



Our Lady of Lourdes School Ballymoney

Caring, Sharing, Learning together to meet the future



Welcome to Our Lady of Lourdes School

At Our Lady of Lourdes, we are proud to be a thriving, forward-thinking school where every child is valued, supported, and inspired to achieve their full potential. Our commitment to **outstanding pastoral care** and **excellent academic outcomes** ensures that students flourish both personally and academically in a safe, nurturing environment.

Our vision, “*Caring, Sharing, Learning Together to Meet the Future,*” reflects our dedication to creating a collaborative and inclusive community. Guided by our core values of **respect, kindness, effort and teamwork**, we prepare our students not only for success in examinations but for meaningful, fulfilling lives beyond school.



We are delighted that Our Lady of Lourdes continues to grow steadily, attracting students from across the ability range. Every child benefits from our distinctive small-school ethos, where no pupil is held back or left behind. Our students consistently demonstrate pride in their appearance, respect for others, and a strong sense of responsibility—qualities that give us confidence in their future.

Academic achievement is a cornerstone of our success. For the past three years, our GCSE results have met or significantly exceeded Northern Ireland averages for non-selective schools. This reflects the dedication of our highly skilled and hardworking staff, who inspire students daily to aim high and achieve their best.

Beyond the classroom, we offer a rich programme of extra-curricular opportunities, including sports such as Gaelic football, hurling, netball, soccer, rugby, hockey, and athletics, as well as music, drama, dance, and educational trips. These experiences help students develop confidence, teamwork, and lifelong friendships.

Our commitment to excellence has been recognised by the Education and Training Inspectorate, which judged the quality of education at Our Lady of Lourdes as “**outstanding**” and confirmed our strong capacity for sustained improvement. Our Lady of Lourdes is a happy, vibrant school where students work hard, play hard, and grow into confident, caring young people. We invite you to join our community and share in the success of a school that truly puts its students first.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Smyth'.

Mr S. Smyth
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

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

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.”

Core Values





Our Mission Statement

“At Our Lady of Lourdes, we are committed to fostering a caring and inclusive community where every student is valued and supported. Through sharing knowledge, experiences, and opportunities, we empower our students to develop the skills, confidence, and resilience needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world. By learning together in a collaborative and innovative environment, we prepare our students to meet the challenges of the future with integrity, creativity, and a lifelong love of learning.”

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 education where we empower children to be the best version of themselves. We have children in our school from all denominations, colour and creed. Our School is a safe haven, a hub of learning where differences and individuality are celebrated”

Mr S Smyth, Principal

Outstanding GCSE Success

Our Lady of Lourdes is proud to celebrate another year of exceptional GCSE results. 96% of Year 12 students achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A–C, a testament to their hard work and the dedication of our staff.*

We are delighted that 73% of students secured five GCSEs at grades A–C, including English and Mathematics, consistently surpassing the targets set for non-selective schools across Northern Ireland.*

These outstanding outcomes ensure that our students are well-prepared for the next stage of their educational journey, whether that is further study, training, or employment. At Our Lady of Lourdes, success is not just measured in grades—it is reflected in the confidence, resilience, and ambition our students carry forward into the future.



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
- King'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.

Being Well Doing Well

Our Lady of Lourdes is proud to be a Being Well Doing Well school, committed to a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing. We foster a positive, inclusive culture where every member of our community feels valued and respected. By promoting emotional resilience and social skills through our curriculum, strong relationships, and early support, we help pupils thrive both personally and academically. Our leadership team champions wellbeing for students and staff alike, recognising the vital link between mental health and achievement. Together, we create an environment where everyone can belong, learn, and succeed.



Addressing 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:

- Mrs A Sloan (Designated Teacher)
- Mrs R Brown (Deputy Designated Teacher)
- Mrs S Mullan (Deputy Designated Teacher)
- Miss S Coyles (Deputy Designated Teacher)
- Mr A Brown (Deputy Designated Teacher)
- Mr P. Mullan (Designated Governor for Safeguarding)
- Mr G Kerr (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 for Learning Classes. Our provision is further complemented by five Specialist Provisions for Social Communication classes, which cover both Key Stages 3 and 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.

A young woman with long blonde hair and safety glasses is focused on looking through the eyepiece of a white and black compound microscope. She is wearing a red sweater. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or laboratory setting with other equipment and possibly another student partially visible on the left.

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.

Our school takes pride in its vibrant performing arts programme, with notable achievements in drama, dance, and music. Highlights include events such as Unplugged 2025. We are renowned for our outstanding musical productions, presenting a diverse range of shows to the public while also staging high-quality in-house performances.



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.

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 |

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.

Free School Meals / Uniform Grants

Information regarding Free School Meals and Uniform grants is available on the EA website - use the QR code below or go directly to <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>



Transport

Information regarding Free School Meals and Uniform grants is available on at:

<https://www.translink.co.uk/>

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

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