



St. Columba's College, Portaferry

Prospectus 2017/18



RIGHTS
RESPECTING
SCHOOLS

Inspiring Learning, Celebrating Success, Respecting Others

St. Columba's College is a co-educational, all-ability 11-16 College with a friendly, caring and supportive ethos.

The College has a proud tradition of serving local communities in the Ards and 'across the water' from Ardglass to Strangford. We welcome pupils from all backgrounds.

We have established a reputation for excellent examinations results, good behaviour, attendance, and most importantly as a child-centred school, always putting the needs of our pupils first.

Co-operation, courtesy and commitment are strongly emphasised throughout the college and we pride ourselves on our relationship with pupils and their parents/guardians. Every effort is made to ensure that students placed in our care feel secure, suitably challenged and valued for their contribution at every level. Every consideration is given to ways in which we can promote the personal, social, spiritual and academic development of your child.

The high standard of service that we offer was recently recognised by the school inspectorate, who commented on:

'...industrious and dedicated teachers and their very good teaching, the good relationships between our teachers and pupils, the high standing of the school in the community and the standards achieved by our students.... The quality of education provided by this school is very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self improvement.'

We hope that you will avail of the opportunity to experience the same caring and supportive atmosphere that is a major feature of St Columba's College by attending our Open Day or arranging an appointment to come and visit the school at your convenience.





Aims of the College

We aim to ensure that every young person entrusted to our care develops fully. The educational experience in St. Columba's is designed to embrace and nurture each child in accordance with his or her needs, talents and abilities – we respect and value the uniqueness of every individual.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Academic | To fully develop each student's potential. |
| Cultural | To foster an understanding of and a positive attitude to our own cultural heritage and that of others. |
| Moral | To encourage responsible and tolerant attitudes to life and its problems and to promote their application. |
| Personal | To nurture self-esteem, dignity, confidence and discipline. |
| Social | To promote high moral standards based on tolerance, integrity and empathy. |
| Vocational | To assist students in the making of sound vocational decisions based on their strengths and abilities. |
| Health | To promote emotional health and well-being and to develop mental resilience. To promote healthy options and to encourage students in the habit of healthy eating. |



Pastoral Care

Our pastoral programme encourages a supportive atmosphere in the college and emphasises the personal and social development of all our students. We foster their development as successful individuals who play an active part in college life and in the life of the community. Each student is a unique and valued member of our college.

Form Teacher

Each pupil is placed under the care and guidance of a Form Teacher who remains constant throughout their college career. This encourages a special bond between form teacher and pupil. The form teacher meets their group twice each day and for a twice weekly tutorial session. The form teacher stays in touch with student behaviour, progress and development.

Head of Key Stage

The Head of Key Stage has overall responsibility for the pastoral care of pupils within each Key Stage (KS3 Years 8-10 and KS4 Year 11-12). He/she may also liaise with parents.

Tutorial Programme

The weekly tutorial sessions assist the students in developing their personal and social skills on Tuesdays and Local and Global Citizenship on Thursdays. They also help them to cope with the challenges they may encounter with regard to drugs, alcohol, child abuse or bullying.

Opportunity is provided to discuss topics of relevance to the youth of today.



Counselling Service

Following our Health Promoting School Initiative, pupils and some parents indicated the need for a school counselling service. We now have an Independent Counselling Service provided by Family Works operating in the College one morning per week. Pupils are all educated about the service and have access to a self-referral system.

Enrichment Programme

Each year, the Head of Pastoral Care draws up a comprehensive programme relating to pupils' needs, established by the work of the Student Council and consultation with the PTFA and Parents. Speakers have included SENTINUS, PSNI, Amnesty, SHARHP (Alcohol Awareness), Young Enterprise and many other agencies.



College Curriculum

Key Stage 3 (Years 8-10)

At Key Stage 3 (Years 8-10) all pupils follow the subjects in the table below. In addition, all pupils take part in formal ICT Accreditation in Year 10. Pupils also have access to additional classes in Literacy and Numeracy, withdrawal classes to support reading, and individual work with Teachers and Classroom Assistants trained in Reading Recovery. Class sizes are small, with pupils benefiting from individual attention and personalised learning plans.

English	History
Mathematics	Geography
Science	French and Spanish
Physical Education	Technology
Religious Education	Music
Home Economics	Tutorial – PSHE and Citizenship
Art	Careers (Education for Employability)



Accelerated Reader

Literacy and reading skills are the tools that pupils use to unlock the rest of the curriculum. In St. Columba's we are committed to the promotion of reading for pleasure and as the basis for lifelong learning.

All pupils in Years 8-10 have timetabled Library classes every week when they engage in Accelerated Reading, in some instance building on literacy work already undertaken in Primary School. Pupils have a Reading Log in their Student Planners and this is signed and reviewed by teachers and parents as books are completed. Every pupil completes STAR tests throughout the year to gain a reading level and completes online quizzes on the iPads to track and monitor progress. In addition, pupils are awarded prizes and certificates twice a year to reward their progress in the scheme. St. Columba's was recognised as a leading school in Northern Ireland at a ceremony in London in 2016 by Renaissance Learning, the operators of the AR Programme.



Key Stage 4 Curriculum

St. Columba's College meets the requirements of the Entitlement Framework at Key Stage 4, with a current curriculum offer in excess of the statutory requirements. Our curriculum is under annual review and based on the needs, aspirations and talents of each year group.

In 2016/17 the following choices were offered to our pupils:

Core Subjects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GCSE English Language</i> • <i>GCSE Science</i> • <i>GCSE Mathematics</i> • <i>GCSE Religious Studies / OCN Certificate in Religious Studies</i>
Optional Subjects (4 from this list)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Art and Design</i> • <i>Business Studies</i> • <i>Occupational Studies Construction</i> • <i>Double Award Science</i> • <i>English Literature</i> • <i>Occupational Studies Environment & Society (Sports Leadership)</i> • <i>French</i> • <i>Geography</i> • <i>History</i> • <i>ICT</i> • <i>Journalism</i> • <i>Music</i> • <i>Moving Image Arts</i> • <i>Physical Education</i> • <i>Spanish</i> • <i>Technology and Design</i>
Twilight Courses (delivered after the school day – pick up to 2)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>BTEC Engineering Level 2</i> • <i>OCR Health and Social Care Level 2</i> • <i>GCSE Hospitality</i> • <i>OCR Text processing Level 2</i> • <i>GCSE Further Mathematics</i>
Additional Courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GCSE PAL (Preparation for Adult Life)</i> • <i>Prince's Trust XL Programme</i>

Shared Education

St. Columba's is part of a Shared Education Partnership in collaboration with Glastry College and Strangford Integrated College.

One of the five Northern Ireland Executive priorities contained within the Programme for Government (PfG) (2011-15) is to build a strong and shared community. Within that priority there is a particular focus on building better relations between communities.

The Delivering Social Change (DSC) framework was established by the Executive to tackle poverty and social exclusion. It promotes a new level of joined-up working by Ministers and senior officials across Executive departments to drive through interventions which have a genuine impact on the ground. The framework aims to deliver a reduction in poverty and associated issues across all ages and to improve children and young people's health, well-being and life opportunities thereby breaking the long term cycle of multi-generational problems.

The overall aim of the project is to scale up the level of sharing throughout schools in Northern Ireland. It can provide financial support to improve the educational and reconciliation outcomes in schools working collaboratively. The programme is open to all schools who have some experience of working in a cross-community partnership with other schools.



College Uniform

Uniform is compulsory for all students. It identifies the students as part of St Columba's College. While wearing it, they represent our college, its standards and values. Parental co-operation in matters of uniform is greatly appreciated

Girls		Boys	
Uniform	PE Uniform	Uniform	PE Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black blazer with Crest (Available from Office) • White/grey knee socks or black tights • Regulation Grey skirt – knee length • White/grey shirt • College tie • College jumper • Black shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College PE top • Black skort, shorts or leggings • Black socks • Trainers / camogie boots 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black blazer with Crest (Available from Office) • Black trousers • White/grey shirt • College tie • College jumper • Black shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College PE top • Black shorts • Black socks • Trainers / football boots

Promotion of Positive Behaviour

In St Columba's College we aim to instill our students with self-discipline by acknowledging and applauding the positive aspect of students' behaviour. Our Reward Scheme is very successful. Our approach to discipline is positive, constructive and encouraging.

We expect students to display:

- Courtesy and good manners.
- Respect for the college, its students and staff.
- Commitment to hard work.
- High standards of uniform, attendance and punctuality.

We value the support of parents in developing and maintaining these high standards of behaviour. Each student is issued with a copy of the College Code of Conduct at the beginning of the year. This is sent home for parents and students to read and sign as a symbol of their acceptance of and commitment to the college's behaviour policy.

Rewards System

Pupils are acknowledged through the Rewards System on a monthly, termly and annual basis. A permanent display of pupil pictures highlights positive achievements. Pupils and teachers operate an agree Merit System with point awarded for Behaviour and Achievement via the SIMS system in every lesson, as appropriate.



Employability

Careers education is seen as a six point process involving:

- Pupils
- Parents
- Staff
- Careers Advisor from Department for the economy (DfE)
- Further/higher education
- Local business community

All pupils at Key Stages 3 and 4 undertake Education for Employability. The school timetable was changed from a 46 to a 50 period week in 2008/09 to fully implement Learning for Life and Work. Progress File is used at all levels within the school. Pupils are encouraged to take greater ownership of their career development.





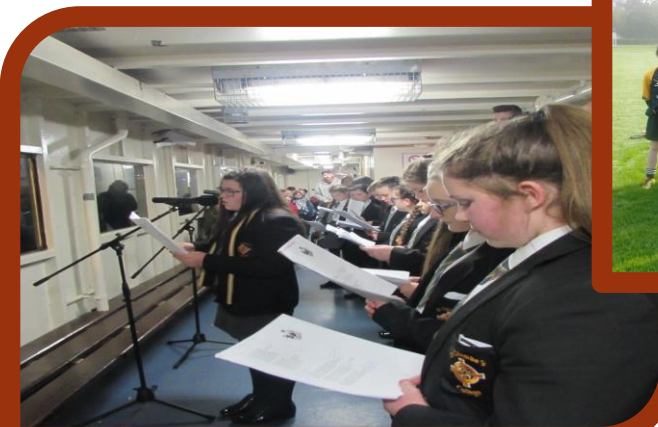
- All Year 12 students experience a one week placement with a local firm.
- Personality and aptitude tests are taken and individual results are reported to students.
- Personal interviews with a careers officer are organised during the school day.
- All Year 10 Pupils and their parents attend a Key Stage Four Options Day with Teachers from the College, SERC and Careers Advice from DfE.
- All Year 12 students and their parents attend an Options Day with representatives from Employers, Sixth Forms in local schools, SERC, CAFRE, DfE and others.

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) operates in school to help our pupils develop career management and employability skills which will allow them to make choices and decisions affecting their future education, training and employment.

Extracurricular

The College organises a wide range of extra-curricular activities to meet the needs of pupils. These include:

- Soccer
- Camogie
- Hurling
- Eco Schools Club
- College Choir
- Maths & Science Study Clubs
- Fundraising / Charitable Work – with Trocaire and St. Vincent de Paul
- Modern Languages Week
- Faith Friends
- Film Club
- STEM and Mathematics Trips
- Theatre Visits



An inclusive learning community - Student Voice

All pupils know that their voice is listened to by the school and that we value pupils' input into school life.

The Student Council meets regularly to discuss the issues of the day and every Form Class in the School is represented on the Council. We take the views of our pupils seriously – we have refurbished the canteen, provided outdoor seating and established a Parent Teachers and Friends of Association – all after suggestions raised by the Council.

Additionally, our Senior Students in Year 12 have the opportunity to take on positions of responsibility such as Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputies, Prefects and Mentors. These students represent the College in and out of school and take an active leadership and mentoring role with the younger pupils.





PTFA – Parents, Teachers and Friends of St. Columba's Association

The school has a vibrant and dynamic Parent Teachers and Friends of St. Columba's Association and all parents are very welcome to join.

Since its inception, the group has become an important part of the school and it is extremely influential. The group itself has proven very effective as a team, which could be due to a number of factors, from the clearly defined structures and guidelines established from the outset, to the effective mix of ages, gender, personalities and strengths. The PTFA has raised money for a number of school projects, principally an entertainment system for the school canteen and outdoor seating for the pupils. We have run a Car Wash, 500 Club and non-uniform days.

As a school we value parental voice and input into the school development plan. Part of this process involves allowing Parents (via the PTFA) to have their say on our school policies and practice. The PTFA has already had an impact in this regard. Following parental input, we have introduced a Text Messaging service, annual end of year celebration dinner for Year 12 pupils, enhanced ICT facilities and Common room for senior pupils.



Pupil Destinations

St. Columba's has an enviable reputation as a school that prepares pupils for life. Our leavers are confident, personable and able young people who have been thoroughly prepared to take up the challenges of further education or employment. Our leavers have followed a number of pathways:

A Level / Equivalent Post-16 Provision

St. Patrick's Grammar, Downpatrick

Assumption Grammar, Ballynahinch

Our Lady and St. Patrick's, Knock

Regent House, Newtownards

St. Mary's, Downpatrick

De La Salle High School, Downpatrick

Glastry College

Strangford Integrated College

It is important to note that, provided entry requirements are met, St. Columba's College students have guaranteed access to Post-16 education in local schools to study at 'A' Level.

Further Education & Training

SERC – Bangor and Downpatrick

CAFRE – Antrim

Conservation Volunteers, Clondeboyne



Serving the Local Community

The College offers co-educational, all-ability education to all children from the local area in a caring and supportive setting. Small class sizes and excellent relationships with families and the local community are particular strengths of the school.

Transport Arrangements

Bus Services

Ards Peninsula

From Newtownards (8.00am) via Greyabbey (8.15am) and Kircubbin (8.25am) to Portaferry (8.45am). EA (SE Region) provides two buses to collect pupils living off the main routes serviced by Translink. The service was introduced in September 2010 and it has proved to be very successful.

Strangford & Surrounding Areas

A Board Bus Services the route from Ardglass to Strangford, encompassing Kilclief, Dunsford and environs.

Feeder Primary Schools

St. Mary's, Portaferry

St Patrick's, Ballygalget

St. Mary's, Kircubbin

St. Nicholas's, Ardglass

St Mary's, Dunsford

St.Joseph's, Strangford

St Malachy's, Kilclief

Kircubbin Integrated Primary School

Portaferry Integrated Primary School

Greyabbey Primary School



College Life - School Day

8.50	Assembly
9.00	Period 1
9.30	Period 2
10.00	Period 3
10.30	Period 4
11.00	<i>Morning Registration</i>
11.10	Morning Break
11.20	Period 5
11.50	Period 6
12.20	Period 7
12.50	Lunch
1.25	<i>Afternoon Registration</i>
1.35	Period 8
2.05	Period 9
2.35	Period 10
3.10	Dismissal of students

Students must be in on time for Assembly. The College is open to receive students from 8.30am - senior staff members are on site from (typically) 8.00am and formal supervision by staff begins at 8.45am.



Charging and Remissions Policy

Charging

St Columba's, like all other schools and colleges, has to abide by government regulations on charging and remissions.

Activities During College Hours

Charges may be made for:

All board and lodging costs on residential visits.

A contribution towards school activities which can only be offered if voluntary contributions are made.

Activities Outside College Hours

Charges may be made for:

Activities outside college hours which are not part of the National Curriculum, statutory religious education or in preparation for a prescribed public examination.

Examination Fees

No charges for examination fees are made except:

- (a) when a student has failed, without good reason, to complete the requirements of the exam in the year for which entry is made
- (b) when a student has failed, without good reason, to complete the requirements of the exam or to attend for it.

Charging in Kind

Charges may be made for components if parents will eventually own the finished product.

Damage

Charges may be made for wilful or negligent damage or loss of college property.

College Fund

There are many expenses which the college has to meet from its own resources. These include transport for school teams and group outings and activities, expenses of school production, prize night etc. These are financed from our College Fund. Parents are asked to contribute to this on an annual basis. The present rate is £20 per family.

GCSE Results 2015 - 2016

Examination Achievements of Year 12 Pupils 2005/2006 – 2015/2016

	05/06	06/07	07/08	08/09	09/10	10/11	11/12	12/13	13/14	14/15	15/16
Number of Pupils in Year 12	49	54	62	51	38	47	43	53	41	42	33
<u>St Columba's College</u> Proportion Achieving 5+ GCSEs A* - C	51%	52%	52%	60%	63%	58%	70%	61%	77%	62%	76%
<u>Northern Ireland Secondary</u> Average Proportion Achieving 5+ GCSEs A* - C	43%	45%	50%	54%	59%	60%	64%	67%	71%	72%	TBC
<u>St Columba's College: School</u> leavers with at least 5+ GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths				37%	24%	47%	50%	39%	55%	45%	49%
<u>Northern Ireland All schools</u> excluding Grammar Schools: School leavers with at least 5+GCSEs A*-C including English and Maths				32%	35%	36%	36%	38%	44%	47%	TBC
<u>St Columba's College</u> Proportion Achieving 5+ GCSEs A* - G	78%	89%	98%	90%	100%	96%	100%	100%	100%	98%	97%
<u>Northern Ireland Secondary</u> Average Proportion Achieving 5+ GCSEs A* - G	84%	86%	93%	88%	93%	95%	96%	96%	97%	97%	TBC

GCSE Results and Equivalent: Subject Grade/Level 2015-2016

St Columba's College

Results Subject/Grade Analysis: June Entries 2016

Qualification: GCSE

Scope: National Curriculum Year

Export Date : 24/08/2016

Level: GCSE/GCSE Full Course

Curriculum Year 12 Mode: Raw

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Q	A*-C	A*-G
0003-Health & Social Care	3	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
1310-Science Single Award	20	0	0	0	3	10	6	0	1	0	0	0	13	20
2210-Mathematics	38	0	1	5	14	4	9	4	1	0	0	0	20	38
2650-ICT	21	0	1	4	8	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	13	21
3910-Geography	6	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	6
4010-History	20	0	0	0	6	3	6	4	0	1	0	0	9	20
5030-English Language	38	0	10	4	9	9	5	0	1	0	0	0	23	38
5650-French	14	0	4	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	14
7210-Sport/PE Studies	9	0	1	2	2	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	5	9
8900-T & D	12	0	0	2	8	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10	12
DD1-Religious Studies	27	0	4	5	7	4	2	3	0	2	0	0	16	25
JA2-Art and Design	10	2	1	3	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	10

Double Award

Subject	Entries	**	*A	AA	AB	BB	BC	CC	CD	DD	FG	GG	U	A*-C	A*-G
1370-Science Double Award 1st	16	0	0	0	0	2	3	4	4	1	1	1	0	0	32

Occupational Studies	Entries	L1 P	L1 M	L1 D	L2 P	L2 M	L2 D
Construction	14		1	2	5	5	1
Sports Leadership	21	1	7	4	9	0	0

Twilight Courses	Entries	L1 P	L2 P	L2 M
BTEC Engineering	12	1	2	9
BTEC Hospitality	13	0	0	12
OCR Text Production	21	2	19	0

Destination of College Leavers 2015-2016

Destination of Leavers

Number of leavers going to					
No. of leavers	HE	FE	Another School	Jobskills	Employment
38	0	23	12	1	2

Attendance Record

ATTENDANCE RECORD

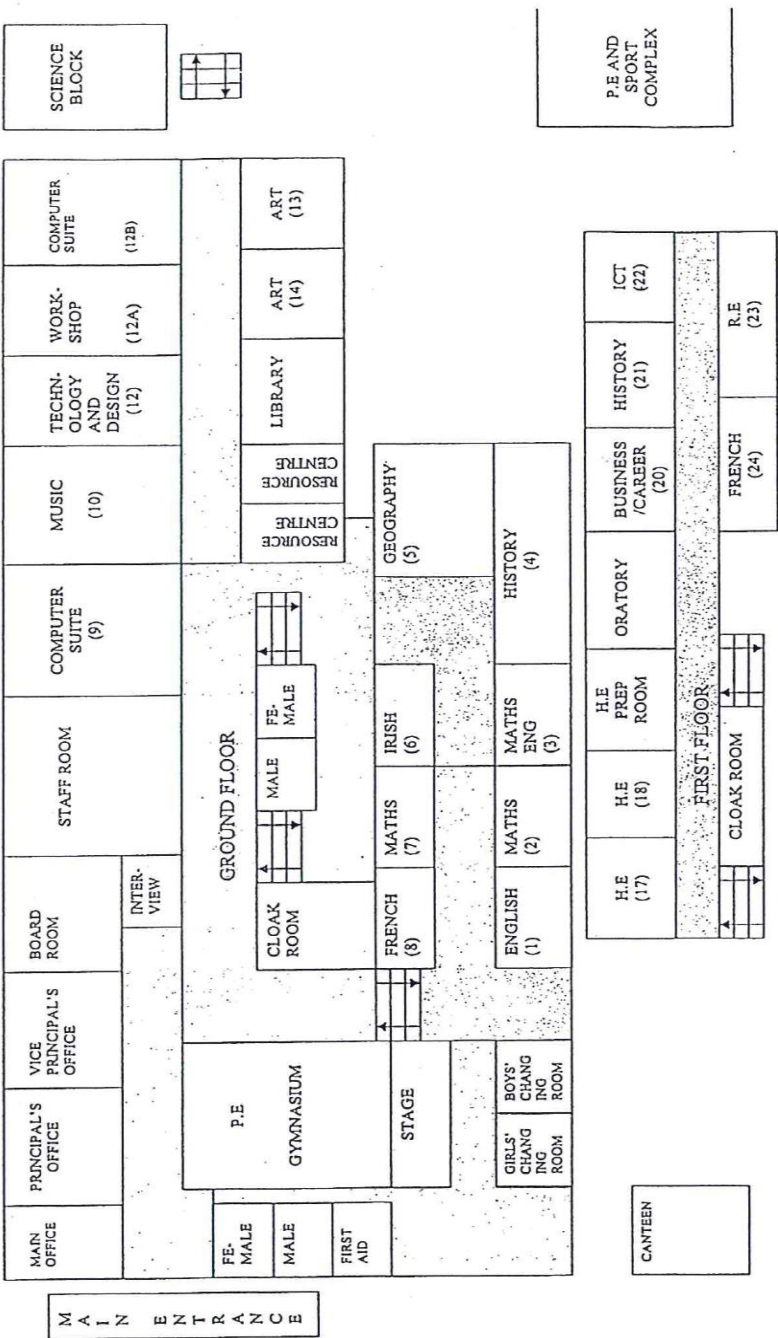
93%

Admission Numbers

Year of Admission	Number of Applicants	Number of Admissions
2016/2017	28	28
2015/2016	44	44
2014/2015	37	37
2013/2014	37	37
2012/2013	34	34
2011/2012	31	31
2010/2011	36	36
2009/2010	42	42

Map of College

College Layout



College Staff

Teaching Staff

Headmaster Mr M Breen

Deputy Head Mr J Hay

Mr J Barry

Mrs G Burns

Mr H Campbell

Mr R Campbell

Miss H Connolly (T)

Miss J Duffy

Mrs K Dumigan

Mrs M Gallagher

Mr J D Gordon

Miss K Laverty

Miss L Mason

Mrs C McConville

Mr B McDermott

Mrs B Teague

Mrs C Walls

Office Staff

Mrs P Clarke

Miss C Bryce

Mrs M McNamara

Classroom Assistants / Lunchtime Supervisors

Mrs P Bell

Mrs G Black

Mrs K Coulter

Mrs C Doran

Mrs A Hughes

Miss M A Magee

Mrs C Mageean

Mrs N McMullan

Mrs L Murphy

Miss L Ross

Mrs R Smyth

Mrs E Watson

Building Supervisor

Mr John Convery

Office Contact

Mrs P Clarke

Miss C Bryce

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