



MOUNT LOURDES GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Prospectus



Welcome to Mount Lourdes

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in Mount Lourdes Grammar School. This prospectus will provide you with an insight into the life and work of our school and what the Mount Lourdes community can offer your daughter.

We are an all girls' Catholic Grammar school founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1909. Our Catholic ethos and Mercy tradition permeate all aspects of school life making Mount Lourdes a caring and supportive community. Each individual student is valued here. We are committed to nurturing and fostering the holistic development of each student. Mount Lourdes provides a warm, happy, welcoming atmosphere with high standards of pastoral care and support.

Our approach is founded on a special partnership between parents, the school and the students. We therefore work closely to ensure each young person achieves the very best and reaches her full potential. We believe in setting high standards across all aspects of school life. We pride ourselves on our academic opportunities and achievements. The broad curriculum we offer at all key stages provides a varied and enriched learning experience. We are focused on providing our students with the skills and knowledge young people need in a fast-changing world. Our dedicated team of teachers and support staff ensure that students have access to high quality learning and teaching experiences as well as personalised guidance and mentoring. We are particularly proud that all our students leave with qualifications which enable them to access a vast array of career pathways.

We aim to provide the very best extra-curricular opportunities for our students to further develop self-confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

In Mount Lourdes we strive to enable all students achieve high standards, realise their full potential and become successful learners, confident individuals and positively contribute to the school and wider community.

I hope that this prospectus, in conjunction with your visit to our annual Open Night will support you in making an informed decision about the next stage of your daughter's education.

Mrs Sinead Cullen
Principal





When Mount Lourdes Grammar School was established in 1909 by the Sisters of Mercy, its founders were inspired by the need to provide an education that would qualify the girls of Fermanagh for the full range of employment opportunities that were available at the time. That vision continues to guide the work of the school today.

Over the years the school has adapted in response to growing student numbers and the requirements of an ever changing curriculum. Mount Lourdes now has buildings and resources which facilitate the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum to the highest standards. It is a member of the Fermanagh Learning Community which provides students with access to an extended range of courses at Post 16 Level.

Students coming to Mount Lourdes will experience a welcoming environment in which they can develop their abilities and talents to the fullest extent. We endeavour to give students opportunities and experiences that are designed to help them develop into mature young adults and make informed decisions about their futures.



The School Aims

Recognising that everybody is unique, the school strives to create a community atmosphere so that each student and member of staff is respected and appreciated as a person of importance.

- to motivate our students in the pursuit of a high standard of personal achievement and skills development by providing a varied range of quality learning and teaching experiences in a stimulating environment.
- to ensure that our students have access to a broad curriculum which enables them to access a wide variety of career pathways.
- to enable each student to fully develop her talents by providing opportunities for participation in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities.
- to further establish links with the local and wider community to enhance student experiences and opportunities.
- to create and maintain a safe pastoral environment in which the health and wellbeing of individual students is nurtured; an attitude of self-discipline, resilience and responsibility for her own actions is encouraged and a sense of self-worth is fostered.
- to promote a collaborative team spirit among staff and to support their professional development.
- to work in partnership with parents in the promotion of the overall growth and development of the student, acknowledging the role of parents as primary educators of the young person.
- to help students acquire and develop Christian values, attitudes and moral standards - based on Catholic teaching - that will influence and inform their choices and behaviour throughout life.
- to provide a positive and inclusive environment in which all students and staff are respected, valued and supported.



Curriculum Information

The curriculum offered in Mount Lourdes is designed to give each student the opportunity to realise her full potential and to develop her interests and talents. Students follow a broad range of subjects which meets their needs and ability, to ensure achievement and progression routes. The curriculum allows for a wide variety of learning experiences which are motivating, challenging, relevant, enjoyable, and engaging. We encourage our students to develop independent learning strategies and to show a commitment to their studies. The curriculum is devised to prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of adult life.

Documents relating to the curriculum and how it is delivered, to which the public have right of access, may be examined at the school by appointment.

Complaints regarding the curriculum shall be dealt with in accordance with Article 33 of the Education Reform (NI) order 1989 and subsequent regulations.



Careers Education (CEIAG)

Careers Education within the school helps students acquire the skills, attitudes and values to enable them to become effective decision makers in order to select a fulfilling and worthwhile career.

Careers Education, referred to as Employability at Key Stages 3 and 4, is offered through the Learning for Life and Work Programme in Years 8-11 and as a distinct Careers Education class in Years 12, 13 and 14.

Students are guided in their choice of subjects and are made aware of the range of career pathways which are available to them. Individual advice on completing university and college applications is given.

Each student undertakes a work experience placement in Year 13 and is given formal training in interview technique during Year 14.

The Careers Education Department hosts speakers from Irish and UK universities who advise Post-16 students about the application processes, the writing of personal statements, the range of courses and entry requirements, campus life and financial matters.

The Careers Team have well established links with local, national and international employers and throughout the year they organise workshops and employer talks.

Partnership in Sustainability with Mannok

Mount Lourdes have a five year 'Partnership in Sustainability' with local company Mannok. Mannok supports the work of the school by providing opportunities for learning beyond the classroom with educational and work experience visits. Through the partnership students gain valuable insights into a wide range of career pathways which are available within the local area.



Subjects Offered

Subjects Offered at Key Stage 3 (Years 8 - 10)

- Art and Design
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Information and Communication Technology
- Irish

- Learning for Life and Work
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Spanish
- Technology and Design

Students are arranged in classes without reference to ability. The range of subjects studied in each class differs only in the area of Modern Languages, where students take two languages from the three which are offered.

Subjects Offered at Key Stage 4 (Years 11 & 12)

Core Programme

- Careers (CEAIG)
- English Language
- Learning for Life and Work
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Physical Education
- Science - Double Award

Optional Subjects

- Art and Design
- Drama
- Economics
- English Literature
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics: Food & Nutrition
- Digital Technology
- Irish
- Music
- Spanish
- Technology and Design

All students take at least nine subjects at GCSE level.

Subjects Offered at AS/A level

- Agriculture*
- Health and Social Care
(Single and Double Award)
- Art and Design
- Biology
- Business (BTEC Level 3)
- Chemistry
- Creative Media Production Computer Gaming*
- Creative Media Production T.V. and Film*
- Digital Technology
- Economics
- Engineering (BTEC Level 3)*
- English Literature
- French
- Further Mathematics*

- Geography
- Government and Politics
- History
- Irish
- Life & Health Science (Single and Double Award)
- Mathematics
- Music*
- Nutrition & Food Science
- Performing Arts (BTEC Level 3)*
- Physics
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Software Systems Development*
- Spanish
- Sport Science and the Active Leisure Industry
- Technology & Design
- Travel & Tourism*

*Subjects marked * are currently offered through the Fermanagh Learning Community*

Students may study three or four subjects to AS Level and three subjects to A Level.

In specific circumstances a student may be permitted to study four A2 subjects.

Students are normally expected to have achieved a minimum of a B grade in a subject at GCSE if they want to pursue it at AS/A Level. (This guideline applies to subjects that are available on the Key Stage 4 curriculum.)

Choice of subjects at AS/A level is unrestricted, but in practice certain combinations are not available due to organisational challenges.

All Year 13 and 14 students follow the Religious Education and Living, Careers Education Information and Guidance and Personal Development Programmes.

Examination Boards

- CEA
- AQA
- Pearson



Religious Education

All students participate in the school's Religious Education Programme throughout their time in school. This gives them opportunities to deepen their spiritual life and extend their knowledge of the Catholic Faith.

Their growth in the faith is supported and further encouraged by participation in whole school assemblies, liturgies, class liturgies and school retreats. They are guided towards an appreciation of the importance of prayer and worship in their lives.

A significant number of Post-16 students undertake training as Ministers of the Eucharist and participate in the Pope John Paul II Award Scheme.

Students who are involved in the Volunteer Impact Awards Programme have the opportunity to fulfil their obligations through participation in school based fund-raising work. This work develops a sense of commitment to others who are in need and reflects the school community's dedication to faith in action.



Pastoral Provision

Personal Development

The Pastoral Curriculum is designed to assist the personal development of each student in order that she may take full advantage of the opportunities offered to her in school, and be prepared for adult life.

On entering Mount Lourdes each student is assigned a form teacher who delivers the school's Learning for Life and Work Programme. This enables the teacher to establish a close relationship with a small group of students and so allows for the development of trust and support within the form group. This system enables each student to play her full part in the life of the school and permits her academic progress and emotional health and well-being to be closely monitored.

Relationships and Sexuality Education, Drug Awareness and advice on Personal and Online Safety units are included in the Personal Development Programme.

We appreciate the challenge that the transition to our school poses for new students in Years 8 and 13. The Heads of Year, Form Teachers and subject teachers aim to help these students manage this change with ease, giving them support, encouragement, guidance and advice. A Pastoral Event is held for all Year 8 Students during Term One and guest speakers and age-appropriate workshops are utilised, to assist in the delivery of aspects of the Preventative Curriculum.



Child Protection

A Child Protection Policy operates in Mount Lourdes. We aim to protect the students in our care by ensuring that all personnel have clear guidance on the detection and management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. In all their contact with students, staff in Mount Lourdes follow the guidance and procedures described in the DENI publication Safeguarding and Child Protection: A Guide for Schools' Circular 2017/04 (updated October 2022).

Parents / Guardians are issued with important information when their daughter starts Mount Lourdes and biannually thereafter. This includes a summary of the schools policy on: Child Protection, Pastoral Care, Substance Use and Misuse and Internet, Email and Electronic communication equipment use.

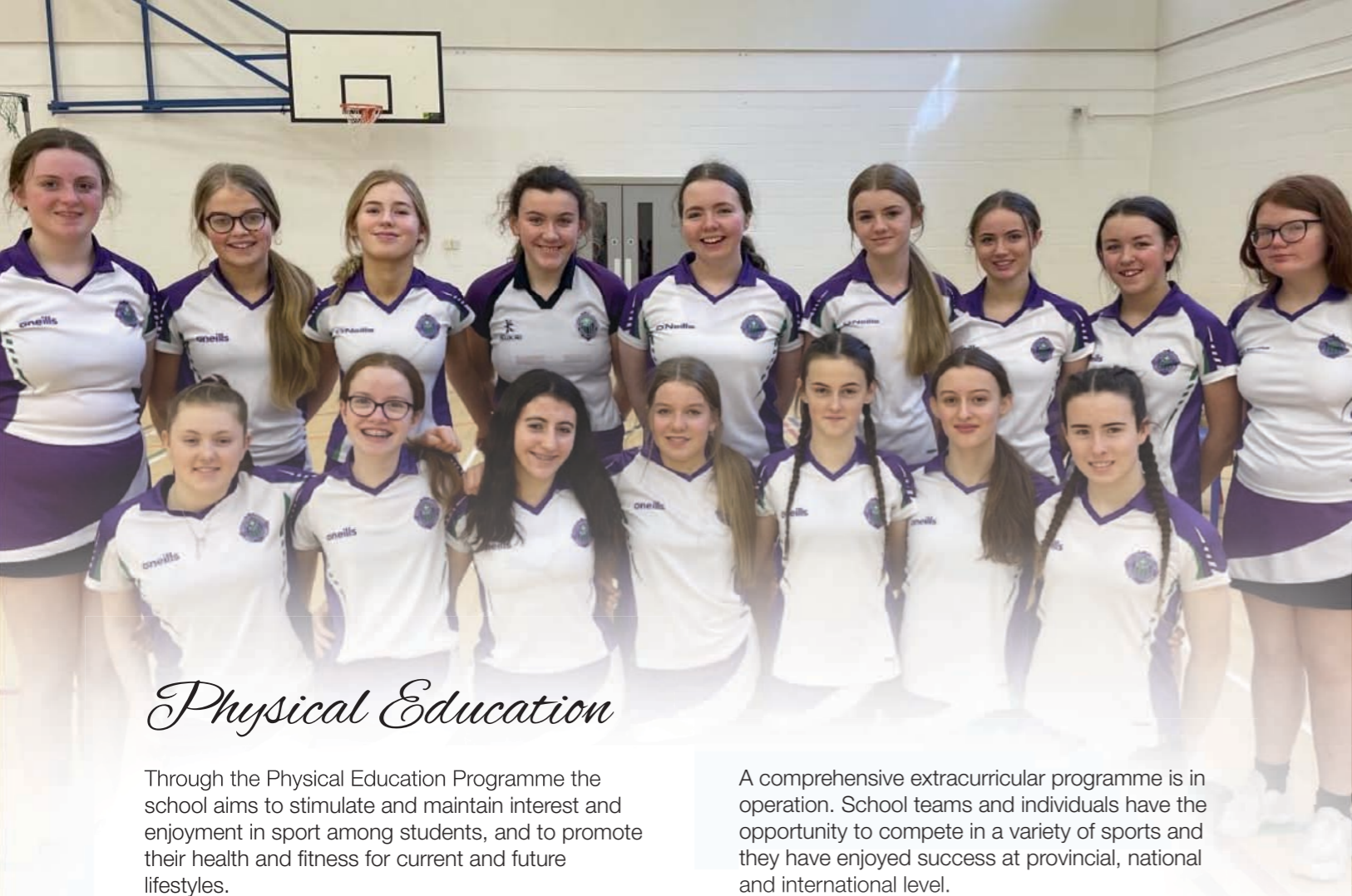
Anti-Bullying

An Anti-Bullying Policy operates in the school. To make it easier for students to raise concerns about bullying behaviours, a group of senior students have been trained as Anti-Bullying mentors. Referrals are treated in a confidential manner and reports of bullying incidents are recorded and dealt with according to agreed procedures.

School Counselling Service

Familyworks Schools Counselling Service offers a school based counselling service which operates in line with DENI guidelines.





Physical Education

Through the Physical Education Programme the school aims to stimulate and maintain interest and enjoyment in sport among students, and to promote their health and fitness for current and future lifestyles.

Students in Years 8-12 are allocated two periods of Physical Education per week while Post-16 students are encouraged to maintain a healthy lifestyle and to participate in extra curricular sporting activities.

All students have access to a range of activities in the areas of athletics, dance, games, gymnastics and health related Physical Education.

A comprehensive extracurricular programme is in operation. School teams and individuals have the opportunity to compete in a variety of sports and they have enjoyed success at provincial, national and international level.



Extracurricular Provision

Participation in extracurricular activities is actively encouraged in Mount Lourdes. It helps develop positive relationships between students, staff, parents and forge links with the wider community and other schools. The varied and challenging range of activities help students develop confidence and a positive self-image, increases their ability to manage stress and anxiety and improves their communication and social skills. Availability of these clubs and activities may differ year on year, due to level of demand and curricular arrangements/priorities. Some of these activities are offered at lunchtime and others are available after school.

- An Cumann Gaelach
- Spanish
- French
- History
- Choir Junior/Senior
- Grupa Ceoil
- Ceili Band
- Music Tuition (EA)
- Vocal Tuition
- String Orchestra
- Wind Band
- Badminton
- Cross-Country
- Gaelic Football
- Netball
- Sports Hall Athletics
- Track and Field
- Chemistry Olympiad
- Current Affairs
- Games
- Hideout
- Homework
- Crafts
- Feiseanna
- Gardening
- Journalism
- Volunteer Impact Award
- Soroptimist Public Speaking





Educational Visits

The school organises educational visits abroad each year; normally for Year 10 students. Additionally, students have the opportunity to spend time in the Gaeltacht and to take part in summer schools abroad, as part of their studies in Modern Languages. Students also enjoy many opportunities to participate in education outside the classroom setting, by visiting museums, theatres, universities, local businesses, parliaments, and places of religious, geographical and historical significance as part of the work of individual departments.

Student Participation

Year 14 Committees

In order to develop leadership skills in our senior students, prefects are elected each year from our Post 16 student body. The prefects are assigned to committees where they work with teaching staff to support the work of the school. They also act as positive role models for younger students.

The committees include:

- Key Stage 3 Prefects
- Extracurricular Activities
- Fundraising
- Liturgy
- School Magazine
- Online Safety
- Health & Wellbeing

Student Council

The Student Council provides a forum through which students can raise and have issues which are a matter of concern for them addressed. This enables students to develop an understanding of the democratic process and to become involved in the decision-making processes of the school.

There are two student elected representatives from Years 8-13 and Year 14 is represented by the Head Girl and Deputies.

Supporting Learning & Monitoring Progress

We aim to ensure that our students are fully supported throughout their academic journey.

Fostering Achievement

In Mount Lourdes we aim to foster the academic ability of each individual student to the highest possible standard. Through our commitment to quality learning and teaching, our robust assessment procedures and review of data, we encourage and support students to achieve their full potential. Each student is expected to take increasing responsibility for her own learning by evaluating her performance and setting appropriate learning targets. A range of strategies including a system of mentoring is in place to support students achieve their full potential.

Homework

Homework helps reinforce the learning which has occurred in the classroom. It helps consolidate the student's grasp of newly acquired knowledge and skills. We require support from parents/guardians in encouraging students to do their homework regularly and submit coursework assignments on time.

Reports and Parents' Meetings

Two school reports are issued to the parents/guardians of students in Years 8-11 each year. Students taking public examinations at GCSE, AS and A Level are issued with one school report in Years 12-14.

Formal Parent/Teacher Meetings are held annually for each year group. On these occasions parents and teachers can meet to discuss the progress being made by the student, or any matter of mutual concern. Parents are encouraged to come to these meetings as they allow us to build up the strong links between home and school which are of benefit to the students.

If parents wish to discuss their daughter's progress with a member of staff at any other time, they should contact the school's office to make the appropriate arrangements.



Learning Support

In Mount Lourdes we believe that students should have equal access to the school facilities and all areas of the curriculum. In line with DENI's Code of Practice 1998, SENDO 2005 and the SEND Act NI 2016, we aim to identify, assess and make

provision for students who have specific learning needs and/or medical conditions. Our dedicated Learning Support team strive to remove barriers to learning to provide equal opportunities for all students to learn and achieve.

We aim to work in partnership with parents/guardians and other external agencies to ensure that each student can maximise her academic and personal potential. The Learning Support Department provides all students with study skills support and independent learning resources. They also facilitate opportunities for Key Stage 3 students to attend a daily Games and Social Club.

Literacy & Numeracy Support

Mentoring Prefects offer the extra Literacy and Numeracy support that students may need.



Positive Behaviour Management

The school endeavours to establish an inclusive community in which the full potential of each person can be developed and in which understanding and tolerance are fostered. It strives to promote respect for the individual and to create an atmosphere in which quality learning and teaching can take place.

The Positive Behaviour Management Policy of the school seeks to encourage students to assume personal responsibility for their actions and to have due regard for the well being of all other members of the school community, whilst allowing students to share their opinions and take part in decision-making.

Positive behaviour is consistently reinforced through employing praise, encouragement, rewards and celebrating success, thus building trusting relationships between students and staff. To ensure the safety of the students and the smooth running of the school there are rules which we require the students to follow. Sanctions are applied as part of the school's referral system, the aim of which is to bring about a positive change in students' behaviour.



Complaints Procedures

Parents who wish to raise any matter relating to an aspect of the work of the school about which they are concerned, should contact the Principal directly, in whatever way is most appropriate for them. If their concerns persist, parents should submit them in writing for the attention of the Board of Governors. All concerns so reported will be dealt with in line with the school's Interim Handling Complaints Procedures. The policy in full is available on the school website www.mountlourdes.com or in hard copy from the main office.



General Information

The School Day

Registration: 8.55am
Class Begins: 9.05am
Morning Break: 10.50am - 11.10am
Junior Lunch: 12.20pm - 1.00pm
Senior Lunch: 1.00pm - 1.40pm
Class Ends: 3.25pm

Policy Documents

School policies can be accessed from the school website (www.mountlourdes.com) or on request from the school office.



Parental Engagement

Mount Lourdes recognises the vital role that parents /guardians play in the education of their daughters. Home / School links are promoted through:

- Year 8 Pastoral Event
- Transition Information Events
- Open Night
- Parent App
- School Magazine
- Parent / Teacher Meetings for all Year Groups
- Prize Day
- Year 14 Graduation Event
- School Newsletter
- Facebook
- Instagram
- School Website

Information is sent to parents each August on matters relating to school closures for the new school year, uniform requirements and other relevant matters.

School Canteen

The School promotes the importance of a balanced diet and healthy lifestyle.

The canteen provides a cafeteria service during lunch times. It offers a range of hot and cold meals and snacks at a reasonable price. The canteen provides a breakfast service from 8.30 am. to 8.50 am. Sixth Form students may avail of the canteen's facilities at break time. Students wishing to bring their own food may eat it in the canteen.

A biometric payment system is used in the school canteen. Students who are entitled to free school meals will have the cost of their meal added automatically to the system on a daily basis.





Mount Lourdes Grammar School

Voluntary Grammar School For Girls

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