which is **Caring Sharing Learning together to meet the future**. We provide a stable and loyal leadership and a cohesive, unified staff.

Our Lady of Lourdes School is growing steadily in terms of pupils joining the school. The school continues to attract pupils from across the whole ability range, and boys and girls of all abilities are thriving in our distinct small-school ethos and in our vision of enabling each individual pupil to bring light and dignity to the world - no child held back nor left behind.

We are proud of our pupils; their appearance, their conduct, their respect for themselves, others and for the school property. These are all sources of great encouragement in the present and of good hope for the future. Furthermore, their attendance is superb maintaining the position of the school in the top 5% of its kind in Northern Ireland. The pupils continue to grow in wisdom and flourish under the daily guidance and inspiration of a very able and extremely hardworking staff.

We place a strong emphasis on providing our pupils with a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities; for example, Ski Trip, Hurling, Netball, Gaelic Football, Soccer, Camogie, Handball, Athletics, Dance, Drama, Choir, Irish Dancing, Table Tennis, and Music play a significant part in the life of the school, as do a variety of educational outings and inter-school activities.

The Education and Training Inspectorate uses a variety of inspection outcomes when evaluating the effectiveness of a school and Our Lady of Lourdes School was found to be highly effective, ranked in the best category possible (the top outcome), where the school was found to have a 'high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interests of all the learners.'

Our strength is also our flexibility of approach - every child is enabled to access the curriculum at their own level. We design bespoke, tailored, individualized timetables offering support and effective strategies to either enhance learning or remove barriers to learning.

In Our Lady of Lourdes School we have an ethos which enables us to give our children an education, a gift, a belief that our pupils are beautiful as they are because they are a child of God and as a community we strive to do little things with great love realising that no single act of love will ever be lost.

Eilish Gillan

Miss E Gillan
Principal



*“So hope for a great sea change
On the far side of revenge.
Believe that a further shore
is reachable from here.
Believe in miracles
And cures and healing wells.”
Seamus Heaney - The Cure of Troy*

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Our Vision

“Every child deserves a champion: an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be.”

Rita Pierson, Educator

Our Lady of Lourdes is “A Home Place”(Seamus Heaney) – where children belong. Here we support every individual pupil in our care – to enable children to reach their true potential – to be the best they can be.”



Our Mission Statement

“Caring, Sharing, Learning
Together to meet the future.”

Within our warm and inclusive culture pupils are empowered to believe in themselves, enabled to achieve their full potential and our mission statement of Caring, Sharing, Learning Together to meet the future is borne out in practice.

Our Aims

Our Lady of Lourdes School ensures:

1. Every pupil, from whatever background, has a right to be valued and respected, to be educated in a secure and caring environment, and to have their abilities and talents nurtured and developed to their full potential.
2. In the value and importance of human connection – we connect with pupils on a real human and personal level. In the words of James Comer 1995 “No significant learning can occur without a significant relationship”.
3. A flexible individual approach which enables every child to access and achieve within the curriculum at their own level.



“Our Lady of Lourdes School provides a quality Catholic education - our ethos being that every child is unique, a child of God - we have children in our school from all denominations, colour and creed.”

Miss E Gillan, Principal

'Our School' celebrates excellent Inspection Reports

Once again, the Year 12 pupils have achieved outstanding GCSE results with 96% of all pupils attaining 5 GCSEs at A* to C where the school results consistently outperform the targets set for nonselective schools across Northern Ireland. 83% achieved 5 GCSEs at A* to C including English and Maths with 83% achieving 7GCSEs at A* to C. Miss Gillan, Principal is delighted to note that 60% of all results allocated were A* to B grades.



Learning and Teaching

School Ethos

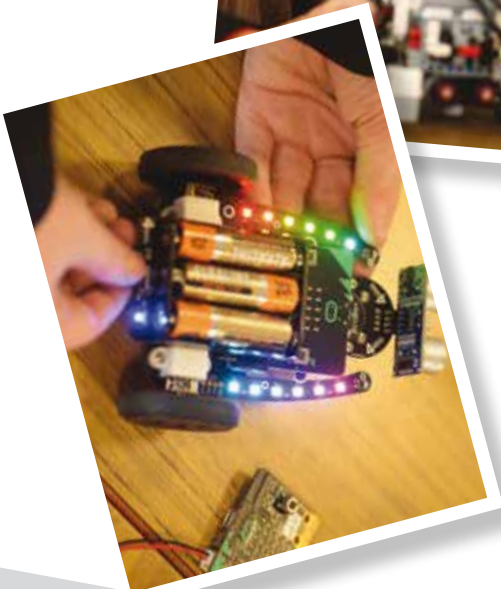
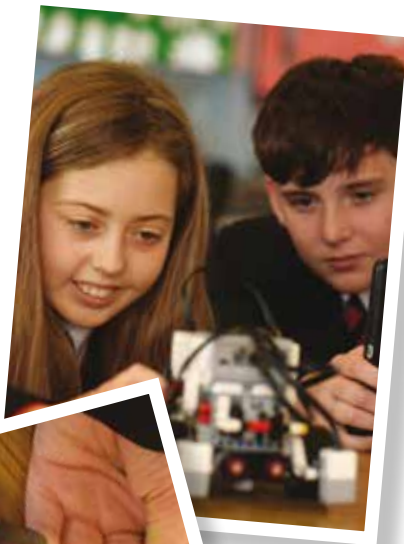
Learning and Teaching is central to life at Our Lady Of Lourdes School. Good classroom management and a high quality of teaching have the greatest impact on our children's learning and the standards that they attain.

We give consideration to individual children's difficulties and therefore recognise the need to develop, use and adapt strategies and structures which allow all our children to access the curriculum and realise their fullest potential.

Within the consistency of teaching practice we recognise the importance of flexibility, empathy and understanding in meeting individual needs. We acknowledge that children learn in different ways, through a variety of experiences.

At Our Lady of Lourdes School we provide a stimulating professional learning community where initiative, co-operation and participation are valued and encouraged.

We maintain close partnerships with parents in their child's education and promote real and on-going communication between home and school as a vital component of each child developing his/her potential.



School Aims For Learning

The aim of our Learning and Teaching Policy is to provide a clear statement of the principle and practice of learning and teaching at Our Lady of Lourdes School. This statement represents our agreed view of how our children learn and how we intend to encourage and support that learning. It provides a framework which enables teachers and support staff to be confident in developing their own practice and ensures that we are consistent in the way we work with our pupils.

We aim to help our children to:

- Enjoy their learning through experiencing success and by increasing their self esteem
- Become increasingly independent and confident learners
- Feel secure and comfortable in school
- Acquire the necessary skills for learning, now and in the future, by developing lively, enquiring minds and the ability to question, share ideas and work co operatively
- Recognise and develop their own personal skills to the best of their ability
- Access a rich, balanced and relevant curriculum in a variety of ways. This includes encouraging creativity and self expression
- Use language and number effectively, as a foundation for learning, and to develop confidence in all areas of the curriculum
- Develop an understanding of other beliefs, cultures and ways of life

The Curriculum

Subjects at Key Stage 3

- Art and Design
- Geography
- Mathematics
- Technology and Design
- English
- History
- Music
- Personal, Social & Health Education
- French
- Home Economics
- Physical Education
- Drama
- Irish
- ICT
- Religious Education
- Citizenship
- Employability

Subjects at Key Stage 4

In Years 11 and 12, pupils are required to follow a broad and balanced curriculum and to undertake nine subjects for GCSE. Pupils undertake a core of compulsory subjects and, in order to achieve a broad and balanced education, they also make choices from a range of optional subjects. A number of subjects at GCSE are provided in conjunction with Ballymoney High School and Dalriada School.

KS4 Curriculum

- English
- Science (OCN, Single or Double Award)
- Religious Education
- Moving Image Arts
- History
- Physical Education
- Technology and Design
- Performing Skills
- Health & Social Care
- French
- English Literature
- Music
- Mathematics
- Careers
- Business Studies
- Engineering
- Geography
- Home Economics
- Drama
- Art & Design
- ICT
- Agriculture
- Irish
- Employability
- Prince's Trust

Occupational Studies Level 2

- Business & Services
- Childcare/Manicure & Nail Art
- Design & Creativity
- Catering/Hair & Beauty
- Engineering & Engineering Services
- CAD/Manufacturing Techniques - Hand Fitting
- Technology & Innovation
- Digital Imaging/TV & Film Production
- Environment & Society
- Sports Leadership/Tour Guiding
- Construction
- Bench Joinery/Carpentry & Joinery



“Our Lady of Lourdes strives at all times to maintain a harmonious atmosphere”





Most pupils are well-motivated and engage purposefully in lessons. They present for school in an exemplary manner, are friendly and welcoming and take pride in their work. By Year 12, the majority of pupils are well-prepared for the next stage of their education and life. When matched against their entry profile, most achieve high outcomes, which reflect the significant added-value provided by the school.

The pupils with special educational needs achieve exceptionally well and follow suitable careers pathways that enable them to progress to Further Education, training or employment. The pupils make very good progress because of enabling activities, supportive interventions and informative and effective assessment processes.
(ETI Report)



Pastoral Care at the heart of all that we do

In Our Lady of Lourdes School, Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life. Pastoral Care reflects the values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of our faith and involves all members of our school community - children, parents and all other adults who contribute to the well-being of each pupil.

We endeavour to promote good relationships between staff/pupils/parents. As a staff we work as a team, respecting each other's roles and recognising individual talents and expertise. We are concerned with the needs and well-being of each pupil and with the approaches and programmes we implement in order to aid his/her development.

In Years 8 to 12, each class has a Form Teacher, who meets with the class each morning. The Form Teacher is a key figure in our pastoral system and has a detailed knowledge of the needs, emotional development, progress and academic attainment of each pupil in his/her Form Class. Each year group has a Year Head who, working through a team of Form Teachers, maintains an overview of the personal, social and academic development of each pupil in the year group.

We recognise and value the important role which parents play in their child's education. Every effort is made to ensure that parents feel welcome, that they are made aware of their child's individual needs, progress and achievements, through the Pastoral Care Team, under the direction of the KS3 and KS4 Heads of Pastoral Care.

“We endeavour to promote good relationships between staff/pupils/parents.”

Health and Well Being Hub

As well as the great support of Family Works counselling service, which all schools avail of, we have worked hard to establish a **Health and Well-being hub** on our school site. This comprises of two added counsellors who have their offices within the school and who are very much part of the OLOL team. At present we are making plans to develop our hub to encompass Art Therapy and Music Therapy.

A Take Five School

We have been trained in the five steps to well being which are Connect, Keep Learning, Be Active, Take Notice and Give. As a Take Five School we are showing our commitment to promoting positive mental health, not only for the pupils in our school, but also the staff and wider school community.



Anti-Bullying

Our work to prevent bullying is inextricably linked to the Pastoral Care procedures in the school. It is our intention that:-

- All pupils feel safe and secure within the school community.
- The school community is aware of the appropriate steps to take if they are being bullied.
- All pupils shall behave in a tolerant and sensitive manner towards each other - that 'choose kindness' is our motto.
- Parents are confident that we deal effectively with anyone who bullies
- We promote a whole-school awareness of the negative and long term impact that bullying has on friendships, self-esteem as well as emotional and mental health and well being.

Drugs Education

Our policy on Drugs Education is based on the belief that in the current culture it is realistic to accept that some pupils may take drugs at some stage. Our major aim is to minimise the number of pupils who do, and to postpone the onset of those who will. This will be achieved by addressing a whole-school issue through, for example, our Health Education Programme.

A copy of our Anti-Bullying, Drugs and Safeguarding policies are available from the school.



Safeguarding

The Governors and Staff of Our Lady of Lourdes School fully recognise the contribution it makes to safeguarding children. We recognise that all staff including volunteers, have a full and active part to play in protecting our pupils from harm.

The Safeguarding Team is:

- Miss E Gillan (Principal)
- Mrs A Sloan & Mrs S Mullan (Designated Teachers)
- Mrs B Delargy (Deputy Designated)
- Mr D McMullan (Designated Governor for Safeguarding)
- Mr M Hasson (Chairperson of the Board of Governors)

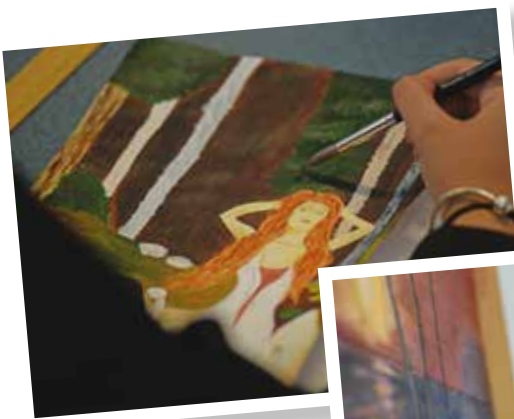
The Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website. If, at any time, a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff that gives rise to concerns about a possible Safeguarding matter then the member of staff will act immediately. The Safeguarding Team will be informed and if appropriate a referral will be made to CPSS, Social Services, Care Unit PSNI.

Attendance

Poor, or less than satisfactory, school attendance invariably has a detrimental effect on a pupil's education. Therefore, obtaining a good attendance from all our pupils is a priority in Our Lady of Lourdes School. The following list outlines the guidelines used to monitor and improve attendance.

- When absent from school the parent/guardian should telephone the school office before 9.00 am on the first day of absence. Failure to do so will mean that the school, will continue to make contact until an explanation for the absence is provided. On return to school the date(s) and reason for absence should be recorded in the pupil's diary and signed by the parent/guardian.
- Pupil attendance is monitored by Head of Pastoral Care, the Form Teacher, Year Head and the Attendance Co-ordinator. If any concerns arise the school's Attendance Policy is followed and the Education Welfare Service can become involved.
- Punctuality is an important part of self-discipline and is essential to good time management.

In the morning pupils must be in school by 8.50 am. Pupils who arrive late must report to the Main Office to ensure they are marked present. It is essential that all pupils are punctual for all classes.





The Senior Leadership Team is characterised by rigorous monitoring, evaluation and review, whilst prioritising high quality Learning and Teaching and supporting this through the continuing professional development of staff in order to raise capacity further.

Comprehensive arrangements are in place for safeguarding young people. The pupils report that they feel safe in school and that their concerns are dealt with promptly. They are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or well-being.



Promoting Positive Behaviour

All aspects of discipline are provided for in the context of our Pastoral Care Programme; our approach is to be positive, constructive and encouraging. It is the policy of the school to create a secure and happy environment, conducive to effective learning and personal development.

Pupils are encouraged to adopt responsible attitudes and values to enable them to become mature and caring adults, with respect and tolerance for others.

Our Lady of Lourdes strives at all times to maintain a harmonious atmosphere and so expects:

- care, courtesy and good manners;
- respect for school property;
- a commitment to consistent hard work;
- a high standard of dress, punctuality and attendance;
- high levels of responsibility.

Parental co-operation is actively sought in these matters. Pupils and parents are issued with a yearly Information Guide in order to provide a valuable communication link between parents and school.

“Nurturing the individual”

Specialist Provision

In Our Lady of Lourdes, we currently have four Specialist Provision Learning Units and two newly established Specialist Provision Autism Units for Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Our vision is to promote the inclusion of all children within our whole school community.

“Inclusion is our cornerstone philosophy”

Within our school, we promote a better awareness of the range of special educational needs as well as a greater respect for diversity and equality.

Our aim is to provide the best educational opportunities which lead to positive outcomes and higher quality experiences. We recognise that every child is unique and we provide a flexible approach to meeting their changing educational, physical and medical needs. We are an integral part of the whole school providing bespoke inclusive educational programmes leading to:

- access to a broader curriculum;
- improved academic achievement;
- greater opportunities for the development of friendships and relationships;
- opportunities to develop communication and social skills.



Assessment & Reporting

Assessment for Pupils in Key Stage 3 takes place through Continuous Monitoring of pupil progress.

Throughout the year teachers and pupils set targets in each of their subjects. These targets will change as the year goes on based upon how the pupil is progressing at that time. The targets are set by the teacher but also agreed with the pupil.

Pupils will complete several assessed tasks (typically three) over the course of the year in each of their subjects. The marks in these assessed or Continuous Monitoring (CM) tasks are used to determine whether a pupil is working to their full potential.

Pupil marks are recorded on the school's computer system (SIMS.net) and the scores are available for all staff to monitor when necessary. The results on SIMS.net are colour-coded using a simple traffic light system so that staff can tell how a pupil is progressing at a glance.





Our Homework Policy

The school will:

- ensure that pupils are set homework on a regular basis and in manageable amounts;
- set tasks which are suitable and achievable within the time available;
- provide homework which relates to work being done in school;
- mark homework and provide helpful feedback to pupils;
- ensure that homework provides appropriate levels of support and challenge for the pupils;
- provide suitable facilities for homework tasks to be carried out after school.

“Ensure that homework provides appropriate levels of support and challenge for the pupils”

Charging and Remissions Policy

In line with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Education Reform Order 1989, it is the policy of the Board of Governors to:

- maintain the right to free school education for all pupils;
- establish that activities organised wholly or mainly during school time should be available to all pupils;
- require parents to pay charges for board and lodging for their children on residential trips, taking account of any relevant remission arrangement;
- confirm its right to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of activities organised by the school;
- make charges in respect of optional extras, as determined by the Board of Governors.

A copy of the full charging and remissions policy is available from the school.



The quality of the arrangements for care and support in Our Lady of Lourdes School are very good, with Pastoral Care being a significant strength. Within this warm and inclusive culture, pupils are empowered to believe in themselves, enabled to achieve their full potential and the school's mission statement of 'Caring, Sharing, Learning together to meet the future' is borne out in practice. Consequently, there is a purposeful fusion of the pastoral and academic priorities in the school.
(ETI Report)

There are good levels of pupil participation and achievement in the wide range of sporting, cultural and charitable opportunities which the school provides. Of note, is the significant contribution made by pupils and teachers to fund-raising.
(ETI Report)



Sport

Physical Education in Our Lady of Lourdes School encompasses all aspects of the development of the pupil (physical, social, intellectual, ethical, aesthetic, creative and cultural) and makes a considerable contribution to fulfilling the overall aims of the school.

For some PE provides the opportunity to experience a sense of achievement which they might otherwise never enjoy. It can help a child to return to the classroom with a new determination to overcome difficulties experienced in other subjects.

More detailed sports aims are contained in the PE policy document available from Mr B Kirgan, Head of PE. Physical Education is offered as an option for GCSE.

Our Lady of Lourdes PE Department is renowned for the variety of sports offered.

Facilities

- Sports Hall with new flooring and disability access
- Assembly Hall/Gymnasium
- Two hard-court Tennis Courts
- Playing field
- Access to Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre
- Access to full range of school equipment including IT suites/TV and video equipment
- Handball Walls



Sports available to pupils

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| • Athletics | • Soccer |
| • Badminton | • Squash |
| • Basketball | • Sportshall Athletics |
| • Camogie | • Swimming |
| • Gaelic Football | • Table Tennis |
| • Golf | • Tennis |
| • Gymnastics | • Volleyball |
| • Hurling | • Netball |
| • Dance | • Self Defence |
| • Hockey | • Handball |
| • Rugby | |



Extra-curricular Activities

The school provides pupils with a wide range of sporting and other extra-curricular activities and the pupils, at individual and team level, have enjoyed success in recent years in Hurling, Gaelic Football, Camogie, Netball, Soccer and Athletics. Teams compete in inter-school competitions at a number of age levels. Over the years we have had many All-Stars and pupils representing the school in sport at County, Provincial and National level.

In drama, dance and music the school has enjoyed many successes, for example, 'Total Talent 2022'. The school also enjoys an excellent reputation for the production of musical shows. We have presented shows such as 'Hairspray', 'Joseph', 'Oliver' and 'Annie' to the public, and have participated in the Global Rock Challenge at the Waterfront Hall Belfast.



The pupils have many opportunities to participate in:

- Sport
- Music (Guitar, Singing, Keyboard, Drums, String, Choir, Ensemble Singing)
- Dance (DU Dance)
- Drama (Theatre Visits, Big Telly Workshops)
- Digital Technology (Robotics, Coding, Programming)
- Social Skills Programmes
- Health and Well Being Clubs
- School Councils
- Reading and Literacy Groups
- Numeracy Groups
- Charity Groups.

Transport home is also provided to pupils after extra-curricular activities.

Our Lady of Lourdes School is an active participant of the Ballymoney Learning Community and demonstrates a commitment to purposeful shared education in the interests of all the pupils across the community. Increasingly, the co-educational, 11-16, non-selective school is accepting pupils of all abilities, from a variety of religious and cultural backgrounds, across an ever-widening geographical area. (ETI Report)



Our Lady of Lourdes School has been providing education for the families of Ballymoney town and surrounding districts since 1959. Its history is one of a school which always strives to achieve the highest of standards. The publication of this excellent Inspection Report, following a rigorous and comprehensive School Inspection, provides conclusive evidence that the school maintains its high standards, that the spirit of the school burns strong and that it retains its vision of a clear and bright future for all of its pupils.



The School Day

**Each day is made up of nine periods.
Pupils should note these times.**

KS3 School Day

09.00 am - 9.15 am	Registration in the Form Room (Form Teacher)
09.15 am - 9.50 am	Period 1
09.50 am - 10.30 am	Period 2
10.30 am - 10.50 am	Period 3
10.50 am - 11.05 am	BREAK
11.05 am - 11.10 am	Leave Canteen 11.05am
11.10 am - 11.25 am	Period 3
11.25 am - 12.05 pm	Period 4
12.05 pm - 12.45 pm	Period 5
12.45 pm - 12.50 pm	Changeover for after lunch
12.50 pm - 01.25 pm	LUNCH (Period 6)
01.25 pm - 01.30 pm	Pupils move to class 1.25 pm
01.30 pm - 02.10 pm	Period 7
02.10 pm - 02.50 pm	Period 8
02.50 pm - 03.25 pm	Period 9

KS4 School Day

09.00 am - 9.15 am	Registration in the assembly hall (Form Teacher)
09.15 am - 9.50 am	Period 1
09.50 am - 10.25 am	Period 2
10.25 am - 10.30 am	Changeover for Period 3
10.30 am - 10.45 am	BREAK
10.45 am - 11.25 am	Period 3
11.25 am - 12.05 pm	Period 4
12.05 pm - 12.10 pm	Changeover for after lunch
12.10 pm - 12.45 pm	LUNCH (Period 5)
12.45 pm - 12.50 pm	Pupils move to class 12.45 pm
12.50 pm - 01.30 pm	Period 6
01.30 pm - 02.10 pm	Period 7
02.10 pm - 02.50 pm	Period 8
02.50 pm - 03.25 pm	Period 9

Time Spent Working at Home

Year 8	1 hour each day
Year 9	1 1/2 hours each day
Year 10	2 hours each day
Years 11 and 12	3 hours each day and 4 hours at weekends

School Uniform

Pupils who attend Our Lady of Lourdes are expected to wear and take pride in their uniform and to maintain a high standard of personal appearance. On school days, travelling to and from school, during examinations and when they are representing the school, all pupils, are expected to:

- wear the full school uniform; and
- keep uniform clean and tidy.

A complete list of the school uniform and suppliers is available on request.

Clothing Grant

Cash grant towards cost of School Uniform. Please note forms (UNI) can be obtained from school but must be verified by Social Security Office (DHSS).

Transport

Train/Bus Passes will be issued by the school. Parents must complete an application form which will be supplied by County Hall (Form TR/S).

Recent improvements have already been agreed in regard to bus schedules. Parents will receive a detailed timetable of all buses to and from the school in early Spring. Any prospective parent who has concerns regarding the transport of their child should contact the Principal immediately.

Free School Meals

Any parent whose child is entitled to free school meals should contact County Hall for the necessary forms. Those already in receipt of free school meals should remember to complete one copy of the Yellow form (SM/200/R/SCH) per family irrespective of schools attended.

County Hall
182 Galgorn Road
BALLYMENA
Co Antrim
BT42 2BR

Transition Year 8

At Our Lady of Lourdes School we recognise the need to support pupils as much as possible as they make their transition between Primary and Post Primary School and between Key Stages.

In December our staff visit all our feeder Primary Schools to talk to the Primary 7 teachers and pupils about our school and we follow this with an Open invitation to guided tours of the school.

An induction evening takes place in June for all pupils who are transferring in August. This is an opportunity for pupils and parents to meet the staff and Pastoral Care Teams.

An innovative and creative transition programme is delivered to our Year 8 in partnership with our Year 12 students who support them in a mentoring programme.

“We recognise the need to support pupils as much as possible”



Year 12 Mentors

Our Year 12 students are paired with Year 8 pupils in their transition from Primary to Post Primary. The Year 12 students give the Year 8 pupils confidence and raise their self esteem and feelings of belonging to the school. They organise paired reading and sports activities as part of their induction programme.

Promoting Links with our Primary Schools

We have created vibrant partnerships with our local Primary Schools through providing a Performing Arts Programme, Open Day Programme, liaisons through joint ventures across the curriculum, invitations to pupils and teachers to our school productions and creative workshops and showcasing our joint performance work through the shared education programme.

Quality Pastoral Programme

A coordinated Assembly Programme is delivered by the Principal and the Pastoral Care Team. A PSHE programme for Years 8-10 is delivered through a carousel of RSE, Citizenship and Employability. Years 11 and 12 have their PSHE programme in a Form Class period.





Careers Education, Information and Guidance

Careers Education, Information & Guidance extends throughout the school and its primary aim is to assist students to know themselves better, to be aware of education, training and career opportunities and to make the transition from school to working life.

Careers Education is embedded in the teaching of every subject.

Education for Employability in year 8-10

At Key Stage 3 students:

- Examine their own skills and qualities.
- Consider local and global employability opportunities.
- Learn about the changing world of work.
- Investigate aspects of enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- Participate in a number of events which empower them to make informed and positive career choices.
- 'Learn by doing' by forging partnerships with External Agencies

Careers Education at Key Stage 4

All students:

- Experience dedicated Careers Education classes.
- Engage in an extensive work experience programme in a range of institutions linked to the potential career pathway of each student in Year 11.
- Receive additional support from personnel in the Northern Ireland Careers Service.
- Avail of the opportunities of attending annual open days with all post 16 providers.

Through our Personal Career Planning, we:

- Prepare pupils for Higher Education, Further Education and Employment
- Have strong and ever increasing links with business and industry
- Offer opportunities to reflect on individual strengths, personal qualities, aspirations and aptitudes
- Organise a series of workshops led by visiting speakers
- Offer programmes to develop self presentation and interview skills

Through our World of Work Action Group, we:

- Highlight business mentoring, higher apprenticeships & coaching programmes
- Organise in-school experiences (with businesses & employers visiting the school)
- Visits to industry (e.g. Cranswick, Capita etc. involving core workplace rotations)
- Careers teaching led by staff upskilled & trained in Employability Focus on the 'New and Emerging Technologies'



Our Lady of Lourdes School Ballymoney

Caring, Sharing, Learning together to meet the future

School Poem

You're **unique** and **one of a kind**

Your life can be what you want

Take the days just one at a time

Count your blessings not your troubles

You'll make it through whatever comes along

Don't put limits on yourself

So many dreams are waiting to be realised

Decisions are too important to leave to chance

Reach for your **peak**, your **goal**, your **prize**

The longer one carries a problem the heavier it gets

Live a life of serenity not a life of regret

Remember that a **little love** goes a long way

A lot goes forever

Remember that **friendship** is a wise investment

Life's treasures are people......together

Realise that it is **never too late**

Do ordinary things in an extraordinary way

Have **health and happiness**

Take the time to **wish upon a star**

And don't forget – for even a day

How very **special** you are

Castle Street, Ballymoney, County Antrim BT53 6JX

Tel: 028 2766 2050 / 028 2766 5079

www.ourladyoflourdesballymoney.com