

Strangford College



STUDENT HANDBOOK

Name: _____



WELCOME TO STRANGFORD COLLEGE

Dear Student

I am looking forward to you joining the College in **August**. I am sure you will feel fully part of the College as you meet with all your classmates for the first time.

This booklet is about you and some of the experiences that await you at Strangford College. You will find good advice and helpful tips to see you through your first weeks at school.

Strangford College is an Integrated school and we are keen to work with you and your Parents/Carers in helping you to achieve success in your school career.

I am sure that your first day at Strangford will be an exciting and memorable one and we are certainly looking forward to your arrival and hope you are too.

Yours sincerely,

Clare Foster

(Principal)





OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Strangford Integrated College offers students of different abilities, religions and cultural backgrounds the opportunity to be educated together in a caring, trusting and inclusive community, which seeks to maximise their full potential and celebrate their achievements.

WHAT IS INTEGRATED EDUCATION?

Integrated Education brings children and staff from Catholic and Protestant traditions, as well as those of other beliefs, cultures and communities together in one school. For the past 30 years, in a deeply divided society, Integrated schools have been intentionally and proactively developed to encourage more mixing in schools.

Integrated schools ensure that children from Protestant and Catholic religious and/or cultural backgrounds, as well as others who identify differently, are educated together every day in the same classrooms.

It is important to note that Integrated schools are essentially Christian in character but proactively strive to ensure everyone's tradition is respected and included.

Empowering adults, children and young people as thinking individuals is a priority for integrated schools so that as they grow and mature, they'll be able to affect positive change in the shared society we live in.

In Strangford College we welcome students from all traditions and strive to ensure that understanding and respect for all is promoted in everything we do. To facilitate this, students will learn about their own culture and that of other traditions and faiths through curricular, sporting and enhancement activities.

We have high expectations at Strangford College, not only from an academic viewpoint, but also in your social development. Our students show respect to each other and all members of staff. You are expected to be caring and considerate at all times, to co-operate with all of your classmates and staff, and to be courteous and mannerly.

OUR HISTORY

The seeds of Strangford College were sown in February 1996, when parents attending a public meeting called by All Children Together (ACT) formed a Steering Committee which dedicated itself to opening a post-primary integrated school in the North Down and Ards area.

With the active support and backing of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education, the Integrated Fund and All Children Together, the College first opened its doors on 1st September 1997, with 64 students, 6 full-time members of staff and a school secretary. The school was located in the grounds of Carrowdore Castle which is just opposite the front gates of the school now.

There were four mobile classrooms and the offices for the principal and her secretary were on the ground floor of the castle. Parents cleaned the school for the first two years until we were able to employ cleaners.



During the first open day in 1998 we had over 1000 visitors to see the school. That was a lot of people to fit into four small mobile classrooms!

Recently there was a project to capture some of the history, memories and experiences of the people behind the foundation and development of integrated schools in NI. The collection of stories was called “There were no desks” and you can find it by clicking on this link :

<https://www.nicie.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/There-Were-No-Desks.pdf>

We have one remaining foundation teacher, Mrs Cacharro, one of our languages teachers, and you can read her story on pages 18-21

After 3 years of campaigning, lobbying and fundraising, the Department of Education awarded us grant maintained status in September 1999. This recognition was a significant milestone in the College's development.

The College continues to grow and thrive and has been consistently oversubscribed. We started with only 64 students in the whole school and now we have 130 joining in Year 8 alone! We are delighted that you are one of the students who will become part of the Strangford College family this year.

Our College motto is very significant and appropriate: *In Hoc Signo Vinctes* – Under the sign we are strong! You will see this on the badge on your blazer.

The Key Characteristics of Integrated education in Strangford College

The 4 core principles of Integrated Education represent the cornerstones of the integrated ethos. Integrated schools such as Strangford College demonstrate their distinctiveness and vision through a commitment to these principles.

The four core principles are:

- Equality and diversity
- Child centred education
- A partnership with parents
- Christian ethos.

Here is a link to the full statement of principles:

<https://www.nicie.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Statement-of-Principles.pdf>

These principles underpin everything we do and every decision we make in Strangford College and you will hear us referring to them in our lessons and assemblies.

COLLEGE PRAYER

Father, educate me for life.

Help me to follow the path you have set out before me.

Guide me to live with faith in You, with hope in Your plan for my life
and with love for all people.

Thank you for my parents who show me how to live.

Thank you for my teachers who use their talents so that I can develop my own.

Thank you for all the people who show respect for the life which You create for us.

THE SCHOOL DAY



Start of the Day

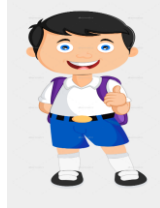
School starts with registration at 9.05am. You must arrive to school on time. There is morning registration every day from 09.05am until 09.20am. On Monday Assembly is held in the College Hall.

Outline of the School Day

09.05	Registration
09.20	Period 1
09.55	Period 2
10.30	Break
10.50	Period 3
11.25	Period 4
12.00	Period 5
12.35	Year 8 & 9 Lunch
13.10	Period 7
13.45	Period 8
14.20	Period 9
14.55	Period 10
15:30	End of School

ATTENDANCE AT STRANGFORD INTEGRATED COLLEGE

This is Simon. He is in Year 8 and has 90% attendance.



What does this mean?

Simon thinks this is pretty good, so do his parents.

Are they right?

- 90% attendance = $\frac{1}{2}$ day missed every week!!
- 1 school year at 90% attendance = 4 whole weeks of lessons MISSED!!
- 90% attendance over 5 years of post-primary school = $\frac{1}{2}$ a school year missed!
- Students who have attendance of 95% or above achieve the highest grades or levels.
- Students who have an attendance of less than 80% fail to achieve their target grade or level.
- If your attendance improves by 1%, your attainment improves by at least 5%.

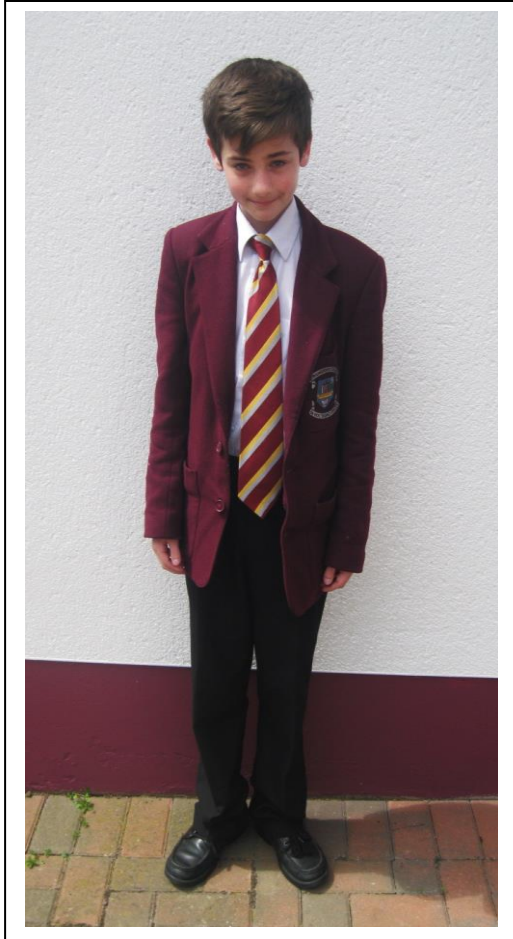
Good attendance gives you.

- An increased lifetime salary. This means you are more likely to get a better paid job, have more money, and therefore a higher quality of life.



WHAT WILL I WEAR?

College Uniform



What to wear:

Both

**Maroon Blazer with College Badge
House Tie (clip on)**

Boys

Plain White Shirt
Maroon V-neck jumper Maroon
Black trousers
Black socks

Girls

Plain White Blouse
V-neck jumper or Cardigan
Four kick pleat grey skirt
Plain grey socks or black
opaque tights

Black leather shoes (**shoes with distinctive fashion features, training shoes or plimsolls shoes are not permitted. Shoes should have heels no more than two inches high**).

No jewellery of any kind except a watch is allowed for either boys or girls and shirt tails tucked in at all times.

OPTIONAL – School waterproof or plain black coat.

A College scarf is available from the College Office.

WHAT WILL I WEAR?

PE Uniform



What to wear: Boys

College Rugby shorts

College Rugby shirt

College PE Socks



Girls

College Polo Shirt

College PE socks

Optional black hoody

***Please note football boots for boys are compulsory.**

***Girls must have sporting lace trainers and not plimsolls or Velcro fashion trainers.**

REMINDERS



- Please make sure your name appears on all pieces of uniform. This makes it easier to recognise your belongings.
- Pencil cases, school bags and other items of school equipment should not include the names of football teams.
- Only official College badges should be worn.
- Research has shown that carrying a bag with one strap over the shoulder can cause back problems. Stockists should give you advice on purchasing a suitable bag and we would ask you to use both straps when carrying your bag to ensure even distribution of weight.
- Please treat all items of your uniform with care.

WHAT SHOULD I BRING TO CLASS?



- Pencil Case, containing: Pens, Pencils, Erasers, Ruler, Coloured Pencils, Glue and Protractor.
- The books which you will need.
- Your Student Planner.
- A positive attitude.
- An enthusiasm for learning.

WHAT WILL I EAT?



You are going to need something to eat at lunchtime. So, what are your choices? All lunches are taken in the Canteen. You can choose from a wide range of foods in the Canteen and pay with your smart card. This will be issued to you on your first day. You can also bring a packed lunch; all packed lunches should be eaten in the College Canteen.

Nut Allergies – A number of students in the College have severe nut allergies. Do not bring nuts or products containing nuts into school.

Canteen Accounts

Students can put money onto their accounts using the revaluation machine in the school. The machines accept 10p, 20p, 50p, £1, £2 coins and £5 and £10 notes and parents can use the Parent Pay app to add further value to their accounts.

Each student uses his/her pin number or finger print in order to purchase food in the Canteen, cash will not be taken. Students entitled to free school meals will have **£2.80** credited to their account per day. This rolls over each day so it is important that they use the full amount as the remaining value will not be added on the following day.

Whether you choose to have a packed lunch or one supplied by the Canteen, remember to choose a well-balanced meal.

You are what you eat, so eat:



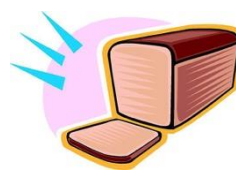
Less Fat



Less Salt



Less Sugar



More Fibre

As always behave well in the Canteen and show consideration for others.

There are no fizzy drinks or energy drinks permitted in school.

We encourage our students to drink water!!

HOW SHOULD I BEHAVE?



During your time with us, Strangford College is your school and the teachers take on some of the duties and obligations of your parents. Your teachers will be polite and respectful to you and it is expected that you will be polite and respectful to them too. Good manners are very important to all of us at Strangford College.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of life at Strangford College is meeting and making new friends. You should treat everyone with kindness and courtesy at all times.

Behaviour of the very highest standard is expected both inside and outside the classroom at Strangford College. **The College Code of Conduct** was agreed by students, staff and the Board of Governors. There is also a **Classroom Code of Conduct**, which includes helpful points to remember.

THE CLASSROOM CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Everyone should be on time.
2. We should be prepared for class with our books and our equipment.
3. We should treat others, our work and our equipment with respect.
4. Listen carefully to the teacher.
5. You have the right to be heard without interruption.
6. Respect the right of others to be heard.

THE COLLEGE CODE OF CONDUCT

We are a community at Strangford College. Care and respect for all members of Strangford College and wider community is at the centre of our philosophy.

- In order to promote and maintain this, all actions and words which hurt or offend others, are unacceptable.
- This means that no-one will use foul, sectarian, racist or sexist language towards one another.
- All forms of fighting are not tolerated by the College, including play fighting.

To preserve the clean and pleasant surroundings of Strangford College:

- Chewing gum and 'Tippex' liquid (or similar) must not be brought into the College. 'Tippex' tape (or similar) is allowed.
- School property should be treated with respect and everyone must ensure that books and property remain graffiti free.

To ensure that Strangford College is a place of safety for all:

- Students will remain within the school grounds at all times during the school day and are not allowed to run on the walkways.
- Students are strictly forbidden from bringing alcohol, tobacco or drugs into the premises.
- Adults are also reminded that the College operates a non-smoking policy.

For the reputation and good name of the College it is important always to look your best and to present a good image of the school:

- Correct uniform must be worn at all times.
- No badges or insignia, other than the official College badges, should be worn.
- Students should behave with courtesy and good manners both in and on the way to and from school.

If a pupil engages in an act of violence (e.g. physical, verbal or written) against the person or property of a member of the school staff, or to an immediate member of staff's family, at any time whether inside or outside school, disciplinary action will be taken against the pupil which may include consideration of the option to expel.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Our college Behaviour for Learning Policy aims to promote, reinforce and reward positive behaviour in order to support the academic, social and emotional development of all learners.

Strangford College has high expectations of learners promoting:

- a positive attitude to learning through high standards of discipline and behaviour, an active approach to learning and personal improvement.
- a high degree of self-respect and mutual respect.

The Behaviour for Learning Policy aims to promote and sustain good behaviour and a positive attitude to learning through a balanced approach to rewards and consequences.



REWARDS

Encouragement, praise and rewards are essential parts of the Behaviour for Learning policy.

Reward Points are the way by which we recognise the students' successes.

No more than one point is to be awarded by any member of staff. If achievement is worthy of more than one point it should be referred to the Head of Department (HoD), the Head of Year (HoY) or Core Leadership Team (CLT).

The following are areas worthy of Reward Points

1 Point (up to a maximum of 2) to be given per month by Form Tutor for:

- Wearing correct uniform and being fully equipped and prepared for learning
- Polite, respectful behaviour

1 Point to be given by Classroom Teacher for:

- Consistently improving standards of work – using Trackers
- Core Assessment Amber = 1 point
- Green in A2L = 1 point
- Clear improvement from previous Core Assessment Result, e.g. Red – Amber = 1 Point

1 Point to be given by Subject Leader for:

- Outstanding pieces of work
- Noticeable effort in class or homework

The following can be rewarded by all staff members.

- Outstanding effort, commitment or achievement in extra-curricular activities
- Service to the school or local community

Achievement points are added up each term and students are rewarded at a special celebration of achievement assembly. All students receive a certificate and there is a prize draw for some great prizes which are donated by staff, parents, governors etc. These prizes range from novelty gifts to vouchers for high street stores, cinemas, Amazon, etc and each term there is a star prize.

Positive reinforcement is used as much as possible in a variety of ways:

1. Positive gestures and acknowledgement of good behaviour and achievement
2. Departments nominate students as 'Learner of the Month' and send postcards home on this basis
3. Year teams will monitor A2L and make appropriate contact with home. (see Assessment for Learning Policy)
4. Achievements recognised and celebrated on the college website, noticeboards, assemblies and Prize Day
5. Students should also have the opportunity to display excellent work on Open Nights
6. Reward trips or visits.

There are some competitions and tasks throughout this handbook which you can complete for achievement points or house points.

BEHAVIOUR AND CONSEQUENCES

At Strangford we have great students, who are keen to learn and who behave in all classes. These steps and consequences are there to ensure that we can all learn and enjoy our time together.

STEPS	CONSEQUENCES
<p>C1 (Class teacher)</p> <p>Low level disruption e.g. chatting, lack of work, lack of respect, misuse of equipment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your name is placed on the whiteboard and a verbal warning issued. If you respond well, there are no further consequences.
<p>C2 (Class teacher/form teacher)</p> <p>Persistent low level disruption e.g. continuation of the above, answering back, refusing to follow instructions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your name is recorded in the form book. You may be issued with a break or a lunch time focus time.
<p>C3 (any member of the teaching staff)</p> <p>Failing to adhere to the rules that are set to promote safety, good citizenship and effective learning in the College.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A C3 is when one hour of focus time is issued. This may be for behaviour issues inside or outside the class. The member of staff issuing a C3 notifies the office, your parents and a record is kept.
<p>C4 (Learning coordinator/deputy principal)</p> <p>This signifies that the students has made choices that are unacceptable within our community.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A full day withdrawal with the Learning Coordinator/Form Tutor. Students will be required to work in silence and to complete the work that is set. The withdrawal day gives the student a chance to reflect on the choices they have made.
<p>C5 (deputy principal/principal)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A fixed term suspension Meeting with parents A record will be kept in your personal file

MOBILE PHONES



Parents will be aware of government guidelines on the use of mobile phones and the attendant health issues. Recent research suggests that young people, 15 and under, are using such phones more than 45 minutes per day. The College, while respecting the use of mobile phones for emergencies is concerned about the misuse during school time or on school premises. It is our policy that mobiles phones must be switched off immediately when the students arrive into school and remain switched off until 3.30pm. Should a mobile phone be used for any reason on school premises including break and lunch time, it will be confiscated and sent to the office where it can be collected at the end of the school day. The phone in the office can be made available for student use should they need to contact parents. In cases of emergencies, parents will be contacted by the College.

It is worth noting that the use of mobile phones in public examinations will result in exclusion from that examination and the probability of exclusion from all other exams.

Cyberbullying / Misuse of Mobile Phones

Please be aware that all e-communications on the school site or as part of school activities off-site will be monitored. We will work with partner agencies when necessary to deal with cyberbullying issues using mobile phones. Sanctions will be taken in line with our Behaviour Management Policy.

Other personal electronic devices



Students are not encouraged to bring personal music players, games systems or other personal electronic devices to school. If students decide to do this, the College will not take responsibility for them.

INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

ACCEPTABLE USE

Student guidelines for Internet-use

General

Pupils are responsible for good behaviour on the internet, just as they are in a classroom or a school corridor. General school rules apply.

The internet, primarily, is provided for pupils to conduct research and back-up their work. Parent's/carer's permission is required before a pupil is granted access. Access is a privilege not a right and that access requires responsibility.

Individual users of the internet are responsible for their behaviour and communications over the network. Users must comply with the College Code of Conduct.

Staff may review files and communications to ensure that users are using computer storage areas responsibly. Users should not expect that files stored on servers or storage media are always private.

During school hours, teachers will guide pupils towards appropriate materials. Outside of school, families bear responsibility for such guidance with information sources such as television, mobile phones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.

The following are not permitted within the school environment:

1. Sending or displaying offensive messages or pictures
2. Using obscene language
3. Harassing, insulting or attacking others
4. Damaging computers, computer systems or computer networks
5. Violating copyright laws
6. Using others' passwords or accounts
7. 'Hacking' into others' folders, work or files for any reason
8. Intentionally wasting limited resources, including printer ink and paper.

Sanctions

1. Violations of the above rules will result in a temporary or permanent ban on internet/computer use
2. Parents/carers will be informed
3. Additional disciplinary action may be added in line with existing practice on inappropriate language or behaviour
4. When applicable, police or local authorities may be involved
5. If necessary, external agencies such as Social Networking or Email Member sites may be contacted and informed.

Details of the Social Networking Policy for Students may be found on the College website.

ON THE BUSES!



Buses from School

On the first day your child will be provided with detailed bus information and will be introduced to a designated member of staff who will guide them safely to the correct bus.

If you have any questions about the buses please contact Translink (25652214) or the College. Further information can be found at <http://www.translink.co.uk/Services/Other-Translink-Services/Schools>.

CODE OF CONDUCT ON THE BUS



The Board of Governors and staff of the College have agreed the following Code of Conduct for our students.

1. Place bags on over-head racks or laps - nowhere else at any time.
2. Stay in your seat (if one is available) while the bus is moving.
3. Do not shout out, misbehave, throw items, leave litter or in any way annoy others.
4. Do not deface bus property in any way.
5. If standing, do so beyond the bus platform and not in close proximity to the driver.
6. Do not rap windows or in any way communicate with any member of the passing public.
7. Student should alight from buses at specified points.
8. Show courtesy to all members of the public, e.g. give up seats to elderly passengers.
9. Thank driver when leaving the bus.

The Manager of Translink and the College have agreed that should any of our students misbehave on the buses they will be excluded from travelling on that route for one day. If the student persistently misbehaves then he/she will be excluded permanently.

CODE OF CONDUCT ON SCHOOL TRIPS AND EVENTS

1. Students will act in a way that adheres to the principles of the College Code of Conduct.
2. Students will behave with care and respect for all members of Strangford College and the wider community.
3. The correct school uniform should be worn neatly.
4. Students will follow the instructions of the teachers and supervising adults.
5. At all times, students will behave in a way that represents Strangford College positively, showing courtesy and good manners to others.
6. Students should not act in any way that compromises the Health and Safety of themselves or others.

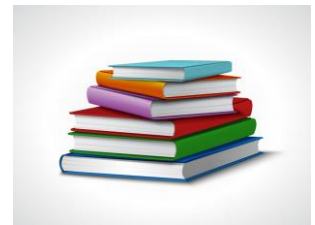
IS IT ALL HARD WORK?

NO – it's not all hard work! At Strangford, we believe that extra-curricular activities are a vital part of a child's development and as you probably know, we have a wide range of extra-curricular activities on offer. They take place at lunchtime and after school. Our clubs and societies form an important part of College life; therefore, we encourage you to get involved with at least one.

Some popular clubs and societies at Strangford College include:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| • Art | • Gymnastics |
| • Athletics | • Hockey |
| • Badminton | • Homework |
| • Book | • Hurling |
| • Careers | • Icode |
| • Chess | • Journalism |
| • Choir | • MFL Media |
| • Cross Country | • Netball |
| • Cookery | • Photo Club |
| • Debating Society | • Rugby |
| • DofEd | • Sailing Scripture Union (Junior & Senior) |
| • Drama | • STEAM |
| • Folk Band | • Strangford Surfers |
| • Football | • (Junior ICT Club) |
| • Gardening | • Volleyball |
| • Golf | • Young Life (Junior & Senior) |

Early in the term you will find out where and when each club is held. We look forward to seeing you there.



ACCELERATED READING

At Strangford College we encourage all of our students to read widely and to enjoy books. Reading not only improves a child's literacy, vocabulary and language skills, but it also develops a child's imagination and improves their concentration. In Year 8, you will be participating in the Accelerated Reading Scheme.

Accelerated Reader gives teachers the information they need to monitor students' reading practice and make informed decisions to guide their future learning.

A comprehensive set of reports reveals how much a student has been reading, at what level of complexity and how well they have understood what they have read. Vocabulary growth and literacy skills are also measured, giving teachers insight into how well students have responded to reading schemes and class instructions.

Accelerated Reader is based on levels and below are some examples of books found within each level.



Accelerated Reader Level	Book title and Author
Green and Red 1 – 2.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Super animals – Anne Rooney • It's time to talk – Sue Graves • Fishing for Trouble – David Orme • The Tunnel – John Townsend
Blue 3 – 3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Game of Two Halves – David Clayton • Stunt Riders – David Orme • Deadly Custard – Sue Graves • David Beckham – Roy Apps
Yellow 4 – 4.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleepovers – Jacqueline Wilson • Billionaire Boy – David Walliams • The Twits – Roald Dahl • Diary of a Wimpy Kid – Jeff Kinney
Orange 5 – 5.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Inspector Calls – J.B Priestly • Private Peaceful – Michael Morpurgo • The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins • The Fault in our Stars – John Green
White 6 plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacky Daydream – Jacqueline Wilson • Harry Potter series – J.K Rowling • How to Train your Dragon – Cressida Cowel • The Woman in Black – Susan Hill



ENGLISH COMPETITION

Writing a letter to your new English teacher

You should write a letter introducing yourself to your new English teacher. This should contain information about yourself; your hobbies, your favourite subjects and any activities you have particularly enjoyed during your years in primary school. You should also include information about which parts of English you are good at and which skills you are looking forward to improving.

You should take care to produce your best writing:

- Use paragraphs
- Have an opening and an ending
- Do your very best with spelling, punctuation and grammar

Write your letter by hand and bring it along to your first English lesson in September. Your new teacher will be able to read it and learn lots about you!

Everyone who writes a letter will be rewarded with Achievement points. The best ones will win a special prize.

Please remember to bring in your best piece of extended writing from P7 for your new English teacher.

NEW SUBJECTS...NEW TEACHERS...

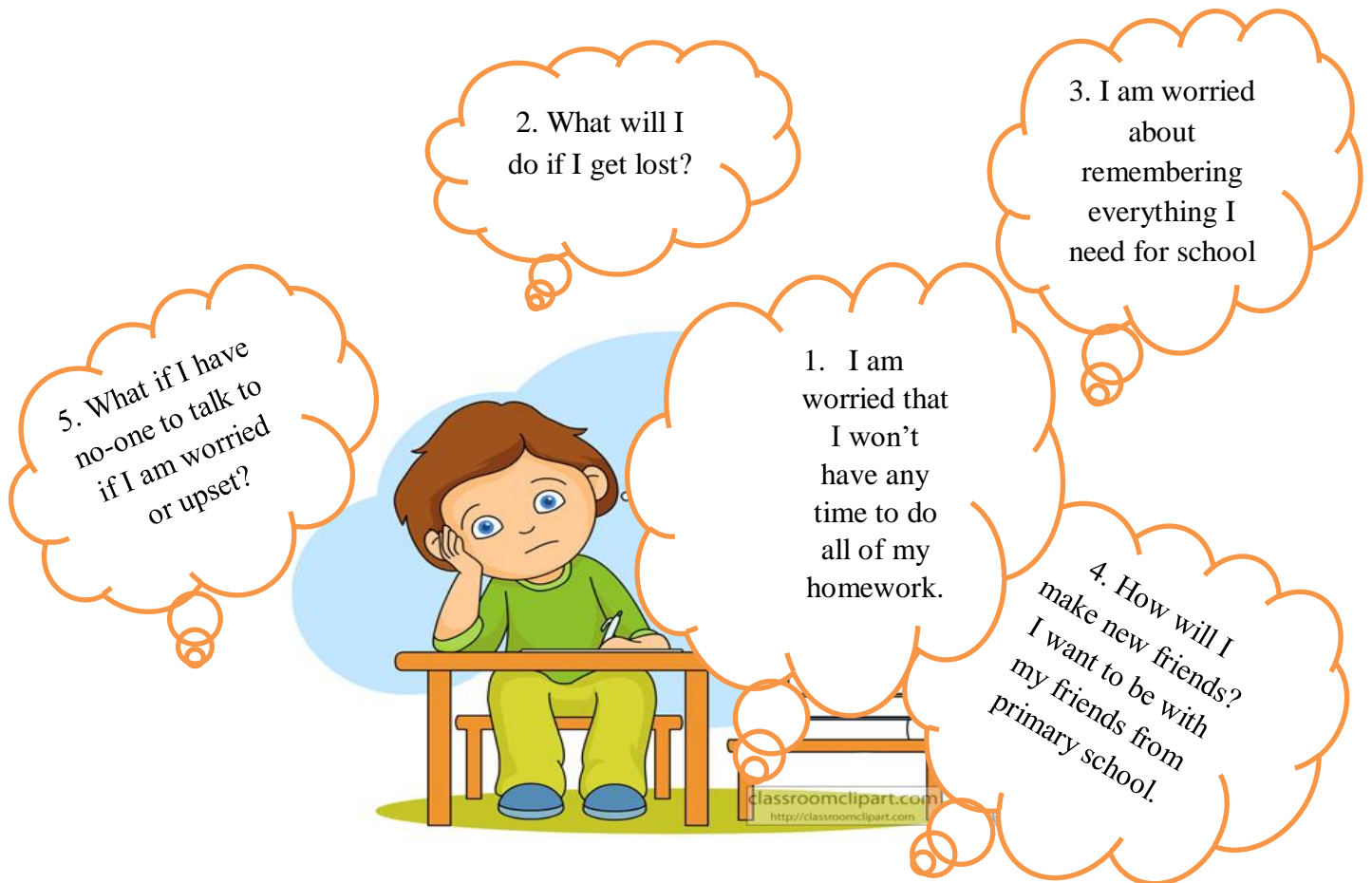
Fill in your teachers' names below.

Principal	_____
Deputy Principal	_____
Assistant Deputy Principal	_____
Assistant Deputy Principal	_____
Head/s of Year	_____
Form Tutor	_____
Maths	_____
English	_____
History	_____
Languages	_____
Geography	_____
P.E.	_____
Design & Technology	_____
Art & Design	_____
Home Economics	_____
R.E.	_____
Drama	_____
Music	_____
LLW	_____
Science	_____
_____	_____



WORRIED ABOUT STARTING POST PRIMARY SCHOOL?

This is Alfie. He is worried about starting post-primary school. His thought bubbles show the different things that he is worried about.



What things worry you about starting Strangford Integrated College?



Don't worry Alfie it is normal to feel worried about going to a new school. Tyler has some advice to help ease your worries.

2. If you get lost you can use the map in this book to help. Look for the signs around the school that tell you room numbers and name of the department.

1. You will receive a student planner which will help you keep all your homework and dates organised.



3. Be organised – in your learning log there is a list of everything you need. Pack your bag the night before to make sure that you have everything you need.

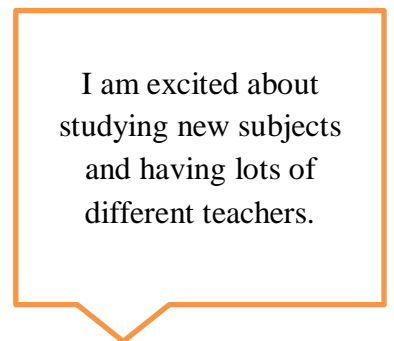
4. Don't worry! Everyone is feeling the same. You will get to do lots of fun activities and games in your new form group to help you get to know each other.

5. If you feel sad or upset, there are always people that you can talk to. The most important person is your form tutor, as you will see them every day.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO?

Going to post-primary school is an exciting change, with new friends, new subjects and new experiences.

What are you most looking forward to at Strangford Integrated College? Write your answers in the speech bubble.

An empty speech bubble with an orange border and a pointed bottom, intended for a student's response.An empty speech bubble with an orange border and a pointed bottom, intended for a student's response.A speech bubble with an orange border and a pointed bottom, containing the text: "I am excited about studying new subjects and having lots of different teachers."An empty speech bubble with an orange border and a pointed bottom, intended for a student's response.An empty speech bubble with an orange border and a pointed bottom, intended for a student's response.

What advice would you give someone who felt nervous about starting post-primary school?

A large, empty rounded rectangle with an orange border, intended for a student's advice.

YEAR 8 POSTER COMPETITION!

Design and create a poster or collage with the title

‘ALL ABOUT ME’

- It can be any colour or size
- It can be drawn by hand or on a computer
- It should include your hobbies and interests, pictures of places you have been, family and friends, or anything that you would like to share with your new tutor group about yourself.

You will get the opportunity to present your poster/project to your new tutor group.

You will be given valuable house points for entering!

Bring your poster or collage in on your first day

GOOD LUCK!



WHAT HAPPENS IF?

Arrive late? (after 9.05am)

Go to Form Class where you will be recorded as 'LATE'. After 9.20am, sign in at reception and then go to class. Your Form Teacher will speak to you in registration about your lateness. You may be given an after school focus time for persistent lateness.

Doctor or Dentist? (leaving school early)

Show the note from home to your Form Teacher. Get the "Sign Out" sheet from reception and take it with the letter to your Head of Year who will fill it in and then you sign the sheet in the office before you leave. Try to avoid making dental and medical appointments during school hours – only in emergencies please!

Absent?

The next day you are at school you must bring a note from home stating the reason for the absence. This should be given to your Form Teacher.

Forgotten your pin number for the Canteen?

You can use your finger print instead or go to the college office for another one.

Feeling unwell?

If you feel unwell during a lesson, tell your subject teacher. If you continue to feel ill your Form Teacher may make arrangements for you to rest or go home.

Lost something?

Ask a friend to help and look in all the rooms in which you have had lessons during the day. Ask about lost property at the college office. Still no luck? Report the missing item to your Form Teacher. If you find a piece of lost property, take it immediately to the college office.

I have a problem with my work?

Don't worry, everyone has problems with work from time to time. If you are in a lesson put up your hand and ask the teacher or talk to him/her at the end of the lesson. If you can't do your homework ask your family to help. If you are still stuck ask your mum or dad to write a note to your teacher. If you are often worried about your work have a chat with your form tutor. He/she will be able to advise you, or get someone else to give you extra help. Don't forget the HOMEWORK CLUB where you can also receive help.

Parental Concern?

If your parents have any concerns about your educational or pastoral needs, they should contact your **Form Teacher**.

Above all, remember not to panic! Your teachers are there to help you and want you to succeed

DON'T WORRY ...

Although it may be hard to comprehend, deep down everyone is worried about the same things. You are not the only one!

JW Year 8

Don't worry, at first a new school would seem big and scary but by the end of your first day you will have lots of new friends to help you through.

SB Year 8

I was worried about starting a new school and having no friends; but when I started I noticed that everyone was talking to their new classmates and it was so nice to meet new people. They all accepted me for who I was.

NN Year 8

I was worried about getting around the school. Within 2 weeks you know it like the back of your hand.

JM Year 8

I was worried about being bullied, but I wasn't and if I ever was they would face serious consequences. After about 3 weeks I had settled with no problems.

AN Year 8

When I started I was worried about the exams and homework and I was scared that I wasn't going to make any friends. I have loads of friends now and I can cope with the homework.

RM Year 8

I was scared of coming to Strangford because I didn't know whether I would make friends or if I would get along with the teachers. After 2 weeks of getting used to things I settled down and now I am never worried. The teachers are great and school is great fun.

DM Year 8

Strangford College was scary at the start. I was worried about finding my way around and having friends. You get used to the size and you will find your way round soon enough. I have great friends.

RC Year 8

I was worried about struggling in subjects, but the teachers are very helpful. Teaching assistants are always solving problems and helping you out.

SS Year 8

FIRST DAY EXPERIENCES

First days at Strangford College

My first day in big school was very strange
Science, French a new subject range
Class to class, moving about
I will find my way, one day, no doubt!
Old faces, new faces all in one room
I am sure to make friends very soon
I was lucky to have my cousin at my side
Because this adventure was going to be a bumpy ride
On the bus in the morning, I go to school
This was easy and really cool
I love my time at Strangford college
And now have great friends, have fun and gained new knowledge

By Jack

8R

Welcome to Strangford

Strangford is the best school ever! I love it here. When I found out I was going to Strangford my heart soared because I was super excited!

On my first day I was so nervous but now I think to myself 'Why was I so nervous?' because Strangford is my second home, it is my school family.

I found it hard on the first morning because there were so many people I didn't really know and I just wanted to be with my friend from primary school. Everyone from year 8 had to meet in the hall and wait for Mrs Foster to come in and greet us. Afterwards we had our break and then the vice principal came in to tell us what classes we were in. Next we got to meet our form teachers and got to spend some time with them. My form teacher was Mrs Turnbull and she's the best!

On my first day I met a girl called Kezia. She is so kind and sweet, so remember you can always find great friends even on day one! We had so much fun on our first day. The person that I most got to know is Mrs Wilson. She is a classroom assistant and she is so helpful. I now also know the dinner ladies in the canteen and the food is so tasty. My favourite day is Tuesday as it is chips on Tuesday! You can get a variety of delicious food in the canteen such as sausage rolls, pain au chocolat, hot dogs and plenty more!

I get the bus to school and it was there I met my friend Lily. I got to know her because her cousin was helping me settle in. On the bus we have great banter and it makes the journey go faster. We got to go on a fantastic trip to Ganaway. It was a great day! We got to go on high ropes and try caving and we had a scrumptious breakfast which was French themed.

My favourite subjects are probably all of them. French was the first proper language I have ever learned. My teacher Mrs Cacharro makes class so much fun. In Art you get homework which lets you be as creative as you want. I got moved up in Maths class not that long ago too, so always remember if you work hard you can achieve goals

In PE the girls participate in gymnastics, netball, circuits, conditioning, rugby and athletics. I also really enjoy Netball at school. I go to Netball Club every Monday after school but if that isn't your thing there are plenty of clubs to choose from. You should definitely try something new.

I really hope you enjoy Strangford College as much as I do.

Ella 8A

Hi Everyone

My name is Rhys.

I hope you are looking forward to starting Strangford College.

I started on Friday 30th August 2019.

Day one - I hardly slept the night before with nerves and excitement.

I woke up extremely early and couldn't wait to put my uniform on.

As I was getting ready my stomach was filled with nerves as I was getting closer to leave and begin my new school years at Strangford College.

From when I visited Strangford College on open night I knew this was the school for me. I instantly fell in love with it!

Now it was time to leave home.

The car journey seemed so short and as I pulled into the car park, I felt so nervous. There were only two others from my Primary School attending, but they weren't in my Primary School class, so I didn't really know them.

Off I went across the car park where I was met by a few teachers. I went into the reception area and was greeted by more teachers and other members of staff.

They instantly made me feel very welcome and I was shown to the assembly hall and told where to sit.

Mrs Gibson gave a talk and then we met our form class and form teacher.

In form class we played some 'get to know you' games which were fun.

Our first day was very short but fun and exciting. My nerves settled very quickly.

Day Two - We were shown our way around the school. I remember thinking I will never remember my way around, but it only took a couple of days and everyone is so helpful if you get lost.

I have made a lot of new friends and got to know my teachers well.

We were taken to Ganaway where we made lots of memories with teachers and friends.

All the teachers got involved in all the activities too which was fun.

Throughout my time at Strangford College I have enjoyed new subjects. My favourites are P.E, English, French, Technology and H.E.

I'm particularly enjoying using the machinery in Technology

My advice is try not to be nervous, as hard as that is, you've really no need.

You will make lots of new friends here at Strangford. Everyone is so friendly and we're like one big family.

I hope you will enjoy your journey here as much as I have.

Rhys

YEAR 8 INTEGRATED ETHOS

SUMMER HOLIDAY ACTIVITY

You have made the decision to join Strangford College and to be educated within an integrated school. We would like you to take part in an activity with your family over the summer to enhance your understanding of what it means to be part of an integrated school.

The title is “**Integration**” and we would like you to produce, for example, a drawing, a poster, a poem, a short story, a model you have made or a collage of pictures that demonstrates your understanding of what an integrated school is. Your entry should be brought into school when we start back during the autumn term.

The Year 8 pastoral team will look at all your entries. We will display them in school and you might even get your creation shown on the NICIE website.

To help you with your entry, have a look at the information in this booklet about what integrated education is and how Strangford College started and you can also look up some sites on the internet such as:

- Our school website www.strangfordcollege.net
- NICIE (Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education) www.nicie.org
- IEF (Integrated Education Fund) www.ief.org.uk

We are going to award achievement points for every entry and we will award extra achievement points for the best entries as judged by the Year 8 pastoral team. This is a good way to get your achievement points off to a good start.

Remember points mean prizes!

Literacy House Competition

Your task is to write a paragraph describing your summer holidays.

Your paragraph **MUST INCLUDE** exactly:

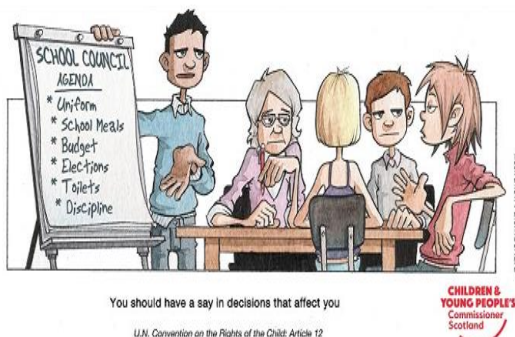
- * 10 lines
- * 20 capital letters
- * 10 full stops
- * 5 adjectives
- * 2 similies
- * a question mark
- * an exclamation mark
- * and lots of imagination!



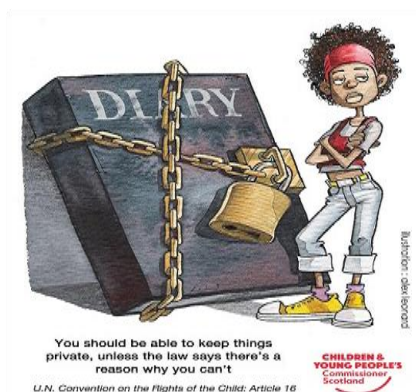
Article 2 – You have the right to protection against discrimination



Article 12 – You should have a say in decisions that affect you



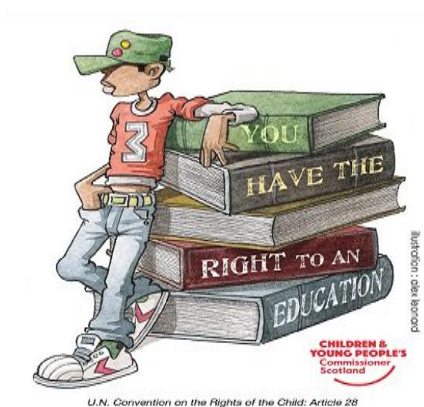
Article 16 – You should be able to keep things private, unless the law says a reason that you can't.



Article 24 – You should get the best health care possible



Article 28 – You have the right to an education



Article 31 – You have the right to relax, play music, play sports and drama.



RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL HOUSE COMPETITION!



Strangford College is proud to be a **Rights Respecting School**. This means that we are a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, protected and promoted. We achieved our Silver Award in 2018 and we cannot wait to try and achieve the Gold Award!

In Strangford College our students have one thing in common: their rights! We want to challenge you to become familiar with these rights and we have created a task for you!



You have been provided with a list of the rights that you are entitled to. Over the summer, we would love you to recreate some of these rights in your own creative way.

Choose one right from the list (or more if you like!) and find a creative way to represent this. For example, you might represent a right through:

- Drawing a poster
- Taking a photo
- Creating a freeze frame (Do you have any family members who could help you out?)
- Recording a video
- Creating a sculpture or model



Make sure you write down which right your creation is represents!

The winner will be awarded the most creative entry. Good luck!

Make sure you write down which right **your** creation represents.

1 We are born free and equal, and should treat others in the same way.

2 We have all these rights in the Declaration, no matter who we are, where we're from or what we believe in.

3 We have the right to life, and to be free and feel safe.

4 Nobody has any right to make us a slave. We cannot make anyone else our slave.

5 Nobody has any right to hurt, torture or humiliate us.

6 Everyone has the right to be protected by the law.

7 The law is the same for everyone. It must treat us all fairly.

8 We can all ask for the law to help us when we are not treated fairly.

9 Nobody has the right to put us in prison, or to send us away from our country, without good reasons.

10 If we are accused of breaking the law, we have the right to a fair and public trial.

11 Nobody should be blamed for doing something until it has been proved that they did it.

12 Nobody has the right to enter our home, open our letters or bother us or our families without a good reason.

13 We all have the right to go where we want to in our own country and to travel abroad as we wish.

14 If someone hurts us, we have the right to go to another country and ask for protection.

15 We all have the right to belong to a country.

16 When we are legally old enough, we have the right to marry and have a family.

17 Everyone has the right to own things or share them.

18 We all have the right to our own thoughts and to believe in any religion.

19 We can all think what we like, say what we think and share ideas and information with other people.

20 We all have the right to meet our friends and work together in peace to defend our rights. It is wrong to force someone to belong to a group.

21 We all have the right to take part in the government of our country. Every grown up should be allowed to vote to choose their own leaders.

22 The place where we live should help us to develop and to make the most of all the advantages (culture, work, social welfare) on offer. Music, art, craft and sport are for everyone to enjoy.

23 Every grown up has the right to a job, to a fair wage and to join a trade union.

24 We all have the right to rest and free time.

25 We all have the right to a decent living standard, including enough food, clothing, housing and medical help if we are ill. Mothers and children and people who are old, out of work or disabled have the right to be cared for.

26 We all have the right to education.

27 We have the right to share in our community's arts and sciences, and any good they do.

28 There must be peace and order to protect these rights and freedoms, and we can enjoy them in our country and all over the world.

29 We have a duty to other people, and we should protect their rights and freedoms.

30 Nobody can take away these rights and freedoms from us.

This version of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has been simplified by Amnesty International UK and is especially useful for younger people. Download a full version at www.amnesty.org.uk/universal