



ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE MAGHERA

PROSPECTUS 2026 | 2027





SITES

1. **MAIN SITE:**
25 Coleraíne 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@stpatricksmaghera.ni.sch.uk
 2. **YEAR 8:**
The St. Mary Building, Tullyheron Road
Telephone No. (028) 796 42464
Office Hours - 9.00am - 4.30pm
- I **Principal:** Mrs K. Crilly
 - I **Chair of the Board of Governors:** Mrs Teresa O'Hagan
 - I **Enrolment No. -** 1355
 - I **Intake to Year 8 -** 219

N.B.

1. This Prospectus relates to the academic year 2026-27 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 Think, Lead, Succeed.

SIGNATURE

Mrs. K. Crilly
Principal



THINK LEAD SUCCEED



INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLEGE

All parents are welcome to visit the College on Open Day on Saturday 24th January 2026 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. Our curriculum offer changes every year in line with pupil preferences and aspirations. 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:

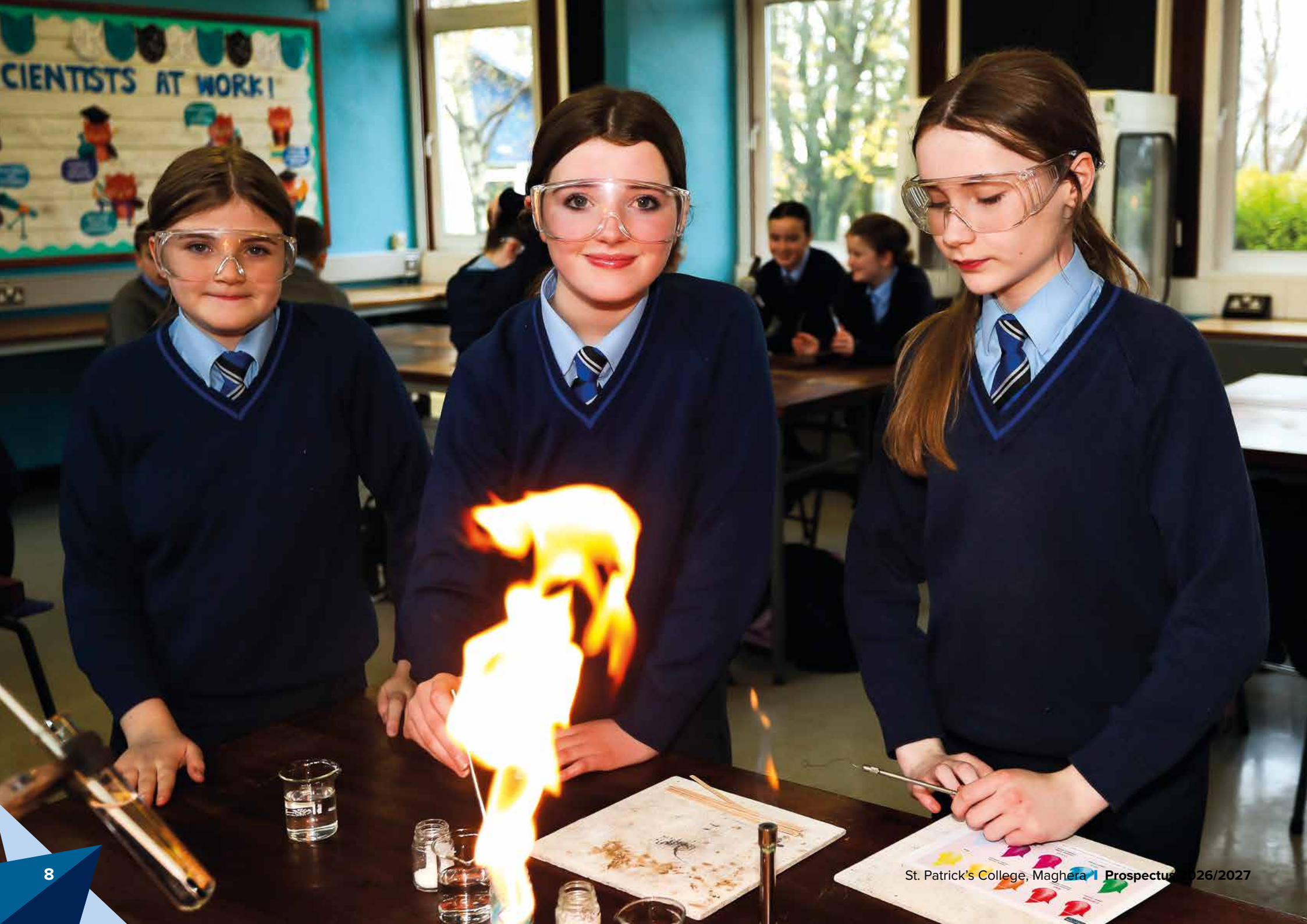
1. G.C.S.E. or equivalent in -

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Agriculture | ICT |
| Art & Design | Irish |
| Biology | Mathematics |
| Business Communications | Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies |
| Business Studies | Moving Image Art |
| Chemistry | Music |
| Child Development | Occupational Studies |
| Construction | PE |
| Drama | Physics |
| English | Preparation for Adult Life |
| English Literature | King's Trust |
| French | Product Design: Resistant Material |
| Further Mathematics | Religious Studies |
| Geography | Science: Double Award |
| History | Science: Single Award |
| Home Economics: Food and Nutrition | Spanish |

Other subjects include the non-examination element of the curriculum 'Learning for Life and Work' and Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance.

Learning Support pupils are offered a range of qualifications including Essential Skills in Communication and Numeracy.





2. ADVANCED LEVEL GCE (AS AND A2)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Art and Design Biology Business Studies Chemistry Digital Technology (IT) English Literature French Geography History | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Irish Mathematics Music Performing Arts Physical Education Physics Product Design Religious Studies Spanish |
|---|---|

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 Extended Certificate in Construction and the Built Environment
(equivalent to 1 'A' Level)
- | National Extended Certificate in Engineering
(equivalent to 1 'A' Level)
- | National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism
(equivalent to 1 'A' Level)
- | National Extended Certificate in Information Technology
(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.

OUR VISIONARY FRAMEWORK

Following an extensive and inclusive consultation with all stakeholders, we are proud to relaunch our visionary framework—a bold blueprint for the future of St Patrick's College. This renewed vision reflects the voices of our entire community: pupils, teaching and non-teaching staff, the Parent Teacher Association, governors, and a representative from the Education Authority. Together, we have crafted a framework that captures the very essence of our ethos—igniting a love of learning, fostering creativity, and empowering courageous leadership. This is more than a statement; it is a shared commitment to excellence, integrity, and possibility. Our vision will guide every decision, inspire every classroom, and shape a future where every student thrives.

At St Patrick's College, Maghera, we are a Catholic learning community committed to inspiring a love of learning and nurturing resilient, confident learners who grow in faith and ambition. Our mission is clear: to challenge and support every student so they can thrive academically, personally, and spiritually.

OUR VISION

We aspire for every member of our community to:

Think creatively, embracing curiosity and independence;
Lead courageously, guided by authenticity, character, and faith;
Succeed in a rapidly evolving world through determination and support.

OUR MISSION

We provide high-quality teaching and learning experiences, foster wellbeing, and celebrate effort. Through innovation and collaboration, we empower students to become lifelong learners and courageous leaders. Our Mission Statement notes: "We are a Catholic community that inspires a love of learning, celebrates effort and nurtures resilient, confident learners to grow in faith and ambition by ensuring all are challenged and supported to thrive".

OUR VALUES

Our core values—Faith, Honesty, Inclusion, Integrity, Respect, and Kindness—underpin everything we do. They shape our culture, guide our decisions, and ensure that St Patrick's College remains a place where every individual feels valued and inspired to achieve their full potential.

ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAGHERA THINK LEAD SUCCEED

OUR VISION

**THINK
LEAD
SUCCEED**



OUR MISSION

We are a Catholic community that inspires a love of learning, celebrates effort and nurtures resilient, confident learners to grow in faith and ambition by ensuring all are challenged and supported to thrive.

OUR VALUES



INCLUSION



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. Before starting Key Stages 3 and 4, all students sit a baseline test. The results of these tests and student's current attainment enable the College to set target grades for students. Every pupil will have a "Minimum Expected Target Grade" and an "If Challenged Target Grade" for each subject. 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 "expected" or "if challenged" progress. This target grade range indicates the range of grades within which students should be performing. The primary objective of the student will be to meet the Minimum Expected Target Grade and then try to achieve the If Challenged Target Grade or even better exceed the If Challenged Target Grade. Should the Minimum Expected and If Challenged Target Grade be the same there is scope within the grade boundary to make improvement, e.g. from a low C (C3) to a high C (C1). 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 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

At St. Patrick's, we pride ourselves on being a welcoming and inclusive community. Every pupil is respected, supported, and encouraged to thrive. Our staff recognise and respond to the varying abilities, aptitudes, interests and diverse needs of all learners. We continually strive to improve outcomes for all of our pupils. In doing so, we recognise that some pupils require very particular supports. This may include provision that is additional to or different from that generally made for other children of the same age.

Supporting children with SEND is an integral part of whole-school planning and is embedded within the role of every classroom teacher. Our staff are committed to supporting children with additional needs and ensuring they receive the support and guidance required to thrive. They pride themselves on being adaptive, flexible and above all caring in their approach to pupils on the SEND register. These teachers work alongside an energetic and innovative team of over 54 classroom assistants. Together, they bring a wide range of skills and experiences to our school community.

The Learning Support Centre (LSC) and Autism Support Centre (ASC) prioritise pupil welfare and positive home school links. These specialist settings provide tailored support for pupils with additional needs, ensuring they can access the curriculum and thrive in a mainstream environment. Four dedicated teachers lead the ASC and LSC teams, while all teachers work collaboratively to support pupils with additional needs across the school.

We are dedicated to nurturing potential, building confidence, and creating opportunities for success in every learner. Together, we empower every learner to Think. Lead. Succeed.





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 well-being lead, 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 ethos of the College, designed to demonstrate our values of Faith, Honesty, Inclusion, Integrity, Respect, and Kindness. Consequently, every member of staff has a responsibility for the wellbeing 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, Assistant Head of Year and Class tutor system for each year group and class, facilitating a strong individual support network for pupils. The Pastoral Team keep close contact with parents supported by a member of the Senior Leadership Team who supports the young people as they grow through the school. The two Vice Principals have lead responsibility for Pastoral Care - one for KS3 and one for KS4/5, ensuring that pupils' needs are met and opportunities for development are Pastoral Care optimised. In addition the young people receive support from our Wellbeing and Counselling team, Father Doherty, our Governor and Trustee, the Special Educational Needs team and the mentoring team 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 and who they can positively support the aims and objectives of the College.

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 which reflects the College values. 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.



Restorative Practice

As a school built on Catholic ethos and positive relationships we believe in a restorative approach. A restorative school supports all children to fulfil their potential and become the very best that they can be and allows. Restorative Practices are evidenced to help develop children's resilience so that they can navigate difficulties in a positive way

BEING RESTORATIVE IS ABOUT

- **Showing respect** - everyone is important and has the right to be safe and happy in school.
- **Taking responsibility** - working with others to create good relationships in school and owning up when I have caused upset or harm.
- **Repairing broken relationships** - making things right when there is conflict or harm caused.
- **Connecting with others** - being my best self so that the school which I belong to can achieve better together



READY, RESPECTFUL, SAFE

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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 – Mr Andrew Terrington
Tel: 028 79642451 or I can talk to the Principal
– Mrs K. Crilly or Mrs T. O'Hagan (Board of Governors)

If I am still concerned I can talk or write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors – Mrs T. O'Hagan

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

Extra-Curricular Activities at St. Patrick's College
At St. Patrick's College, we believe that learning extends far beyond the classroom. Our vibrant extra-curricular programme offers something for everyone: you name it, we have it! From the arts to academics, sport to wellbeing, our students have countless opportunities to explore their passions and develop new skills.

THE ARTS

Music thrives here, with opportunities to join the choir and art club, take part in full-scale musicals, or receive individual tuition. Drama enthusiasts can showcase their talents in our acclaimed productions, building confidence and creativity.

CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Our lunchtime clubs cater to a wide range of interests: from Science Club to mindfulness sessions and everything in between. These activities help students develop essential life skills such as teamwork, resilience, leadership, and problem-solving, while fostering friendships and a sense of belonging.

SPORTING EXCELLENCE

We are proud of our reputation for sporting success, competing at the highest level nationally. While we celebrate our silverware, we value sport as a powerful driver for nurturing positive attitudes, strong character, and a willingness to learn. Our renewed focus on development squads ensures depth and progression across all panels, creating opportunities for every aspiring athlete.

HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE

Our state-of-the-art High-Performance Centre is a hub for athletic growth and wellbeing. We invite you to visit the gym during Open Day and see how we support students in achieving their personal best.

At St. Patrick's College, extra-curricular activities are not just an addition: they are an integral part of shaping well-rounded, confident, and ambitious learners.

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







THE PATRICIAN AWARDS: CREATING WELL-ROUNDED LEARNERS AT ST. PATRICK'S COLLEGE

At St. Patrick's College, we believe education is about more than academic success. It is about shaping young people who live with faith, integrity, and a sense of responsibility to others. Our vision is to create learners who can Think, Lead and Succeed- who grow spiritually, intellectually, and socially, leaving a positive mark on their community.

To help achieve this, we have developed the Patrician Awards, a unique programme for Key Stage 3 pupils. These awards encourage students to live out our vision, mission and values in the following ways:

- **Faith in the Presence of God**
- **Respect for All**
- **Quality Education**
- **Concern for the Poor and Social Justice**
- **Inclusive Community**

Through meaningful activities, such as participating in liturgical roles, learning new skills, supporting charities, and promoting inclusion, students develop character, empathy, and leadership. From writing prayers and creating artwork inspired by scripture to raising awareness for local causes, every task helps pupils grow as compassionate, faith-driven individuals.

The Patrician Awards are more than a badge of honour; they are a commitment to giving back, fostering resilience, and preparing our learners to make a difference. By the end of KS3, our students don't just succeed academically they become ambassadors and live our 7 core values daily.



LEARNING AND TEACHING

As a college we are dedicated to creating a rich language environment that helps our pupils to develop the ability to think deeply, communicate clearly, and engage creatively across all subjects. We use the Learning and Teaching Cycle as a shared approach by both pupils and staff, ensuring that learning remains at the heart of everything that we do in our college. This approach also builds essential literacy, numeracy and digital skills, ensuring our pupils are well-prepared for life and learning beyond the classroom.

LEARNING AND TEACHING CYCLE



HOME LEARNING

Our college uses the language of **home learning** instead of homework. This shift in language reflects our commitment to helping pupils engage more deeply with knowledge and skills, not just complete tasks. Home learning encourages independent thinking, curiosity, and a love of learning that goes beyond the school day. We encourage all pupils to dedicate time in the evening to home learning. This learning is directly linked to what they have learned in class and is designed to reinforce key concepts and deepen their understanding.

Your involvement in your child's learning makes a real difference. Whether it is discussing ideas, exploring topics together, or simply showing interest in what they're learning, these small actions help them succeed.

To support this home learning, we use SIMS Engagement software.

HERE IS HOW IT WORKS:

- Pupils can view their home learning through the SIMS Student App.
- Parents can use the SIMS Parent App to check home learning completion and stay informed.

The SIMS Parent App also provides important updates including:

- Attendance
- Behaviour
- Academic Progress
- Other relevant information



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.

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.

