



St. Catherine's College, Armagh

Coláiste Chaitríona, Ard Mhacha

School Prospectus



A Living Faith
Personal Growth
Intellectual Values
Building Community
Active Social Awareness

'I have been speaking about getting over some ladies of the Sacred Heart to Armagh and I am told that it would be an excellent place for them. There is no school for young ladies in the entire province of Ulster. There is no Convent at all in Armagh and the town is large and respectable.'

In 1851 Mother Croft and five nuns arrived in Armagh and Sacred Heart Education came to the city. Their arrival was in response to Archbishop Cullen's vision expressed to Dr Kirby, President of the Irish College in Rome, and passed to Mother Scully in the Villa Lorte...

These Goals represent values which Sacred Heart Schools wish to promote and live by. They guide our behaviour and identify us as belonging to a common family. They are the public expression of what we are and what we stand for. In effect, they express our corporate identity. The active pursuit of these Goals will bring us safely into the future because the values they represent transcend time.

Our pupils may experience times of economic and social turmoil. It is our hope that Sacred Heart Education will equip them with the faith and the fortitude to cope with the challenges they will face.

Personal Growth

*Our school recognises the uniqueness,
inherent worth and dignity of each pupil.*

Saint Catherine's prides itself on the strength of its Sacred Heart ethos but we never take it for granted. We allow individuals to be who they really are and do our best to ensure that everyone is treated equally. All of what we do inside and outside the classroom aims to ensure our pupils gain self-knowledge, energy, purpose and conviction. The school proceeds therefore in a spirit of giving all our pupils real confidence and a sense of their inherent dignity as children of God. The whole curriculum aims to prepare our pupils to embrace the opportunities and undertake the responsibilities of adult and working life.

Saint Catherine's

is a school where:

- We place an emphasis on the development of the whole pupil.
- The spiritual, physical, emotional and educational welfare of our pupils is the basis of all we do.
 - We know that education happens outside the classroom as well as inside.
- We offer an exciting, extensive range of extra-curricular activities to provide something for everyone.
- We encourage pupils to know themselves, to acknowledge and use their gifts, accept their limitations and share their talents with others.
- We work tirelessly to ensure that each pupil is valued, cared for and respected in a welcoming and secure community.
- We provide opportunities for our pupils to contribute to the development of our school and to exercise leadership in the spirit of service.

"We prepare our pupils to embrace opportunities"



Intellectual Values

Saint Catherine's College provides a curriculum which realises the aims of the school, reflects the ethos of the Society of the Sacred Heart and is enjoyed by all of our pupils. Our pupils experience a balanced academic curriculum and a rich extra-curricular programme which together promote a Respect for Intellectual Values. Our staff believes that learning is best served when teaching is of the highest quality. It has, at its heart, the forming of the minds and hearts of our pupils through the provision and pursuit of educational excellence. It highlights the need for a pupil-centred approach and for the recognition that there are many different types of intellect and ways of learning. Our curriculum engages pupils, equips them for life, takes account of what they already know, supports learning, assesses for learning, promotes pupil independence, respects the pupil voice, values out of school learning, is delivered in effective learning environments and is taught by teachers who continuously develop their own knowledge and skills. We create a stimulating learning environment where academic study and intellectual pursuits are cherished and valued. We recognise and develop the potential of each individual pupil, enabling them to become questioning, reflective young people who can appropriately use their knowledge to understand, interpret and interact with today's world.

The modern buildings and the new decor all show how our school reshapes and repurposes itself to empower each generation of learners. We create an atmosphere of respect for learning in the school environment through our use of the following facilities:

- Pupil Support Room & Pupil Hubs;
- Comfort Corner, a safe and comfortable space for our students who need an environment to relax and unwind;
- Sixth Form Snug, Coffee Dock & Breakfast Club Areas;
- The Hannan Suite, our Gym and Dance Studio;
- The SEWing Suite, our Spiritual, Emotional, Well-being suite, including our Croft Chaplaincy, named after Mother Croft;
- Our School Chapel.

We provide opportunities for Teacher Professional Learning:

- Metacognition & Thinking skills & Personal Capabilities
- Training linked to the school's Strategic Development Plan
- Google Educator Training & Innovative Technologies Training
- Middle & Senior Management Training
- TPL provided by the Education Authority & Education and Training Inspectorate
- The Teacher Toolkit Programme: Ross McGill
- The Teacher CPD Academy Programme

We ensure through a culture of caring and well-structured pastoral system that:

- Individual needs are catered for across the school
- Policies and Practices are constantly reviewed and updated
- Achievements are recognised and rewarded
- Outside Agencies are utilised effectively and efficiently.



"The Sacred Heart Educator aims to walk with children, helping them to begin to acquire not only the knowledge and skills but also the staying power and unselfishness that over a lifetime turns dreams into reality. however great. however modest."

Key Stage 3

Key Stage 4

Our academic excellence opens so many doors for women to transform their own lives, the lives of their families and, more importantly, to transform the society and world in which we live. We recognise the importance and centrality of our Key Stage Three curriculum. We pride ourselves on its breadth, variety and innovation which satisfies the statutory curriculum requirements. At the end of Year 10 pupils make their subject choices for Key Stage 4 and GCSEs. Here are the subjects on offer at Key Stage Three:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- RE
- Digital Technology
- Technology & Design
- Home Economics
- Drama
- Music
- Art
- Irish
- Spanish
- French
- Gaeilge
- Geography
- History
- Physical Education

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is intended to be a balanced and broadly based curriculum which promotes the spiritual, emotional, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of pupils at the school and thereby of society. Which prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life by equipping them with appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills.

Subjects on offer at Key Stage 4

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Physical Health & Wellbeing
- Drama
- English Language
- English Literature
- Media Studies
- French
- Irish & Gaeilge
- Spanish
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Home Economics
- IT
- Careers
- Learning for Life and Work
- Ag Foghlaim don Saol agus don Obair
- Mathematics
- Statistics
- Further Maths
- Music
- Occupational Studies
- P.E.
- R.E.
- Science (Double Award & Single Award)
- Technology & Design
- Engineering
- Digital Technology
- Child Care

Sixth Form

Our Post-16 subject offer in St Catherine's College is extensive, encompassing a range of academic pathways to cater to the needs of all learners and the vast array of career aspirations in our pupil body. In partnership with the Armagh Learning Community, students are able to avail of a dynamic and modern curriculum which strengthens the links between learning, employability and future pathways in higher education, apprenticeships and employment.

Our academic curriculum is complemented by a broad, varied and challenging Programme of Enrichment, offering opportunities for skills development, certification and accreditation, leadership roles and a host of extra-curricular and super-curricular experiences, ensuring the holistic development of our young people as responsible and empathetic global citizens of the future.

Our Sacred Heart heritage and Ethos remains at the heart of our provision, supported by a Living Faith Programme, a holistic faith-based and social curriculum for Sixth Form students, equipping them to deal with issues pertinent to their experiences as young people in today's society and providing a platform for healthy debate about significant social issues

Subjects on offer in Sixth Form are:

- Art & Design
- Biology
- Business Studies
- Chemistry
- English Literature
- Environmental Technology
- Geography
- Food & Nutrition
- French
- Health & Social Care (Single Award & Double Award)
- Irish
- Marketing
- Mathematics
- History
- Moving Image Arts
- Music
- Physics
- Politics
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sport
- SSD
- Technology & Design
- Theatre Studies
- Construction
- Travel & Tourism
- Hospitality
- Careers
- UPS (Uniform & Protective Services)

Community

We build community & appreciate difference

Our school is a supportive and loving environment

Essentially the Goal of Community is about the fostering of relationships in an atmosphere of mutual interaction, where those involved both give and receive. Another way of putting it would be that the Goal of Community is attempting to live the motto 'Cor Unum' ('One Heart'). Therefore our challenge is to aim that no student should finish the school year with a sense of marginalisation or of feeling undervalued.

As a school community we:

- Nurture good relationships
- Promote inclusiveness
- Celebrate difference
- Strive for equality & Justice
- Embrace all cultures
- Foster close links with our community

Our work on the Goal of Community has helped prepare our pupils to become, in the future, agents of change and responsible citizens who can contribute meaningfully to society.

".....A school will stand or fall by its relationships..."

Mary Cavanagh, RSCJ, January 2000.

A Living Faith

*Our school
is rooted in the
conviction that a
Living Faith
permeates the life of
our school.*

As a Sacred Heart school We are continuing the vision of St Madeleine Sophie Barat as she wanted every pupil's faith to deepen through the curriculum, through formation of character and through the ethos of the school. Students find great support in their faith journey from our Chaplain. Our school Chaplain is also the Director of Chaplaincy Services; this is a unique role and Saint Catherine's is the only school in Armagh with a full-time lay Chaplain.

The religious dimension in the tradition of the Society of the Sacred Heart is central to the life of our school and a Living Faith permeates school life. The perspectives of faith imbued St Madeleine Sophie Barat's educational philosophy. She believed that the formation of the whole person reaches its full potential only when faith informs the entire process. The Goal of a Living Faith in God has been fine-tuned by the pupil experience in our school. Our school provides opportunities for the celebration of the Eucharist, such as the opening Mass for the new school year. We mark the Feast Days of the Society of the Sacred Heart and utilise religious icons effectively in our school. Our prayer room is being used regularly by a broad cross-section of our pupils as their sacred space for personal and communal prayer and reflection. Faith is engraved in the life of our school, in our hearts.

We continue and support the work of parents and guardians by helping our students acquire particular values which emphasise love, kindness, respect, hope/optimism, compassion, forgiveness, tolerance and service. Our school actively fosters links with the wider community in Armagh, warmly opening our doors for community groups and events.

#Kindness

#Fairness

#Respect

Social Awareness

Our school enables all pupils to become agents of transformation.

Awareness of social injustice and desire to respond actively is part of the heritage of Madeleine Sophie. Today our Sacred Heart educators continue to encourage this response. The Goal of Social Awareness can be said to be the practical outworking of the work on the other four goals. The Goal of Social Awareness gives our pupils the opportunity to translate the knowledge, skills and values acquired through our work on the Goals of Faith, Intellect, Character and Community into effective action for social change. As a Silver Awarded Rights Respecting School, we recognise our commitment to placing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the heart of our school's practice.

Through developed programmes we develop our pupils' knowledge and information about responsible citizenship and problems of injustice through outreach work, assemblies and living faith. Our school enables all pupils to become 'agents of transformation' by highlighting their active role as engaged, active citizens committed to advocacy, effective action for social change, conflict resolution and leadership.

Pupils in our school have the opportunity to become involved in some of the following activities throughout their seven year journey;

- Form Class and whole school fund-raising activities and initiatives
- Anti-bullying workshops / Anti-bullying Ambassadors
- Christmas Shoe Box appeal & St. Vincent de Paul Christmas hampers
- Visits to local Care Homes
- Trip to Lourdes
- Being on the Ethos Team
- Being on the Emotional Wellbeing Team
- Being a Peer-Mentor, Befriender, Reading Buddy, Library Assistant
- Being an Environmental Prefect
- Being a Kindness, Literacy or Sports Ambassador
- Being on our School Council
- Being part of the Rights Respecting Steering Group
- Various roles of leadership and responsibility, including Head Girl, Deputy Head Girl and Senior Prefect

*"Be humble. be simple
and
bring joy to others"*

Madeleine Sophie Barat

"Thug an scoil seo an seans dom teacht chuig An Sruth Gaeilge. Tá mo chuid Gaeilge ag feabhsú i rith an ama. Tá gach duine iontach deas cineálta agus tá mé bródúil as mo scoil agus as mo chuid Gaeilge."
Ruairí Mac Conbhuí
Bliain a 13

An Sruth Gaeilge, Coláiste Chaitríona
providing quality bilingual
education since 2002

An Sruth Gaeilge, Coláiste Chaitríona, established in 2002, provides pupils in our local Bunscoileanna with the opportunity to continue their education through the medium of Irish at post-primary level between the ages of 11- 16.

*"Mol an Óige agus
Tiocfaidh si"*

Our pupils are an integral part of the school community, pobal na scoile. They enjoy the full experience on offer to all pupils in St. Catherine's College. We are providing our pupils with a platform on which to build their bilingual future. Several of our pupils have been placed first and second in the North of Ireland in a number of subjects. We promote participation in a wide variety of Irish language events, such as Rith, Quizzes, Feiseanna, Easter courses and Gaeltacht summer courses. We have strong links with our local Irish language community and keep our pupils posted on Irish language events happening locally and nationally.

A pupil entering An Sruth Gaeilge in Year 8 will study 50 % of the N.I. curriculum through Irish.

Our pupils complete G.C.S.E. Irish at the end of Year 9. In Key Stage 4 all pupils study Gaeilge and Ag Foghlaim don Saol agus don Obair as core subjects through Irish.

School Prayer

On this new day we ask you God
To help us to be there for each other
That where there is worry
We will bring support
That where there is friendship
We will deepen it
That where there is anyone left out
We will help them to join in
That where there is a need
We will bring generosity of heart
Always remembering our school motto
Cor Unum....One Heart.

School Hymn

Children Of The Sacred Heart
We are people of the future linked to kin of yesterday,
We are kindred strong and worthy who are bound to have their say.
In the Ireland we inherit we will surely have our place,
With the Sacred Heart to guide us and the Holy Spirit's grace.
Chorus:
All for one and one for all, shoulder to shoulder walking tall,
We are Children of the Sacred Heart.
We are caring for each other we are conscious of the poor,
We are working for the Third World who are striving to endure,
We were learning how to cipher, how to read and how to write,
We were taught to be courageous, not to fear the darkest night.
Chorus:
All for one and one for all, shoulder to shoulder walking tall,
We are Children of the Sacred Heart.





What makes our school unique...

The importance of living out the Sacred Heart Ethos permeates every aspect of the school's work. The result is an environment which promotes love of God and understanding of neighbour in a balanced and inter-connected learning experience. In Saint Catherine's there is an awareness that our high levels of academic, artistic, sporting and musical success and our Sacred Heart Ethos are inextricably linked.

Ours is a school which embraces

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