



## St. Patrick's College, Maghera



## Prospectus 2024

St. Patrick's College, Maghera is a Bi-Lateral, Catholic, Maintained, 11 - 19 College catering for pupils of all abilities. We have a Learning Support Centre for pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties and an Autism Support Centre.



AMAZING  
Things  
Happen  
HERE

## Sites

1. Main Site 25 Coleraine Road Telephone No. (028) 796 42451 (3 Lines)

Office Hours 8.30am – 4.30pm

College Web Address: <http://www.stpatricksmaghera.com>

E-mail Address: [info@stpatricks.maghera.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatricks.maghera.ni.sch.uk)

2. Year 8 The St. Mary Building Tullyheron Road

Telephone No. (028) 796 42464

Office Hours 9.00am – 4.30pm

Principal Mrs K. Crilly

Chair of the Board of Governors Mrs A McCorry

Enrolment No. – 1355

Intake to Year 8 – 190

*N.B. 1. This Prospectus relates to the academic year 2023-24 and the contents are correct at the time of publication, but may be subject to change. 2. Parents may contact the College Reception at any time to obtain a copy of this Prospectus and any other information provided by the Education Authority, or by the College itself.*

# Principal's Welcome

In St Patrick's we have the highest expectations and aspirations for every student, ensuring that they are supported and challenged to achieve their very best. Our motto "Every Child Matters" is at the core of everything we do, and our child centred staff share a strong sense of purpose, to ensure that every child can develop their unique talents and achieve their full potential.

In St Patrick's our priority is to ensure that your child is in a safe and nurturing environment that enables and empowers them to grow. We achieve this through our outstanding Pastoral Care system, that supports, nurtures, and guides every student so that they learn and achieve.

We also provide high quality teaching and learning from teachers who go above and beyond to ensure the very best outcomes for all their students. We have a well-developed and adaptive curriculum designed to meet the needs of all learners.

St Patrick's is a College for all the family, a positive learning environment which will seek out and nurture individual talents. Together, we enable each child to rise to challenges successfully, be confident to take risks in learning, and achieve the highest level of success.

Our school community is underpinned by our Catholic faith and values that inform every decision we make and guides us to ensure we have the very best provision in place for every student. We celebrate our students' gifts and

talents, not only in our high academic outcomes for learners, but also in Sports, Music and Drama. We have an outstanding reputation not only in South Derry but across Ireland.

We believe that St Patrick's is not just a College, it is a way of life, equipping students with the skills, knowledge, understanding and faith values, which prepare them for adult life and work.

I welcome you and your family to the College community. To achieve the best outcomes for our students', it is vital that we work in partnership with our parents, guardians, and Parish communities, and we are grateful of the continued support we receive. A special thanks to our chaplain Father Paddy Doherty who generously gives of his time to support all members of our community. In St Patrick's you can be assured that your child really does matter and that with great relationships built on respect and honesty we will "Achieve Excellence Together".



Mrs K Crilly  
Principal







## Information about the College

All parents are welcome to visit the College on Open Day on Saturday 20th January from 9.30am to 1.00pm in the St Patrick Building.

Details of the College's Admissions Policy are contained in the relevant booklets, published by the Education Authority, copies of which may be obtained from the College (contact Reception).

The College operational procedures and closures are made available to parents and pupils through the College literature, website, Facebook and/or Twitter and the SIMS Learning Gateway Parent App.

Each Registration Group has a Class Tutor. Each Year Group has a Head of Year and Assistant Head of Year supported by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), Vice Principals and Principal. Thus each pupil is known personally to a number of staff who takes a keen interest in their general welfare and progress and keeps the Principal informed. The College provides an opportunity, on an annual basis, for parents of all year groups to meet teachers through parents' meetings to discuss the educational progress of their child. Heads of Year are available to discuss any issues or concerns that may arise throughout the academic year.

# Curriculum

The Board of Governors, through the work of the College, aims to provide a curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils and to equip pupils for the demands of employment and life. The curriculum is planned to be wide ranging and reflective of the Entitlement Framework. All pupils in Key Stage 3 are offered the same curriculum. At the end of Key Stage 3 pupils choose subjects from choice blocks, which are drawn up in consultation with the pupils. The College endeavours to satisfy the choices made by pupils. At the end of Key Stage 4 pupils choose GCE/vocational subjects from choice lines which are reviewed annually. Every

effort is made to satisfy pupil subject choice. However, where class sizes are not viable or subjects are on conflicting choice lines this may not be possible.

Courses offered:

**1. G.C.S.E. or equivalent in -**

Agriculture  
Art & Design  
Biology  
BTEC Level 2 ICT Double Award  
Business Communications  
Business Studies  
Chemistry  
Child Development  
Construction  
Drama  
English  
English Literature

French  
Further Mathematics  
Geography  
History  
Home Economics: Food and Nutrition  
ICT Multimedia  
ICT Programming  
Irish  
Mathematics  
Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies  
Moving Image Art  
Music  
Occupational Studies  
OCN Carbon Footprint  
OCN Certificate in Information Technology  
OCN Certificate in Personal Success and Well Being  
OCN Certificate in Skills for Employment  
OCN Certificate in Vocational Skills  
OCN Religious Studies  
OCN Science  
Physical Education  
Physics  
Preparation for Adult Life  
Prince's Trust  
Product Design: Resistant Material  
Religious Studies  
Science: Double Award  
Science: Single Award  
Spanish



The College currently offers Applied GCSEs in Business, Construction, and ICT. Other subjects include the non-examination element of the curriculum 'Learning for Life and Work'.

Learning Support pupils are offered Level 2 Home Cooking Skills, Level 1 Personal Money Management, Essential Skills in Communication and Numeracy and Level 1 Employability Skills.



## 2. Advanced Level GCE (AS and A2)

Art and Design  
 Biology  
 Business Studies  
 Chemistry  
 Digital Technology (IT)  
 English Literature  
 French (MRLP)  
 Geography  
 Irish  
 Mathematics  
 Music  
 Physical Education  
 Physics  
 Product Design  
 Religious Studies  
 Software Development  
 Spanish



St Patrick's College plays a key role in the Magherafelt and Rural Learning Partnership (MRLP). As well as enabling the sharing of staff development good practice, the Partnership allows the College to work with the other schools in the Partnership to enhance the curricular provision in the College. The College offers Music, Performing Arts and History A Level to schools who attend the College for lessons. St Patrick's pupils can choose to attend Partnership schools for A Level French.

## 3. Applied GCE

Currently the College offers a choice of Applied 'A' Levels in:

- Double Award and Single Award Health and Social Care
- Single Award only Information and Communication Technology Applied Business

## 4. BTEC

Currently the College offers a choice of BTEC in

National Diploma in Sports Development and Fitness (equivalent to 2 'A' Levels)  
 National Diploma in Applied Science (equivalent to 2 'A' Levels)



National Subsidiary Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment (equivalent to 1 'A' Level)  
 National Extended Certificate in Engineering (equivalent to 1 'A' Level)  
 National Subsidiary Diploma in Travel and Tourism (equivalent to 1 'A' Level)

### *Please note:*

The College's curriculum is arranged in such a way to enable each pupil to receive a broad and balanced education and to reach their potential.

# The Northern Ireland Curriculum

The Northern Ireland Curriculum will:-

- provide a more joined-up and holistic approach to learning
- have greater emphasis on real work skills, and the specific element of Learning for Life and Work
- provide greater flexibility that will enable pupils to access the wider range of opportunities envisaged in the Curriculum Entitlement Framework

The Northern Ireland Curriculum operates in the College in Key Stage 3. Pupils are currently assessed in cross curricular skills in Communication and Using Mathematics. Key Stage 4 pupils are assessed by external examinations.

Concerns regarding the curriculum should be put in writing to the Principal of the College.

As advised by the Department of Education the College reserves the right to determine the viability of subjects offered.

External Examinations

Pupils are entered for GCSE, GCE 'A' Level and AS Level examinations offered by all of the major examination boards.







## Religious Studies

Religious Studies is compulsory from Year 8 to Year 14 unless a parent has expressed otherwise. Pupils from other denominations are not expected to participate in religious classes or services that are specifically Catholic in nature.



# Assessment

At St Patrick's we believe the main purpose of Assessment is to enable each student to develop their full potential by knowing where they are in their learning and what they have to do in order to continue to make good progress. Assessment is a fundamental part of learning and teaching and therefore all students are entitled to Assessment which is used effectively in managing and supporting their learning in all subjects throughout all the key stages.

At the start of Key Stages 3 and 4, all students sit a baseline test. The results of these tests and student's prior attainment enable the College to set a target grade for the students. At Key Stage 5, target grades are based on average performance at GCSE. These targets allow the students to be tracked across all subjects to see if they are making 'good' or expected progress. The target grade is the grade which should be expected from the student's performance. The primary objective of the student will be to meet the target and then try to exceed it.

There are 3 tracks throughout the academic year and all tracks are shared with students and parents to ensure that they, along with all staff, are clear on how an individual student is likely to perform.

At Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, a system of 'fine grading' has been adopted. This adds a level of accuracy to the broad grade and allows staff to focus on specific intervention and support strategies for each student. Students are aware of their targets and projected grades and are therefore encouraged to push on and secure a grade or to move up a grade. Alongside the student tracking

the College recognises and encourages assessment which:

- Promotes and supports learning
- Informs teaching
- Is both formative and summative
- Uses appropriate and diverse strategies
- Recognises ALL student progress and achievement
- Develops the capacity for self-assessment
- Fosters a shared involvement and responsibility between school and home

# Learning Support Centre and Autism Support Centre

In St. Patrick's we pride ourselves on the inclusive nature of our school; everyone is welcomed, everyone is valued, every child matters. The staff in St. Patrick's recognise and respond to the different abilities, aptitudes, interests and diverse needs of the pupils in our school. We continually strive to improve outcomes for all of our pupils. In doing so we recognise that some pupils require very particular supports. i.e. provision additional to or different from that generally made for other children of the same age.

All staff in St. Patrick's take responsibility for and care about children with additional needs. Supporting children with SEND is an integral part of whole school planning and it is part and parcel of the role of the classroom teacher. Our staff pride themselves on being adaptive, flexible and most importantly caring in their approach to children on the SEND register. These teachers work alongside



an energetic and innovative team of over 50 classroom assistants who bring a wide range of skills and experiences to the school community. The LSC team prioritise pupil welfare and positive

home school links. These six teachers in the ASC/LSC have specific responsibilities, all teachers support pupils with additional needs.







# Sixth Form

Pupils are interviewed for admission to Sixth Form studies on an individual basis.

The following criteria are applied:

1. To meet the College's minimum academic requirements for entry to Sixth Form.
2. To meet the College's minimum requirements for the particular course of study proposed.
3. To have a good record of diligence, conduct and attendance as evidenced by recent school reports (i.e. covering KS4 career).
4. To be willing to accept the policies and standards of the College.

The Principal has the right to exercise their discretion in any given case.

Sixth Formers have the opportunity to apply for posts of responsibility such as Prefect or Peer Mentor. Each post has specific duties attached providing opportunities for personal development.

## **Sixth Form Well Being Hub**

Our new well-being lead, along with MD Educational Foundation, is on a mission to prioritise the well-being of our Year 13 & 14 pupils.

Our vision is a world in which every student has access to the well-being support they need, without delay.

Our mission is for all post-16 students to feel supported in every aspect of their well-being, helping them on their journey to a brighter future.

Our values are to educate, empower, and enlighten along the way. We will do so through one-to-one sessions, drop-in sessions, yoga, meditation, and mindfulness.

Our well-being lead will deliver well-being curriculums to those that need it the most, proactively shaping the future for our young people.

# Pastoral Care

The pastoral care system is based on the aims of the College, designed to be caring and child centred. Consequently every member of staff has a responsibility for the well being of the individual pupil and for the creation of an atmosphere in which the personal development of the pupil is strongly informed by their Christian belief. As a child-centred College, we strive to meet the needs of pupils in a professional, caring manner. The College operates a Head of Year and Class tutor system for each year group and class, facilitating a strong individual support network for pupils. Heads of Year keep close contact with parents. A Vice Principal and Senior Teacher (Care and Guidance) has a lead responsibility for Pastoral

Care, ensuring that pupils' needs are met and opportunities for development are Pastoral Care optimised. In addition the College chaplain, the Student Support Officer and the Adviser of Studies co-ordinate their efforts to ensure that pupils receive appropriate support and encouragement during their life in the College. Parents also have an important part to play in support of the pastoral care system. Parents are strongly encouraged to take an active interest in the progress and development of their child. Guidance is available to parents as to how they can best support pupils. Parents are always made welcome in the College and are expected to give positive support to the aims and objectives of the College. We firmly believe "every child matters".







# Ready, Respectful, Safe

The Staff and Governors of St Patrick's College believe that children are entitled to an education of the highest quality which is relevant and challenging; set in a safe, secure, nurturing environment. We aim to promote positive behaviour and early intervention.

At St. Patrick's we have three simple rules 'Ready, Respectful, Safe'. We ask that our students are 'Ready' to learn and participate in school life. We encourage our students to be 'Respectful' of the individual differences, opinions and values of other learners and adults in school. We insist that our students are 'Safe' in their actions and behaviours towards others and themselves.

These three core values of 'Ready, Respectful, Safe' drive everything we do at the College and help shape the positive culture we want to see for our young people. This management approach is essential for effective teaching and learning. In focusing on these three core values, we will ensure and enable our students to be the best that they can be.



# How to Report a Concern



**I have a concern about my child's  
or any child's safety**

**I can talk to the Head of Year  
- Tel: (028 79642451)**

**If I am still concerned I can talk to the  
Designated Teacher for Safeguarding –  
Mrs J Young Tel: (028 79642451) OR I can  
talk to the Principal –  
Mrs K Crilly OR Mrs G Carville  
(Board of Governors)**

**If I am still concerned I can talk or  
write to the Chairperson of the Board  
of Governors – Mrs A Mc Corry**

**If I am still concerned I can contact the  
NI Public Services Ombudsman  
Tel: 0800 343 424**

**At any time I can talk to the local  
Children's Services Gateway Team  
03001234333 or the PSNI Central  
Referral Unit at 028 9025 9299**

# Extra-Curricular Activities

Pupils may avail of a whole range of extracurricular activities such as Music, Drama, Public Speaking, Art, Science and Quiz competitions: Feiseanna, Business Enterprise and Language Societies. The College has a choir, which has competed successfully throughout the province. Traditional music and cultural activities are also offered. Many pupils attend the Gaeltacht and compete in competitions.

## Sport

Sport plays a significant role in the life of the College. It gives opportunities to develop a variety of skills such as teamwork, self-discipline and commitment. In addition to the programmes of study in the National Curriculum for Physical Education, the College offers Gaelic Football, Hurling, Camogie and Athletics. These are offered at competition level.

### Aims:

- (i) To encourage each pupil to discover and develop his/her talents which will be recognised and valued. These will include physical, personal and social qualities.
- (ii) To encourage the widest possible participation in a range of activities through both timetabled Physical Education and extra-curricular sports programmes which contribute significantly to pupils' personal development.
- (iii) To liaise and co-operate as fully as possible with local communities to encourage pupils' awareness of and participation in parish and community life.

The College facilities include a Sports Hall, 2 gymnasias, a fitness suite, 5 grass football pitches, an all-weather court, a tarmac play area and tennis courts/outdoor basketball courts. Use is also made of the following off-site facilities:

- (i) Local Recreation Centre facilities which comprise hall, cardiovascular fitness room, fitness suite, Omni turf court, soccer pitch and golf driving range.
- (ii) Local G.A.A. pitches.

Pupils can participate in:

Athletics  
Badminton  
Basketball  
Camogie  
Chess  
Coding club  
Cross-country  
Dance  
Gaelic football  
Gymnastics  
Health-fitness  
Hurling  
Lego club  
Movie club  
Netball  
Rounders  
Soccer  
Table-tennis  
Tennis  
Unihoc  
Volleyball

Walking  
Zumba

Further details can be obtained from the College. St. Patrick's College has a proud record in all of these areas and hopes to continue the tradition of aiming for high achievement in all aspects of College life and pursuits.









# House System

As part of our pastoral support, we encourage pupils to support one another across the year groups as part of the College House system. This is a way of creating a sense of family between pupils of all ages, with a common purpose to focus on success, achievement and to celebrate the contribution everyone makes to the school. Each House is led by a Head of House and Assistant Head of House who motivate and engage pupils to work together to gain House points and to find opportunities to celebrate successes from across the House. There are House assemblies when pupils from every year group come

together as one family to recognise the accomplishments of members from Year 8 to Year 10 and there are fun days which help Houses gain points. Senior pupils are encouraged to motivate and mentor younger pupils in their House to celebrate their gifts and talents.

Where pupils represent the school or have significant success in or out of school, the House celebrate them and Heads of House see that points are awarded for this effort bringing further success to the House as a whole. Like any family, the House celebrate together and work together to win rewards for the House.



## Grillagh

Head of House:  
E Digney  
Assistant Head of House:  
P O'Carroll



## Bann

Head of House:  
M McLoone  
Assistant Head of House:  
E Mc Laughlin



## Roe

Head of House:  
P Toner  
Assistant Head of House:  
A Gormley



## Moyola

Head of House:  
N O'Kane  
Assistant Head of House:  
M Taggart



## Agivey

Head of House:  
K McGurk  
Assistant Head of House:  
N Hanna



## Maine

Head of House:  
A Duddy  
Assistant Head of House:  
E McKay



# Confidentiality and Record Keeping

No promise of confidentiality can or will ever be made to a child or anyone else giving information about possible child abuse. The information received will be shared only with those professionals who need to know and within the appropriate professional context.

## **Safeguarding**

Staff in St. Patrick's have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils a duty which is carried out through implementation of the Pastoral Care Policy, which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment, valuing individuals for their unique talents and abilities. In such an environment, the young people can learn and develop to their full potential. Pupils are taught about the signs and risks of abuse, in order to help them to recognise unwelcome behaviour from others and to acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

## **Homework**

All pupils are expected to set time aside each evening for homework, which is based on what is covered in each subject in class, to reinforce learning and consolidate knowledge and understanding. Teachers and pupils use software called SIMS Engagement to set and view homework. SIMS Parent and SIMS Student Apps software is readily available to parents and pupils online and as an app for mobile phones. Pupils can view their homework on the student app. Parents can also log on and check that homework has been completed. We use the SIMS

Parent App to share all information electronically with parents/guardians, this includes attendance, behaviour and academic progress as well as all other relevant information.

## **Uniform**

Uniform is compulsory. Details are available from the College on request.

## **Parent Bulletin**

We communicate weekly with parents through our bulletin, posted each Friday on SIMS App. It is important that parents use the SIMS App frequently to be fully updated with school business.

## **School Closures**

The College operates statutory closures as set out by the Department of Education. Details of all closures are published through the College literature and website. All pupils are expected to observe these arrangements.

# Charges and Remissions

The College provides a wide variety of opportunities for pupils to develop their talents beyond the requirements of the National Curriculum. Some of these have to be funded privately. To assist the College with resources, transport costs, pupils' rewards, extra-curricular activities and educational visits the College asks for a School Fund. This charge is kept to a minimum and is adjusted to take account of the number of children from the same family. Otherwise the regulations laid down in the Education Order (NI) 1989 are observed. This is a voluntary contribution and parents are asked to support it. No pupil has been, or will be penalised because of failure to support this fund.

## Additional Costs

Other expenses may be incurred by individual pupils.

These are: -

(1) Individual or group music tuition. Parents will be asked, in advance, to agree to the arrangement and the proposed fee. This refers to tuition not associated with the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

(2) Entry fees for examinations paid by the College for which the pupil failed to sit.

(3) Ingredients and materials needed for courses in practical subjects offered by the College, where the pupil receives the finished product.

(4) Residential trips

(5) Cost for the replacement of books or equipment belonging to the College, which the pupil has lost or damaged. Damages to College property, e.g. glass, will be charged to the person who caused the damage. Malicious damage will be considered as a criminal offence and treated accordingly. Pupils will be charged for repair of damage.

The College reserves the right to cancel any activity arranged under the terms of the above agreement.







#### Acknowledgements

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