



# Educating for the Future **since 1922**

St. Joseph's Grammar  
School Donaghmore  
**Scoil Íosaef**  
Prospectus  
2026

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# Welcome

## from the Principal

Dear Parents and Pupils

Welcome to St Joseph's Grammar/Scoil Iósaef, a school with a proud past and an exciting future.

St Joseph's Grammar School/ Scoil Iósaef is a Catholic school having been founded by the Daughters of the Cross in 1922. For over 100 years we have provided a nurturing and supportive learning environment in which all children are welcomed and are valued as individuals. We offer an outstanding educational experience for boys and girls from age 11 to 18 and all of our pupils progress into a wide variety of career pathways each year.

St Joseph's is unique in providing the only post-primary Irish Medium Stream in the mid-Ulster area and it is recognised as a thriving hub of linguistic excellence and cultural advancement. Launched in 2010, the Irish Medium Stream continues to go from strength to strength due, in no small part, to the rich and rewarding links we enjoy with a wide range of external Irish language bodies.

At St. Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef, we believe that every child is capable of greatness. Thus, we have the highest expectations of all our pupils and provide a curriculum that is broad and varied so that it meets the interests and ambitions of all learners. Our public exam results are consistently above the NI Grammar averages at both GCSE and A Level and these outcomes are a testament

to the hard work and diligence of our pupils and their teachers. Our dedicated staff know each pupil as an individual and work tirelessly to help them reach their full potential.

Of course, education should always be more than just the academics, important as these are. In St. Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef, it is our aim to give our young people every opportunity to acquire the skills and attributes that put them at the very front of the queue! We have a strong and growing presence in Ulster Colleges, an increasing number of Ulster and regional titles in netball, basketball, hurling and camogie and our swimmers, boxers and athletics competitors continue to make us proud of their achievements. We encourage our young people to participate in public speaking competitions, subject specific initiatives and charity drives so that they develop skills and capabilities that they can use in the real world. We have a long and well-earned reputation for our music and drama provision and our staff go above and beyond to offer clubs and societies that match the taste and interests of as many of our pupils as possible.

The school's sister charity, the Cairde Brogán Foundation, provides our pupils with opportunities to network with local and national businesses and organisations so that they are confident and well prepared for the world of work. Under the auspices of the Foundation, ten of our young people participate in the prestigious Ever to Excel

leadership programme each summer which is hosted by Boston College, USA. This is only one of a number of annual international trips which gives our pupils the chance to travel and experience other cultures and countries.

In St. Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef we place a real value on the caring and genial relationships between staff and pupils which are at the core of all the work that goes on in our school. All of our staff are guided by our Catholic ethos and the values entrusted to us by the Daughters of the Cross.

This year, we are preparing for a new stage in the story of St. Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef. Plans for a new school building and a 3G pitch are advancing towards planning application stage in early Spring 2026 and we look forward to gaining new state of the art provision which our pupils so richly deserve.

This is an exciting time for our school community and I invite you to become part of our story by joining us as a new Year 8 pupil in September 2026.



Geraldine Donnelly

PRINCIPAL



# A history spanning over 100 years



1920

The Daughters of the Cross arrive in Donaghmore. They initially work to set up a hospital, but this venture is unsuccessful and attracts no more than twenty patients. Sr Mary Hyacinth Corrigan closes the entire hospital enterprise and attention turns to opening a school.



1935

The red brick building is opened for boarders by Cardinal McRory on 26th November 1935. The number of boarders is now fifty.



1950

The school continues to grow with just over 100 pupils. The first 'whole school photograph' is taken.

1922

The Sisters open a new school. There is a weight of evidence to suggest Mullygruen House was functioning as a school before its official opening. It is believed the first intake was of five girls, one of whom was Miss Susie Donnelly whose father donated a cow to the Sisters in 1920. Some of the first students are pictured with Cardinal O'Donnell, Dean Quinn and "Finn," the nuns' dog.



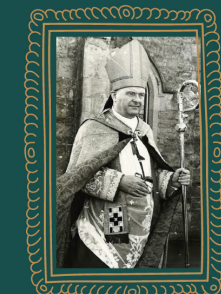
1941

Enrolment steadily increases as students who are evacuated from Belfast during World War II come to Donaghmore to board. There are now seventy students



1968

The new grey brick building is opened by Cardinal Conway.





## 1985

The first lay Principal, Mrs Helen McRory, oversees the difficult decision to end boarding. St Joseph's becomes a 'day school' only.



## 2007

Sadly the Sisters leave Donaghmore.



## 2016

There is significant capital investment on the site and a £4 million sports and drama complex is opened by then Education Minister, Peter Weir.



## 2023

There is further significant capital investment on the school site as a £1 million refurbishment of Mullygruen House begins along with a £4 million enhancement project to provide a new block of facilities.

## 2003

St. Joseph's Grammar School welcomes its first male students in two generations and officially becomes co-educational. It is worth noting that boys were also taught in the school during the 1920s.



## 2010

St. Joseph's Grammar School opens a pioneering Irish Medium Stream. Over the last fifteen years the IMS has grown significantly and proven to be exceptionally successful with students achieving examination results that far exceed the NI averages for similar students.



## 2022

St. Joseph's Grammar celebrates the centenary of its foundation by the Daughters of the Cross. The school now has an enrolment of 916.





# Our Distinctive Ethos

St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef offers high quality and inclusive education for all.

As a Catholic Grammar school St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef is committed to providing a high quality and inclusive education for all which is respectful of, and engages with, people of all faiths and none. Everyone is welcome in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef without distinction of any kind. We are proud of the culture of acceptance that characterises the ethos of St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef and ensures that diverse identities are recognised, welcomed, respected, and cherished. The delivery of all aspects of education at St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef is centred around our core values of kindness, aspiration, integrity, hope, community, faith and service. At the very heart of our ethos is Jesus' command to love God and neighbour. This command inspires a caring ethos which is characterised by positive and uplifting relationships.



Everyone is welcome  
in St. Joseph's /  
Scoil Íosaef without  
distinction.

While we enjoy a very strong tradition of academic excellence, we know that young people only achieve their full potential when they feel happy, secure and are invigorated by their school environment. It is central to our mission to ensure that all our students experience success which is recognised, celebrated, and in line with their individual ability. All those working in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, as teachers, leaders, support staff and governors, seek to recognise and treasure the unique gifts of each individual child and to do all they can to allow these to develop and flourish.

We are very much aware of, and deeply indebted to, the rich legacy left behind by our founding Order of Sisters, the Daughters of the Cross. The mantra of the Daughters, to "*be kind, be kind, be kind*", shapes relationships across the school and guides us to work to ensure that all members of our community are treated with inherent dignity, equality, and respect.



# Our Vision and Mission

## OUR VISION

Guided by faith.  
Creating leaders.  
Shaping the future.

## MISSION STATEMENT

St. Joseph's Grammar School / Scoil Iósaef is a progressive community inspired and guided by the example of Jesus Christ. At the heart of our mission is a commitment to creating an environment where everyone feels safe, valued and cherished for who they are. We dedicate ourselves to inculcating a love of lifelong learning which is underpinned by Catholic values, high expectations and aspiration. We are committed to instilling within our students integrity, compassion and social responsibility, empowering them to act in the service of others.





# Our Core Values



The core values of St. Joseph's Grammar School/Scoil Iósaef are grounded in the mission of our founding order of Sisters, the Daughters of the Cross. These core values are the cornerstone of everything we do and they should be reflected in all aspects of daily life. We believe that, being shaped by these core values, our students leave school ready to live out the mission of the Sisters, to be a light of faith to others and to witness the truth of Christ through service and practical outreach.

## Service

Service reminds us of the Gospel command to love God and to love one's neighbour as oneself. We aim to honour Jesus by loving and serving Him, helping the weakest and most vulnerable members of our society.

## Kindness

Kindness reminds us that the mantra of the Sisters, "Be kind, be kind, be kind", should guide all we think, all we say and all we do. We must work together to ensure that all members of our community are treated with dignity, equality, and respect.

## Hope

God is our constant source of hope. Everyone faces challenging and difficult times but we must remember that there is always an ear to listen and a hand to help no matter how difficult a situation may seem.

## Faith

Faith reminds us that each person in our community is on their own faith journey and at their own individual stage. We seek to ensure that everyone is provided with opportunities to explore their faith and the faith of others in a culture of respect and acceptance.

## Community

Community reminds us that we are a family of God. Our Catholic school is inclusive and welcoming of everyone without distinction of any kind.

## Aspiration

Aspiration reminds us that we have high expectations of everyone in our community and encourage our students to aspire to be the best they can be. We nurture the holistic growth of all and celebrate achievement in its many facets.

## Integrity

Integrity reminds us that we must always be truthful and take responsibility for our actions and their consequences. We are called to be honest, consistent and uncompromising when it comes to doing the right thing.

# Development of the School 2026 and Beyond

We are very fortunate that our school is situated on one of the gentle hills that overlooks the historic settlement of Donaghmore, a village with a long history dating back to the time of St Patrick. When in 1922, the Daughters of the Cross undertook to provide a school for local children in this area, the building they acquired was the old manor house of the Lyle family which you can still see today sitting proudly at the top of the school site as you approach from the Castlecaulfield Road. Along with the manor house came several acres of surrounding lands that the Sisters began to farm so that they could be as self-sufficient as possible. In spite of early challenges, the school began to thrive and “the Convent”, as it was affectionately known, has expanded ever since.

In the decades after its foundation, government grants permitted the Sisters to develop and expand upon the original school premises so that by the late 1960s, the pupils and staff were able to move to what was then their brand new school building.

Today, the school estate consists of an eclectic mix of buildings from the 1830s, the 1930s and the 1960s. But more recently, we were delighted to take possession of our state-of-the-art sports hall and drama facilities, constructed under the Schools Enhancement Project in 2017.

As the new year beckons, we are awaiting the next phase of school development which is due to come to fruition after several years of planning and design. In 2025, the Department of Education acquired additional lands adjacent to the existing school site, adding an additional 6.5 acres to the school estate. Plans are about to be submitted to Mid-Ulster Council for approval for a new building which will include a new canteen, a library, a sixth form centre and several new general teaching classrooms. The new building will be located on the newly acquired lands and will allow the Department to progress further replacement of the 1960s buildings with more modern and appropriate accommodation for our children.

As well as the planned new building, we are also progressing the development of a 3G pitch which will be located at the back of the school site close to the sports hall.

There is a saying, “great oaks from little acorns grow” and that has certainly been the story of St Joseph’s. We are excited about the future of our school and we would be delighted if you could be part of that journey with us.







# Outstanding Academic Achievment



St. Joseph's  
Grammar school  
year 12 Academic Intake

93%

7 A\* – C

including English and  
Maths at GCSE

NI Grammar average  
2024 90.5%



Sruth na Gaeilge

81.6%

5 A\* – C

including English and  
Maths at GCSE

NI Non Grammar  
average 2024 is 58.4%



83%

3 A\* – C

at A Level

NI Grammar average  
2024 79.9%



# Care and Welfare

We want all our students to grow into happy, confident, and aspirational young people who feel empowered to take up their place in the modern world.

Daily life in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef is firmly focused on the care and welfare of our students. We aim to create a safe and secure learning environment and work hard to ensure that relationships for learning are characterised by mutual respect, openness, and trust. Our pastoral care structures aim to support students to effectively overcome barriers to learning and realise their potential.

The effectiveness of the personal development and preventative education curriculum is regularly reviewed to ensure it is flexible and responsive to the needs of all students. The pastoral team works collaboratively with outside agencies to support the care and welfare of all students.

The pastoral care aims in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef are:

- To create and maintain a school culture where students feel safe, valued, known and respected;
- To inculcate within students a strong sense of their own dignity, identity and self-esteem, combined with a mutual respect for others;
- To proactively support students to develop strategies and change behaviours to maximise mental and physical health;
- To prepare students to become effective citizens in the local and global community.



The personal development and preventative education provision cuts across the curriculum but is also delivered through discrete weekly timetabled lessons which have been planned to ensure progression.

Students study a range of topics, including:

- Health and the whole person;
- Self-concept;
- Feelings and emotions;
- Morals, values and beliefs;
- Managing influences and making decisions;
- Managing change;
- Learning about learning;
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE);
- Safety and managing risk;
- Drug awareness.



## Safeguarding

We work hard to make sure that all our students understand that their concerns will be listened to, and appropriate action taken. St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef has a robust child protection and safeguarding policy which is in line with guidance issued by the Department of Education. The school engages in a regular process of self-evaluation to ensure that policy and procedure relating to child protection and safeguarding is working to protect students.







# Learning Support

We have a dedicated Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCo), Mr Niall Kelly who leads strategically to ensure that any child with an additional need, whether it be educational or medical, is supported and enabled to reach their full potential, academically and holistically.

As SENCo, Mr Kelly's role is:

- To actively lead and coordinate our Learning Support provision;
- To act as a valuable point of contact for students, parents, teaching staff, non-teaching staff and outside support services in relation to Learning Support for students of our school;
- To enable our students to meet their full potential by removing any barriers, or potential barriers, on their learning journey;
- To continually monitor and evaluate SEN provision; identifying and promoting best practice.

In terms of meeting all needs and more specifically, additional needs, here at St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, we are proud of

our dedicated teaching staff. In addition, we have an excellent team of Learning Support Assistants who go above and beyond to support and help nurture the children in their care.

Mr Kelly explains that,

*"It is an honour, not only to have been entrusted with this vital role in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, but also to work with such a dedicated and progressive staff who never give up and are fully committed to meeting the needs of the students in our school".*

You can be assured that the staff in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef will leave no stone unturned to support your child to achieve their full potential.



# Broad and balanced curriculum

As a high performing grammar school we believe in a culture of high aspiration.

The curriculum in St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef reflects the statutory curricular requirements. It provides students with access to a broad, balanced and flexible range of options which are matched well to their needs and interests and provides relevant pathways to appropriate destinations. Our curriculum offers the full range of traditional A Level subjects along with a variety of vocational qualifications. Our students continue to enjoy outstanding academic success in all subject areas including English, Science, Mathematics, Languages and the Humanities. Results in external examinations consistently show that our students out-perform the Northern Ireland Grammar Average in many subject areas. Data evidences that we remain one of the top performing grammar schools in Mid-Ulster.

The Curriculum Vice Principal has overall leadership responsibility for the curriculum. There is regular review of the curriculum, at all levels, to meet the needs and interests of the current cohort of students and enable them to realise their potential.

We work collaboratively with other schools in the Dungannon Area Learning Community (ALC) and the programmes available through the ALC are of high quality and demonstrate commitment to meeting the needs, abilities and aspirations of all students.

The end of Years 10 and 12 mark key transition points and the curriculum team works proactively with students and parents to offer the help and guidance needed to make effective and positive subject choices. Our Key Stage 4 and Post-16 curriculums are as flexible as possible and enable success.





# Key Stage 3 (Years 8, 9 and 10) study

At Key Stage 3 students study the following subjects.

Art & Design
Drama
English
French
Gaeilge*
Geography
History
Home Economics
Information Communication Technology
Irish
Mathematics
Music
Physical Education
LLW – Citizenship, Personal Development, Employability
Religious Studies
Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
Technology and Design
Spanish

\* IMS Students Only

# GCSE

All students study at least nine subjects at GCSE level. As a high performing grammar school, we believe in a culture of high aspiration and therefore a significant number of our students study ten or eleven subjects at GCSE.

Art and Design
Business Communication Systems
Business Studies
Digital Technology (Multimedia)
Digital Technology (Programming)
Double Award Science
Drama
Engineering
English Language
English Literature
Food Nutrition
French
Further Mathematics
Gaeilge*
Geography
Health and Social Care
History
Irish
Mathematics
Music
Physical Education
Religious Studies
Single Award Science
Technology and Design
OCN Sport
OCN RE
OCN ICT







## Post-16

We offer a large range of subjects at Post-16 level. To further enhance our provision, we are part of the Dungannon Area Learning Community.

The following subjects are on offer:

Applied Health and Social Care
Art and Design
Biology
Cambridge Technical Business
Business Studies
Chemistry
Digital Technology
Employability and Professional Development Skills (Level 3 Enrichment qualification studied in addition to A Level subjects)
Engineering (BTEC)
English Literature
French*
Geography
History
Cambridge Technical Information Technology
Irish
Mathematics
Music
Nutrition and Food Science
Performing Arts*
Physics
Politics
Religious Studies
Sports Science and the Active Leisure Industry
Systems Software Development*
Technology and Design
Sociology

\*Subjects offered  
as part of the  
Dungannon Area  
Learning Community



# Year 8 Pupil Perspective

My name is Hannah Dobson; I live near the village of Donaghmore. I have two sisters, Lucy is my older sister, who also attends St. Joseph's, and my younger sister Charlotte is in my old primary school, St. Patrick's Primary School Donaghmore.

When I went to the Open Day at St. Joseph's Grammar School, I was amazed at all the wonderful activities. I loved the interactive displays and how friendly and welcoming the pupils and staff were.

I chose St. Joseph's Grammar School because of all the learning opportunities and the wonderfully warm welcome I received.

“St. Joseph's ethos of ‘be kind, be kind, be kind’ is very meaningful to me. This is what makes St. Joseph's a really special place. St. Joseph's is more than just education; it is the way the school and the people in it make you feel.”

“I feel so lucky to go to school here. It was really easy to settle into St. Joseph's because I made so many new friends and some of my primary school friends are in my form class too.”

My favourite subjects are Art, Drama, Music and Maths. I have enjoyed getting to know all the staff, especially my form teacher and subject teachers. Even though I was a little nervous I quickly adjusted to my new school's surroundings.

I really hope you choose St. Joseph's too as it is a welcoming and brilliant school with lots of fun games and activities such as ping pong, football and much more. I know you will enjoy it as much as I do.

**HANNAH DOBSON**

8 X



# Year 8 Irish Medium Stream Perspective

“Is mise Eoghan Ó Riain agus tá mé dhá bhliain déag d’aois. Tá mé i mo chónaí i mBaile na Móna agus d’fhreastail mé ar Ghaelscoil Eoghain ar an Chorr Chríochach”

Tá mé i rang a hOcht I agus nuair a thosaigh mé ar Scoil Iósaef, bhí idir imní agus sceitimíní orm. Bhí imní orm cionn is go raibh gach rud úrnua agus ba mhó an scoil seo ná mo bhunscoil, le níos mó daltaí agus seomraí ranga. Bhí sceitimíní orm mar eispéireas nua a bhí ann agus bhí aithne agam cheana féin ar chuid de na daltaí, mar tá deartháir níos sine liom i mBliain 10 agus bhuail mé le cairde nua ag na laethanta oscailte. Bhí imní orm fosta mar caithim áis éisteachta ach níor chóir dom bheith buartha cionn is go raibh gach duine iontach cuidiúil, agus tá na múinteoirí iontach cineálta.

Cuidíonn na daltaí is sine linn na seomraí ranga nua a aimsiú sa scoil agus ag tús an téarma, bíonn daltaí sinsearach ann le cuidiú linn ag deireadh linn leis na busanna.

Tá mé thar a bheith sásta gur roghnaigh mé Scoil Iósaef mar gheall ar na deiseanna atá ar fáil i Sruth na Gaeilge. Bíom ag foghlaim cuid mhór ábhar nua trí mheán na Gaeilge. Shíl mé go mbeadh sé iontach deacair seo a dhéanamh, ach bíonn na múinteoirí i gcónaí sásta cuidiú leat. Tá mé ag dul chuig coláiste samhraidh i mí an Mheithimh agus tá mé ag dúil go mór leis sin, mar beidh craic mhaith agam agus beidh mé ábalta cur le mo chuid Gaeilge.

Tá foireann na scoile iontach cineálta agus tugann siad aire mhaith dúinn uilig agus cuidíonn siad linn. Tá na múinteoirí tuisceanach agus bíonn an fhoghlaim i gcónaí sultmhar suimiúil leo. Is é corpoideachas an t-ábhar scoile is fearr liom agus tá mé ar fhoireann na peile i mBliain 8. Téimid chuig an MPC ag am sosa agus ag am lóin, áit a bhfuil rogha mhaith bia. Is breá liom an t-inneall a dhéanann seacláid the!

Má tá tú ag smaoineamh ar theacht go Scoil Iósaef, geallaim duit go mbainfidh tú sult as agus go mbeidh am iontach agat.

My name is Owen Ryan and I am 12 years old. I live in Moortown and I went to Gaelscoil Eoghain in Cookstown. I am in 8I and when I started Scoil Iósaef in September I was both worried and excited. Worried because it was all new to me and a bigger school than what I was used to with so many more pupils and classes to find. Excited because it was a new experience and I already knew some of the pupils as my older brother is in 3rd year and I met new friends at the open days. I was also worried because I wear a hearing aid and didn't know what to expect but there was no need to worry as everyone has been very helpful, and the teachers are very kind and always check if I'm doing ok. The older pupils also help us get around the school and we have a bus buddy when we start out.

“The staff are really kind and look out for us all and help us when we need it.”

I'm really glad I chose to come to Donaghmore as the school has so much to offer me in IMS. I learn a lot of my new subjects through Irish which I thought would have been very difficult, but the teachers are always there to help. I am also going to the Gaeltacht in June which I cannot wait for as it will be good craic and I'll learn even more Irish.

The staff are really kind and look out for us all and help us when we need it. They are understanding and make learning fun and interesting. My favourite subject is PE and I am on the Year 8 football team. We get to go to the MPC at break and lunchtime and there is always a good choice of food. My favourite is the hot chocolate machine. If you are thinking of coming here, don't overthink it - you will love it and have a great time.

EOGHAN Ó RIAIN  
8I





# Year 8 Transition

In St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, our fundamental aim is ensuring student happiness, and we dedicate considerable time and effort to achieving this goal.

We fully understand that transitioning from primary to secondary school can feel overwhelming. Therefore, we collaborate closely with parents/carers to facilitate the smoothest possible transition. By providing comprehensive support to incoming Year 8 students during their initial days, we help them establish robust personal and academic foundations, ultimately empowering them to develop into self-assured, well-adjusted, and enthusiastic learners.

“Our vision and core values ensure we foster strong relationships with parents/carers and students. We are committed to creating an open environment where potential challenges or concerns are communicated early, to ensure the holistic well-being of students –emotional, physical, and academic.”

“Embarking on secondary school education is an exciting adventure filled with both enjoyment and challenges! You’ll encounter a new environment with different expectations, diverse staff, varied schedules, and unfamiliar classmates. Rest assured however, you are not navigating this journey alone. As your Head of Year, I am fully committed to supporting you throughout your inaugural year at St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, and I look forward to witnessing and celebrating your personal and academic achievements.”

**DR REBECCA DEVINE**  
HEAD OF YEAR 8

Our Year 8 Transition Programme takes a proactive and comprehensive approach, commencing in early June. The programme encompasses:

1. Initial introduction to the Year 8 pastoral support team in early June;
2. Year 8 Registration Evening scheduled for mid-June;
3. Year 8 Familiarisation Day in mid-June;
4. Specialised Year 8 Transition Programme at the end of August;
5. Staggered school return dates in September;
6. Extended engagement time with form teachers and form prefects;
7. 'Bus Buddies' support system;
8. 'Peer Buddy System' for integrated social support;
9. Year 8 Induction Evening towards end of September.



# Scoil Íosaef

## Fáilte Welcome

Cuirfear fearadh na fáilte roimh ár gcuid daltaí uilig a bheidh ag teacht go Scoil Íosaef! Tá lúcháir orainn go mbeidh do pháiste mar bhall den phobal tacúil bríomhar s'againne. Cuireann Sruth na Gaeilge curaclam den scoth ar fáil a dhíríonn ní amháin ar shármhaitheas acadúil, ach a chuireann meas domhain ar an Ghaeilge agus ar an chultúr i bhfeidhm go daingean. Chomh maith leis an oideachas láidir acadúil, cuirimid réimse éagsúil de ghníomhaíochtaí saibhríthe ar fáil chun tacú le forbairt iomlánaíoch do pháiste. Ó imeachtaí cultúrtha agus ceardlanna teanga go clubanna seach-churaclaim, tá deiseanna gan teorainn ann a ligfidh do do pháiste fás, foghlaim agus cuimhní buana a chruthú.

Tá muid ag dúil go mór le bheith ag obair leat agus le bheith ag tacú le do pháiste gach céim den bhealach ar an turas spreagúil seo.

Beirigí bua,

An tUasal Pól Ó Coinn

**MÚINTEOIR  
SINSEARACH**



A warm welcome awaits all our students joining Scoil Íosaef! We are delighted to have your child become part of our supportive and vibrant community. Our Irish language stream offers an exceptional curriculum that not only focuses on academic excellence, but also embeds a deep appreciation for the Irish language and culture. In addition to the strong academic foundation, we provide a diverse range of enrichment activities designed to support your child's holistic development. From cultural events and language workshops to extracurricular clubs, there are endless opportunities for your child to grow, learn, and create lasting memories.

We look forward to working with you and supporting your child every step of the way on this exciting journey.

Beirigí bua,

Mr Paul Quinn

**SENIOR TEACHER**



# Sruth na Gaeilge

DÁTHEANGACH | DÉLITEARTHA | GAELACH

“If you talk to a man  
in a language he  
understands, that goes  
to his head. If you talk  
to him in his language,  
that goes to his heart.”

NELSON MANDELA

Sruth na Gaeilge, Scoil Íosaef, was founded in September 2010 to provide high quality post-primary Irish Medium Education in the Mid-Ulster area. The aim of the IMS was to promote and develop a curriculum tailored to bilingual students in a supportive and caring environment. Since its inception fifteen years ago, students from ‘An Sruth’ continue to excel in all aspects of school life. We have grown from our first intake of 15 and now have 280 students in Sruth na Gaeilge. Past pupils of An Sruth have now graduated from university and are excelling in their chosen field of work/industry.

Scoil Íosaef provides a holistic education that caters for the academic, cultural and extra-curricular progression of our students. We are immensely proud of the contribution that all our IMS students bring to our school. Sruth na Gaeilge is staffed by eight experienced members of staff, trained in Irish medium education.

## Rath Acadúil / Academic Success

Our IMU students consistently achieve exceptional results in GCSE and A-level examinations, surpassing Northern Ireland averages year after year. Their outstanding academic performance opens doors to excellent career opportunities and diverse university pathways. Our IMS leavers of 2024 have obtained their third level choices and are currently studying a range of subjects including Engineering, Real Estate, Maths and Applied Physics, Veterinary Medicine and Irish and Linguistics.

In public examinations 77% of our IMS students achieved a minimum of three A\*-C grades at A-Level in 2025. 84% of our Year 12 IMS students achieved at least 5 GCSE A\*-C grades, including English, Maths and Gaeilge in 2024. Our top-performing IMS students of 2024 achieved 11 GCSE grades. Meanwhile, our Year 10 Irish Medium students achieved 100% A\*-B in their GCSE Irish exams, with 92% A\*-A grades.

## Soláthar / Provision

Sruth na Gaeilge is an all-ability stream which provides an opportunity for children from local bunscoileanna to continue with their Irish medium education. Our vision is to offer a ‘bilingual, biliterate and Gaelic’ education, to provide our pupils

with the best education, life-skills and life-long learning opportunities for an ever-changing world. At Key Stage 3, we offer 50% of the curriculum through the medium of Irish. Our IMS students sit their GCSE Irish examination at the end of Year 10 and at KS4, Scoil Íosaef benefit from a full choice of subjects as well as the opportunity of achieving an additional GCSE in Gaeilge.

## Litearthacht / Literacy

Developing bilingual and biliterate students is central to all that we do in Scoil Íosaef. We continue to invest a substantial amount of money to provide a wealth of enjoyable and modern Irish Medium books for our school library. IMS students spend one period per fortnight reading and are encouraged to immerse themselves in Irish language books and novels. We recognise that excellent oracy and literacy skills are essential in the modern workplace. Through the Gael-Linn public speaking competition, Abair and Feis Dhún Geanainn, all our IMS students are encouraged to build their confidence in public speaking and thus prepare themselves for the world of work.

## Turais / Trips

In March of this year, our Year 10 students will head to the Gaeltacht in Donegal for an immersive few days of fun and trips, and to get a taste of our native language and culture.

We actively promote attendance in Gaeltacht summer courses and all Year 8/9 students can attend a two week course at the end of June.

## Gairmoideachas / Careers Education

As well as following the excellent Employability & Careers programme in St. Joseph's, senior students have the opportunity to attend university seminars both in the North and in the Republic of Ireland and can consider degree courses through Irish. We regularly have Irish language guest speakers to provide relevant and up to date careers advice on current job opportunities with Irish at home and abroad.

## An Ghaeilge / Irish

Scoláirí an tSrutha are encouraged to use Irish outside of the classroom and this is facilitated through the organisation of a range of events throughout the school day such as Tae agus Plé, An Cumann Gaelach, Gaeilge 24, Seachtain na Gaeilge and An Cumann Scoildrámaíochta agus An Cumann Díospóireachta. This year our newly formed Coiste na Gaeilge has been an excellent asset to our students: led by our senior pupils, all students have the opportunity to learn music, cookery skills, drama skills and play sport through the medium of Irish. In partnership with Cairde Uí Néill pupils are recognised on a weekly basis as 'Gaeilgeoirí na Míosa' and 'An Rang is Gaelaí' and are rewarded with termly class trips.



## Key Stage 3

Gaeilge
History
Religion
LLW
French
Drama
PE
Music
Art

## Extra-Curricular

Abair Public Speaking
Scoildrámaíocht
Debating
Scléip

## Year 8 Gaeilge Provision

3 hours per week  
Focus on literacy / oracy  
Literacy support  
Emphasis on reading  
Independent reading  
Literacy workshops

## Eochairchéim 3

Gaeilge
Stair
Reiligiún
Foghlaim don tSaol agus don Obair
Fraincis
Drámaíocht
Corpoideachas
Ceol
Ealaín

## Seach-churaclaim

Caint Phoiblí
Scoildrámaíocht
Díospóireacht
Scléip

## Soláthar na Gaeilge – Bliain 8

3 uaire sa tseachtain  
Béim ar litearthacht agus ar labharthacht  
Tacaíocht litearthachta  
Béim ar léitheoireacht  
Léitheoireacht neamhspleách  
Ceardlanna litearthachta

# Meet our Head Boy

CAOLÁN MCGRATH

“My name is Caolán McGrath, and I am privileged to be Head Boy of St Joseph’s Grammar School Donaghmore.”

Looking back on my journey through this school, I feel incredibly lucky to have grown up in such a supportive, kind and caring school community. I’m forever grateful for the vast number of opportunities our school has given me to grow academically, and as a person as well.

Here in St. Joseph’s/Scoil Iósaef, it’s clear to see that support and encouragement is not at all limited to the classroom. Our wonderful teachers and staff go above and beyond to ensure we grow into the fine young men and women we are today, into the best versions of ourselves that we could be. Personally, I believe this to be what sets our school miles above any other. The support and care our staff and teachers provide here is just second to none.

Throughout my journey here in St Joseph’s, I have had some of the best opportunities to be myself. Most significantly I think, on the football pitch. I have been lucky enough to represent this school every year on the field. Granted, perhaps we have not been the most successful team the school has ever seen, but that is just not important. What is important however, are the friendships I have made with my peers, through back-breaking runs, tight wins and tough losses. These are friendships I will cherish for a lifetime.

My time here has also been enriched with a few unbelievable trips too. I was lucky enough to get to our year 10 ski trip to Austria. That trip has been one of the best experiences of my life so far, filled with laughter, fond memories and some of the worst skiing Austria had ever seen. I made new friendships on that trip which have stuck with me since, and even despite the fact that a few of us caught Covid, I’d go back in a heartbeat. There is no way however, that the trip would’ve been half as good if it weren’t for the close community we have in this school.

I can still remember my first days here in this school, I was completely

terrified. Coming from an extremely small Irish speaking primary school, it was very overwhelming to walk up that path to a massive building that looked to be overflowing with people, but as soon as I walked in the door, I felt at home. Our staff and teachers were so patient and kind and took excellent care of us all. Senior students in the school were always lovely and always showed me to my class when I got lost. It didn’t take long for my nerves to subside, thanks in no small way to our school community, and in no time at all I was exactly where I belonged. Looking back, I wonder how I ever felt nervous at all!

Here in St Joseph’s, students will get to use the state-of-the-art facilities available to them, like our new sports hall, or our ICT suites. They will get to enjoy some amazing food in our canteens, served daily. All this is amazing, but for me, was never the main selling point of the school when I was in P7. Coming to open day and various other events filled me with an overwhelming sense of warmth, of belonging and of home. It wasn’t long before I was proven right, because there is nothing like the school community here, everyone is treated with kindness, everyone is given equal opportunities, every voice is heard.

I am ineffably grateful for everything this school has done for me, and I will never forget my time here at St Joseph’s Donaghmore.

My advice to you is to embrace all the school has to offer for you. Go out of your way to try new things, put yourself out of your comfort zone because there is never a better time than the present.

Here in St Joseph’s Donaghmore, you will receive the best support and encouragement to be yourself. So don’t be afraid to do what you want to do.





# Meet our Head Girl

CATHERINE CLARKE

“My name is Catherine Clarke and I am honoured to be the Head Girl of St Joseph’s Grammar School / Scoil Íosaef, Donaghmore.”

As I reflect on my time here, I am truly grateful to have been part of such a strong and welcoming community, one that encourages every pupil to aim high, believe in themselves, and grow into the best version of who they can be.

From the very beginning, I have been supported to work hard and take pride in my studies. The academic guidance at St Joseph’s is exceptional. Our teachers always go the extra mile to help us succeed, offering encouragement

and reassurance whenever we need it. Thanks to their dedication, I have gained the confidence to push myself, to develop strong study habits and to achieve results I am proud of.

Some of my happiest memories come from the wonderful opportunities and trips this school provides. In Year 10, I travelled to Austria, where I learned to ski for the first time, a week full of fun, excitement and laughter. More recently, I had the amazing opportunity to return to the slopes in Italy during Year 13, and that trip will stay with me forever as one of the best weeks of my life. I was also incredibly privileged to receive the Helen McRory Scholarship through the Cairde Brogán Foundation, which allowed me to attend the Ever to Excel programme at Boston College. Spending a week learning about leadership and faith while meeting young people from around the world, was truly unforgettable and helped me to grow in confidence and independence.

Sport has also played a big part in my school life. Representing St Joseph’s on the Ladies GAA teams has been a huge honour. The sense of teamwork, commitment, and support on and off the pitch has shaped me into a more resilient and motivated person. Beyond sport, I have really enjoyed being involved in School Council and the School Ethos Group, and being a member of the Ethics Cup debate team allowed me to discover just how much I enjoy speaking out and sharing ideas. One of the things I love most about St Joseph’s is that there is a place for everyone. Whether you are passionate about netball, basketball, hurling, dance, darts, public speaking, or even crochet club, there is always something exciting to be part of. Getting involved helps you make friends, try new things and create memories that you will carry with you long after you leave.

As I prepare for the next chapter of my life, I know that St Joseph’s has helped prepare me not only academically but personally

and socially too. The values I have learned, the friendships I have made and the confidence I have gained will stay with me wherever I go. I will always be thankful for the care, support and encouragement I have received every step of the way. To those beginning their journey in Year 8, my advice is simple: work hard, be kind and take every opportunity that comes your way. If you do, I promise these years will become some of the most enjoyable of your life! St Joseph’s has shaped who I am today, and I will always be proud to have been part of this remarkable school community.





# Cairde Brogán oundation

The Cairde Brogán foundation was established in November 2017 in memory of a former member of staff, Sr Mary Brogán. By promoting high level collaboration with employers, innovation hubs, and other education providers, the Foundation creates tangible, career related opportunities to empower our students to be ready to take up their place in a rapidly changing world.

“The Cairde Brogán foundation gives our students the opportunities, experiences, and skills for the world of work that will set them apart from others.”

Geraldine Donnelly  
PRINCIPAL

The Cairde Brogán foundation seeks to harness the skills and experience of our patrons to offer pioneering careers support to our students, including:

- Career mentoring;
- Work placement opportunities;
- Job coaching;
- Interview skills training;
- Internships;
- Higher apprenticeship opportunities;
- Professional referrals and endorsements;
- Scholarships for further study;
- Scholarships for sport and the arts;
- Entrepreneurial guidance and training;
- Fundraising to support the work of the Foundation;
- Opportunities to shadow leaders in their field in the workplace.



# The Sr Mary Brogán Academic Scholarship & The Helen McRory Scholarship

Principal, Mrs G. Donnelly, explained that the scholarships are a “practical expression of the legacy of Sr Mary Brogán who revelled in the successes of our students long after they left St. Joseph’s / Scoil Íosaef”.

The Sr Mary Brogán Academic Scholarship provides financial support to current and past students of St. Joseph’s Grammar School / Scoil Íosaef. In the 2022-2024 academic years, scholarships were offered to past students to support the payment of undergraduate or postgraduate degree

tuition fees. Niamh Brannigan received £4710 for her final year university fees in June 2024. As part of the scholarship programme these past students return to St. Joseph’s / Scoil Íosaef to deliver a range of programmes related to the personal and professional development of the current student body.

The Foundation was also extended to include “The Helen McRory Scholarship” which part-funded 10 Year 13 pupils’ travel and accommodation costs to attend a one week faith based camp in Boston College, Massachusetts. This experience has been invaluable for their own personal development and they have been generous in promoting this opportunity with other younger pupils so that they too gain the skills and values the programme brings.

Recipient of Cairde Brogán Scholarship 2023-2024

NIAMH BRANNIGAN



‘Ever To Excel’ programme, Boston USA

This year, ten students took the opportunity to participate in the Ever to Excel programme in Boston College, USA. This is a faith-based programme guided by the teachings of Saint Ignatius of Loyola and aims to help participants to learn more about their place in the world and how to create a more meaningful life through the lens of Ignatian spirituality. It has been a real privilege for all our students over the years to be chosen as recipients of our Helen McRory scholarship. We are grateful to the Foundation which has facilitated these experiences, living out the legacy of our devoted former principal.

“I will be forever grateful being awarded the first Helen McRory Scholarship which gave me the opportunity to travel to Boston college this summer to attend the ‘Ever To Excel’ programme. This programme focused on faith and personal growth and has provided me with transferrable skills that I will certainly implement in my life. Each day a new keynote speaker fuelled my inner determination and motivation to become the best version of myself.

Niamh McCormick

PAST PUPIL

“The Ever to Excel trip to Boston in the Summer of 2024 has shaped my faith, my friendships and my future in ways I could never have imagined”

Grace Byrne

PAST PUPIL

“The global networking opportunity that this trip afforded me was something special. To have made friends that I am still in regular contact with from Japan, Mexico, Dublin and lots of different states in America, is just fantastic.”

Conor Nugent

PAST PUPIL





# Cairde Brogán Foundation

## EMPOWERING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Through generous donations of time, expertise, and financial assistance, our business partners provide invaluable opportunities that extend beyond the classroom, empowering our students with practical skills and experiences that set them apart in the competitive world of work.



### SJS Dragons' Den

In collaboration with industry professionals, the SJS Dragons' Den offers our students an immersive experience in the art of pitching. Through expert-led training and hands-on practice, students present business concepts that incorporate marketing, finance, and legal considerations. The winning pitch received a £500 investment to bring their business idea to life, providing real-world insights into entrepreneurship and innovation.



### SJS Junior Apprentice

The SJS Junior Apprentice challenges students to apply their problem-solving and presentation skills through a series of weekly challenges. Working in teams, students tackle real business problems, presenting their solutions and strategies in a dynamic, high-pressure environment, mirroring the challenges faced in the corporate world.



### SJS Bake Off

The SJS Bake Off provides an exciting opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and expertise in the culinary arts. This event encourages students to develop practical skills in a fun and engaging way, fostering teamwork, time management, and precision in a real-world setting.



# Innovation in Teaching and Learning

As part of our partnership with the University of Oxford, our teachers have presented their research at conferences to educationalists from across Ireland and the UK.

At St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef we are committed to being fully involved with educational research and evidence-based practice to ensure that we remain at the forefront of global developments in teaching and learning. We are passionate about teaching and learning and want our students to have the very best school experience possible. St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef proactively builds links with universities and other external stakeholders to engage our students and staff in research and dialogue around pedagogy and other education initiatives.

Our staff have participated in research scholarships from the University of Oxford and from the Chartered College of Teaching, carrying out pioneering educational research to improve the learning experiences of students within our school and further afield. As part of our partnership with the University of Oxford, our teachers have presented their classroom-based educational research at conferences to educationalists from across Ireland and the UK.

Staff also attend ResearchED Conferences ensuring we keep at the cutting edge of evidence informed practice and work collaboratively within and outside our school setting, building a thriving and forward-thinking community of learners.



# Faith development

## Participating in prayer and sacraments are central aspects of life at St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef.

Each month, we focus on one of our core values: faith, community, aspiration, kindness, hope, integrity, and service, embedding these principles into all aspects of school life. Our school prayer is used as the Morning Prayer in Form Class each day, providing a reflective start to our students' mornings. Each week, classes attend Mass in the local church, fostering a strong connection with the parish community. Throughout the year, we celebrate feast days, with assemblies and special services dedicated to these occasions. Our liturgical calendar is rich with

celebrations. During Lent, we hold reflective assemblies and charity events. The entire school community takes part in daily challenges during Lent, focusing on the virtues of truth, love and justice.

Advent brings a spirit of preparation, culminating in a beautiful Christmas Carol Service before the end of term. In February, we celebrate Grandparents' Day by making St. Brigid's Crosses with our Year 8 classes, honouring tradition and family values. Each year we have a remembrance service in the nuns' graveyard, a welcome mass and celebration for our new year 8s and a mass on the feast of our patron, St. Joseph the Worker. These events provide opportunities for spiritual growth and collective worship, enriching the faith of students and staff alike.



### SCHOOL PRAYER

Ár nAthair

Help me to show **kindness** to everyone today,

Help me show **integrity** in all I do and say,

Let my **faith** and **hope** in Jesus guide me on my way.

May the Daughters of the Cross continue to inspire,

Bless all in our school **community** and may our **service** light the fire,

Of self-belief and confidence for our students to **aspire**.

**A Thiarna éist lenár nguí.**

### FAITH IN ACTION

At St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef, our students are encouraged to live out their faith through charitable and voluntary work within the school, at home, in the community, and beyond.

Each month, inspired by our core values, we engage in activities that embody our commitment to service and kindness. We have an Ethos group in school, which is student led, and they focus on areas of outreach, identity and school life. This year, the student body organised and facilitated a Christmas dinner for senior members of our surrounding communities.

During the seasons of Advent and Lent, the Ethos and charity groups arrange fundraisers and charity events for worthy causes, as well as all accompanying advertising and promotions of such events. This instils a sense of responsibility and social justice in our student body.

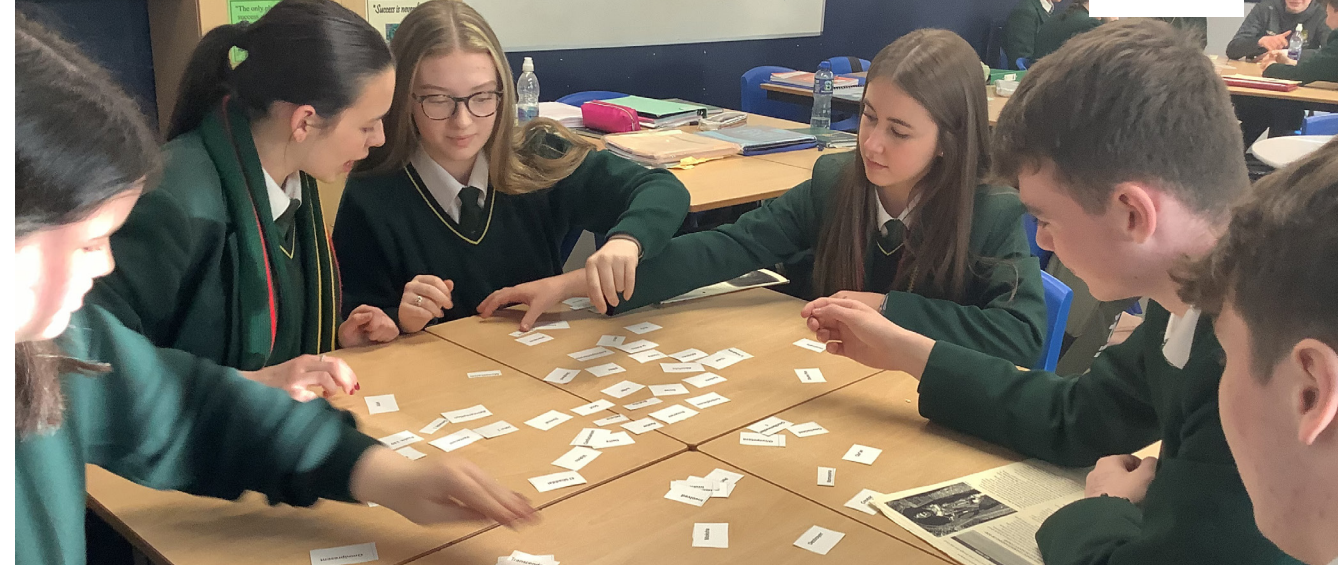
Many of our students extend their charitable efforts beyond school, volunteering in their personal time. We facilitate and encourage participation of the Muirdeach Cross award for KS4 students and the Pope John Paul II award for KS5 students. We have also recently created a bespoke Daughters of the Cross award for our KS3 students to engage with.



# Empowering Voices in Learning

Here in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef we aim to provide our learners with regular and meaningful opportunities to share their views on their learning experiences.

We use feedback from surveys, round table discussions, learning conversations and focus groups to gather our pupil and parental insights to the life and work of the school. We welcome open dialogue and direct communication with our learners. By actively involving our learners in shaping their educational journey, we improve engagement with learning. Encouraging learners to voice their concerns and ideas cultivates a sense of belonging and ownership. We take proactive steps to act upon the feedback received, fostering trust and transparency within our school community. Our commitment to creating an environment where everyone feels safe, valued, and listened to is paramount. We want all our students to grow into happy, confident, and aspirational young people who feel empowered to take up their place in the modern world.





# Digital Education

It is our vision to be a sector-leading provider of innovative digital education.

As part of the educational journey of our students, we are dedicated to equipping them with the essential skills and abilities needed to achieve their full potential in a digital 21st century environment.

St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef is one of a small number of post-primary schools in Ireland to be designated as an Apple Regional Training Centre (RTC).

Being selected as an Apple RTC highlights our commitment to facilitating training for teachers to develop skills and build confidence to use Apple technology in the classroom. Domhnach Mór Apple RTC is a bilingual training centre and delivers a range of courses in both Irish and English.

“As an Apple Regional Training Centre we are committed to providing high-quality staff training that truly impacts children in the classroom. It is a great opportunity for us to offer support to educators not only within our school but also across the wider local community.”

MRS S. QUINN







# Digital Skills

At St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef, we are committed to equipping students with essential digital skills to thrive in an increasingly digital world. Our comprehensive digital education programme spans all key stages, ensuring students develop a strong foundation in both practical and theoretical aspects of IT.

At Key Stage 3, students learn to use essential software such as Word, Excel, Access, Outlook, and PowerPoint. We cover fundamental IT theory topics including how computers work, main IT components, codebreaking, and binary and decimal conversion. Students also explore applications like Scratch, Adobe Cloud, Minecraft and learn to fully utilise Google Drive and One Drive both at home and in school.

At Key Stage 4, students can choose from specialised courses such as IT and Business, OCN ICT, Digital Technology, Multimedia, and Programming in C#. We emphasise the importance of key IT legislation such as the Data Protection Act, the Copyright Designs & Patents Act, and the Computer Misuse Act.

At Key Stage 5, students undertake a database project and delve into digital technology fundamentals, the software life cycle, programming, cloud computing, AI, and more. There is a continued focus on critical IT legislation to ensure students understand their legal responsibilities. Across the whole school, we encourage the integration of digital skills and digital

literacy in all subjects. E-Safety education is taught at all levels, with Sixth Form Digital Ambassadors collaborating with the E-Safety Coordinator and Pastoral Care Team to deliver online safety skills. We publish weekly E-Safety advice to parents and students as part of Web Wise Wednesday. An initiative set up to keep our E-Safety messages front and central all year round and not only on Safer Internet Day.

Students at all levels also have access to extra-curricular opportunities and careers events like workshops and presentations. We are in the third year of the Microsoft Dream Space Ambassador Award programme. This allows our senior students to learn new IT skills and impart this knowledge to our junior students. St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef has good connections within the IT industry and past pupils have returned to share their experiences of IT and the skills required in today's economy.

**“Our aim is to inspire and equip students to navigate, innovate, and lead in the digital age, transforming a generation of digitally competent, creative, and responsible individuals.”**

Ms. D Dolan

**HEAD OF ICT &  
ICT COORDINATOR**



# International Trips

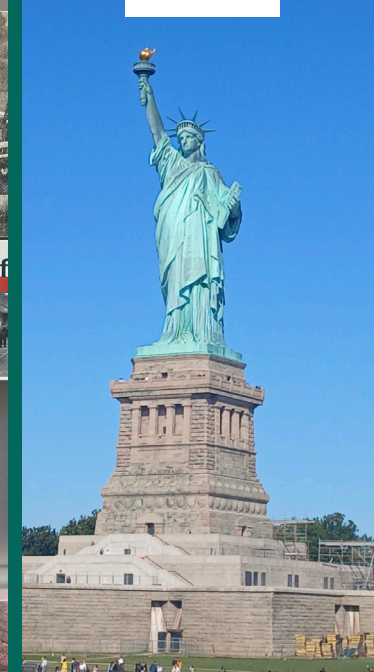
Since 1922, our school has been dedicated to upholding the values of the Daughters of the Cross.

We believe in nurturing well-rounded citizens who respect and appreciate diverse cultures, contributing meaningfully to society. We are committed to offering our pupils the very best educational experiences, including local, regional and global trips. International trips are a cornerstone of this mission, offering students the opportunity to explore the world, fostering global perspectives.

As we look back on our rich history and forward to future adventures, St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, remains steadfast in providing educational opportunities that extend beyond borders, preparing students for a world of possibilities allowing them to forge new friendships, improve teamwork and enhance their communication and social skills.

We have a range of well-established international links which offer our pupils an international perspective. Student testimonials of recent trips to USA, England, France, Germany, Greece, Italy and Poland have highlighted the profound impact of these experiences on our students. We have just returned from another fantastic ski trip to Italy in December 2025.

Our school trips to France and America in 2025 were unforgettable and we look forward to further trips to London and Poland in 2026. These ventures are an integral part of our commitment to provide a holistic education for our students while making happy lifelong memories.





# Madonna di Campiglio Ski Trip

A group of 53 Year 13 students and 5 staff departed for the slopes of Madonna di Campiglio, Italy, on our annual Topflight for Schools ski trip from 14th to 21st December 2024.

Our annual ski trip proves ever popular among our pupils and demand for places can often be oversubscribed, such is the enthusiasm of our students to avail of the unforgettable experience that a ski trip provides.

Our group of pupils enjoyed excellent instruction by their instructors from Scuola Italiana Sci with four hours of ski lessons per day over the six days of skiing offered. They thoroughly enjoyed the whole ski experience of hot lunches, refreshments, and hot chocolate in mountain restaurants on the slopes. There was a wide variety of evening entertainment as part of our après-ski programme that included a disco, pizza night, karaoke night, quiz, céilithe and a talent show on our last evening in Italy.

Our Year 13 pupils had an unbelievable trip that they will remember and talk about long into the future after they have left St. Joseph's, Donaghmore.







## Our trip to Paris

In June 2025, our Year 9 students embarked on an unforgettable trip to Paris, France, immersing themselves in culture, history, and adventure. Highlights of the visit included the magical experience of Euro Disney, where imagination came to life, and the awe-inspiring Notre Dame Cathedral, a masterpiece of Gothic architecture. Students admired panoramic views from the Montparnasse Tower and enjoyed a scenic cruise along the River Seine, taking in the beauty of Paris from the water. We visited the Eiffel Tower and the Arc de Triomphe and whilst strolling down the Champs Élysées we met Ibrahima Konaté. The trip concluded with an exciting visit to Parc des Princes, home of Paris Saint-Germain, giving students a taste of world-class sport. This enriching experience combined fun, learning, and cultural discovery, creating memories that will last a lifetime.







# 2025 Trip to USA

In September 2025, 45 Year 11-14 students headed for New York, Philadelphia and Washington for a trip of a lifetime.

The Empire State Building did not disappoint with breathtaking views of the city skyline! From there, we took in the energy of Times Square, strolled along Fifth Avenue, admired the beauty of Grand Central Terminal, passed by the United Nations Headquarters, and wrapped it all up at the Metropolitan Museum.

We then headed for Battery Park and Ellis Island where Lady Liberty awaited us, followed by a moving visit to the 9/11 Memorial. We shopped at Westfield World Trade Centre and ended the day with a relaxing stroll through Central Park.

We experienced a flavour of Philadelphia's past and present and it was amazing! We visited the Liberty Bell, the Hall of Independence, had lunch at Reading Food Hall, and then climbed the famous Rocky Steps. Wonderful Washington came next, we loved exploring the capital's iconic sights, starting at the US Capitol, then on to the Lincoln Memorial, the White House, and the Washington Monument. We explored Arlington Cemetery - a rich and meaningful experience. After hopping on and off the metro, we paused to say a prayer at the Kennedy family gravesite.

We are grateful for the fabulous memories and experiences – a spectacular school trip!





# Careers Education Information and Guidance (CEIAG) at St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef

At St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, careers education is a fundamental part of our curriculum, equipping students with the skills, knowledge, and confidence to make informed decisions about their futures.

Our comprehensive Careers Education, Information, Advice, and Guidance (CEIAG) programme ensures every student is prepared for seamless transitions into employment, further education, or training.

Cutting-Edge Careers Support with PeopleHawk

To enhance career planning, St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef has introduced the innovative PeopleHawk IT Platform into our careers programme. This cutting-edge tool provides pupils with:

## Enhanced Self-Awareness:

Scientifically validated assessments of values, interests, and personality enable students to identify their strengths and discover ideal career matches, courses, and subject choices at every key stage.

## Immersive Career Exploration:

Pupils can explore thousands of tailored career options, access UK and Irish university course information, and view a live, customised job board featuring over 10,000 apprenticeship and regional job opportunities.

## Pathway Comparison:

Students can compare post-16 and post-18 options, including apprenticeships, further education, and university courses, to find the pathway that best suits their aspirations.

## Streamlined Applications:

AI-enabled tools allow pupils to create high-impact CVs, personal statements, and letters of motivation, with direct feedback provided by the platform's AI engine or our Careers Team.

## Key Stage 3:

### Building Foundations

Careers education begins in Years 8–10 through Education for Employability lessons, introducing pupils to the world of work. In Year 10, students receive tailored guidance to make informed subject choices for Key Stage 4, including:

- Careers information from subject teachers and Heads of Departments.
- Attendance at a Year 10 Options Evening, where presentations are delivered by the Head of Careers, Mr P Corrigan, and the Head of Curriculum, Mrs O McCourt.

Our curriculum team works closely with the careers department to ensure each student has a personalised learning pathway that maximises their academic potential and career opportunities.

## Key Stage 4:

### Exploring Opportunities

Year 12 pupils engage in careers lessons designed to inform them of the various training, work, and study options available at the age of 16. Key activities include:

- Valuable work experience placements, offering insights into specific roles and workplaces.
- An A-Level Subject Choice Afternoon and Mini Careers Fair, where students interact with subject teachers, A-Level pupils, and local employers.



# Guiding Futures, Shaping Success

## Interactive Workshops

Each year group participates in engaging Young Enterprise Northern Ireland workshops. These interactive sessions explore workplace themes through practical activities, encouraging pupils to connect classroom learning with real-world applications.

## Dedicated Careers Guidance

Our Careers Officer, Nuala Madden, provides tailored advice at key transition points in Year 10, Year 12, and Year 14, ensuring every pupil is fully supported in their educational and career choices.

## Collaboration and Development

As a member of the Dungannon Area Learning Community, St Joseph's works closely with other schools to share resources and develop careers education. Careers staff also attend events organised by Mid-Ulster Council, ensuring they remain informed about local career trends and skills demands.

## Promoting STEM

Promoting STEM for opportunities in these high-demand sectors, and career choices.

## Sixth Form:

### Tailoring Aspirations

A-Level students receive individualised guidance and a wealth of resources to support their career planning:

- One-to-one consultations with the Senior Management Team at the beginning of Years 13 and 14.
- Careers lessons and personalised advice in the dedicated Careers Suite.
- Presentations from Ulster University, Queen's University, Scottish and South of Ireland universities, South West College, and Student Finance Northern Ireland.
- Work experience placements in Term 3 of Year 13 to deepen their understanding of specific careers.

Year 14 pupils benefit from additional support, including presentations on Foundation Degrees, Higher-Level Apprenticeships, and Life at University training sessions. These sessions prepare students for the challenges of higher education, offering practical advice on managing academic and personal responsibilities.



# The Transition from School to Career Success

“

The journey from school to the professional world can be challenging, but the support I received from St. Joseph's Grammar School was instrumental in helping me secure a degree apprenticeship at Mallaghan Engineering.

My passion for engineering began when I studied Engineering and Technology at GCSE. This subject not only sparked my interest but also laid the foundation for my future career. The Careers Department and the Engineering and Technology Department at St. Joseph's played a vital role in nurturing this interest by providing tailored one-on-one guidance, workshops, and opportunities for work experience. Their focus on future planning ensured I felt supported and confident in making informed decisions about my career path.

For students with specific industry interests like mine, the school created pathways to success by introducing us to local employers and highlighting apprenticeship opportunities that matched our strengths and aspirations.

In Year 13, I had the opportunity to undertake work experience at Mallaghan Engineering. From the moment I stepped through their doors, I knew this was where I wanted to build my career.

Through the school, I was also introduced to the MEGA apprenticeship programme. MEGA provided workshops and valuable insights into the different levels of apprenticeship opportunities available, as well as information about the numerous local companies involved. I was determined to secure a degree apprenticeship, which required applications to both MEGA and Ulster University, alongside completing my UCAS form to keep my options open.

Securing a degree apprenticeship in engineering is highly competitive, and the interview period coincides with exam season, making it an intense

time. St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef prepared me well for this challenge by offering interview preparation sessions, mock interviews, and classes on interview techniques. These proved invaluable when I faced interviews with industry professionals.

Today, I am proud to be a degree apprentice at Mallaghan Engineering. The skills I developed at St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef—such as teamwork, problem-solving, and attention to detail—have been essential in my fast-paced, hands-on role. I feel privileged to work for a respected local company, learn from experienced professionals, and continuously develop my technical abilities while pursuing my studies at Ulster University.

”

Cara Murray

PUPIL





# Uniform

Blazer  
Jumper  
Blouse  
Shirt  
Pleated skirt  
Black trousers  
Tie  
Bottle green tights  
Black socks  
Black shoes

## PE KIT

School jersey  
School shorts  
School socks





# Past Pupil Testimonial

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My journey at St. Joseph's began in September of 2016, having come from a small rural primary school in Galbally the idea of a large secondary school was quite daunting. However, the tightknit and warm atmosphere around St. Joseph's made me feel right at home. I remember staff and older students at Donaghmore going out of their way to ensure myself and fellow first years felt at ease. Choosing Donaghmore was an easy decision for me to make. Being the last of six children in my family who had all attended St. Joseph's before me it had been a natural choice for me to make. Despite this, the variety of choice offered at St. Joseph's from academic, sports, music, arts and social, it really did make my decision that bit easier.

Looking back on my time at St. Joseph's I am filled with nothing but fondness and gratitude for a wonderful seven years spent in a place that has shaped me into the person I am today.

Throughout those seven years, the variety of activities that was offered to me was nothing short of amazing. I have gotten to take part in various



trips and events that have bridged the gap between academics and extracurriculars. In third year, I got to undertake a trip to Rome with the religion department. During this trip we got to visit some of the most exciting things Italy has to offer. From tasting proper Italian food, to sightseeing at the colosseum and an unforgettable audience with Pope Francis. These are some of my most fond memories and ones which will last a lifetime.

I was also offered the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. During this experience I got to develop skills, including teamwork, leadership and problem solving, all of which are transferable skills that will follow me throughout university and into my career. Throughout this award we took expeditions to various exciting and challenging terrain including the Mourne mountains and the Sperrin's. Not only was this experience extremely valuable in learning life and practical skills but it was also filled with good crier and even better company.

In my final year at St. Joseph's, I had the great honour of being appointed as head boy. In this position I had the opportunity to represent the school in various capacities. Throughout the year the school also celebrated the centenary year of the daughters of the cross.

This gave me the opportunity to participate in a once in a life time experience of going to the RTE studios to participate in a live, televised school mass to commemorate and acknowledge the commitment and dedication of the daughters of the cross in the development of our school.

One of my proudest moments at St. Joseph's was when my artwork was selected for the annual True colour's exhibition in the Ulster Museum in Belfast. This was monumental for me, and I wouldn't have been able to achieve such an accomplishment without the support and guidance from the department teachers who constantly encouraged me to achieve my best and instil a confidence in my own ability.

St. Joseph's is not only full of amazing opportunities and trips to get involved in, but the level of teaching is nothing short of fantastic. This helped make the transition from GCSE to a level that bit less daunting. For my AS and A levels I decided to study Chemistry, Biology, Art and Maths. Subjects which helped prepare me for the rigour of medical school. Throughout my university application process there were constantly new challenges from personal statement to interviews to entrance exams, the list does go on. However, the careers department were always there to offer support and advice to any queries I might have had. As well as this they organised work experience, conducted mock interviews and enabled us to have discussions with experienced doctors. St. Joseph's helped to best prepare me for the next step in my academic career.

Upon achievement of A level's, the school prompted me to apply for the

JP McManus, All Ireland Scholarship. To my surprise and extreme gratitude, I was awarded this very sought-after prize. This has made life at medical school a bit less stressful, if that's possible, by easing the financial burden of tuition fees. I was instantly so thankful and grateful, and I can whole heartedly say that if it wasn't for the support provided by staff at St. Joseph's then achievement of this scholarship would not have been possible.

Upon leaving St. Joseph's, I brought with me friendships that will last forever, memories that I will cherish and a great sense of pride in my accomplishments. I can wholeheartedly say that my choice to study at St. Joseph's is the reason that I am where I am today.

**LIAM CARBERRY**  
PAST PUPIL

”







# Art, Music and Drama

In St. Joseph's Grammar School / Scoil Íosaef, we understand the value of participating in the creative arts.

With global employers crying out for graduates with skills that meet the needs of the 21st-century economy – from innovation to critical thinking and adaptability – we consciously place a high value on creativity and are constantly looking for exciting and engaging ways to nurture these skills in our students. In St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef we believe that the arts can act as a key, unlocking many of the skills that inspire children to engage with their studies and love learning.

Art, music and drama are a vital and enriching part of education at St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef. They allow the students to develop alternative approaches and strategies for problem-solving and thinking. Even if students do not follow on to a creative career, they take with them the ability and skills to think differently and numerous studies have shown that employers value individuals with fresh viewpoints who can find alternative means to solutions.

## Drama

In 2016, our state-of-the-art Drama Suite was opened as part of a £4 million capital investment project, providing our students with a first-class facility equipped with the latest technology. Students at Key Stage 3 have Drama once per week, with the curriculum designed to inspire creativity, self-expression, and critical thinking.

The focus of Key Stage 3 Drama is underpinned by William Shakespeare's mantra, "All the world's a stage." We believe that every student should have the opportunity to express themselves fully and freely. In Year 8, students develop fundamental dramatic skills such as facial expression and body language. In Year 9, the curriculum explores a range of playwrights from Willy Russell to Brian Friel, while also engaging students in creating and analysing short films using our Green Screen. Year 10 builds on these skills, with students analysing scripts and developing detailed character profiles in preparation for GCSE. We are delighted to now offer GCSE Drama, allowing students to deepen their understanding of performance, theatre theory and practical skills.

Dramatic play is essential for children's learning, particularly in fostering empathy and self-control. Students learn to empathise by viewing the world from different perspectives; those of peers, adults and characters in stories, developing crucial social and emotional skills that underpin academic success and personal growth. Research in educational theory consistently shows that engagement in Drama enhances cognitive development, communication skills and creativity, making it a vital part of a balanced curriculum.

Many of our students showcase their talents on stage at Bardic, CRAIC and Armagh Market Place, demonstrating the vibrancy of our performing arts culture. Some students have gone on to develop careers in Drama and you will see them on Television series such as Blue Lights and Derry Girls. Our after-school Drama Club is very popular, and a recent highlight was our sellout performance of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in October 2022, showcasing the talent and dedication of our students.



## Art and Design

Create. Innovate. Inspire.

Art and Design at our school is about unlocking potential and inspiring creativity. From the moment students join us in Year 8, they embark on an exciting journey of self-expression and discovery. They learn to think independently, experiment boldly, and develop the skills that will shape their future.

Our curriculum builds strong foundations in artistic techniques while encouraging imagination and innovation. At GCSE and A Level, students refine their craft and explore personal ideas, preparing for opportunities in the thriving creative industries - one of the fastest-growing sectors in the UK and Ireland.

Learning does not stop at the classroom door. Students work alongside professional artists and craftspeople in dynamic workshops, gaining real-world insights. They visit galleries, attend artist lectures, and travel abroad to experience world-class art and architecture - broadening horizons and sparking inspiration.

Art and Design is not just a subject; it is a gateway to creativity, confidence, and limitless possibilities.



## Music

The Music Department plays an active role in the life of St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef, not only providing an excellent base knowledge of Music to all students but giving the opportunity to excel in musical development and performance outside the classroom. Along with providing music for all school events our choir and instrumental groups have performed with Peter Corry, Liam Lawton, Malachi Cush and for the Lady Mary Peters Foundation. The rich history of music in our school has developed into a vibrant and dynamic expression of talent and ability recognised far beyond the confines of St. Joseph's / Scoil Iósaef.





# Sport

At St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef, we take immense pride in our rich sporting tradition, which fosters teamwork, resilience, and excellence.

Our comprehensive PE curriculum is complemented by a dynamic extra-curricular programme that includes Gaelic football, hurling, camogie, netball, athletics, and cross-country running. Swimming, Handball and Show Jumping are also represented by students individually. We are deeply committed to promoting participation at all levels, offering students opportunities to compete in Ulster and All-Ireland competitions.

Students benefit from state-of-the-art facilities, including a full-size sports hall, an outdoor pitch, and a modern fitness suite, providing the ideal environment to develop their sporting skills. With the support of our dedicated PE staff, along with strong partnerships with local clubs and parents, we create an inclusive and nurturing atmosphere for all our athletes. From grassroots participation to elite success, St. Joseph's continues to build a lasting legacy of sporting achievement.





## BOYS GAA

Gaelic football is a cornerstone of sporting life at St Joseph's, with our teams consistently excelling in Ulster Colleges' competitions. Over the past three years, the school has competed in the prestigious MacRory Cup, reaching the semi-finals in our first year and progressing to the knockout stages again this season. This is a remarkable achievement that reflects the depth of talent within the squad.

A major highlight came in 2023 when St Joseph's captured the MacLarnon Cup, followed by an outstanding victory in the All-Ireland series, marking a proud moment in the school's sporting history.

Individual success is equally strong. Former students Joey Clarke and Noah Grimes have been recognised with QUB Future Stars awards, while many others continue to represent their counties at both minor and senior levels.

Our pathway remains vibrant at junior level, with our Year 10 boys securing the Loch an Iúir Shield for 2024/2025, demonstrating the ongoing growth and strength of boys' Gaelic games within the school.

## LGFA

Our senior ladies' football team competes in the Ulster B Colleges competition and reached the semi-final stage last year, narrowly missing out on a place in the final. At junior level, our Under-14 squad enjoyed their most successful season to date, capturing the Ulster B Colleges title with an impressive victory over St Ciarán's, Ballygawley.

Individual honours have also highlighted the strength of ladies' football within the

school. Isabella Grimes earned a prestigious Ulster Schools' All-Star award for 2024/2025, recognising her outstanding performances. In addition, both Hannah Donnelly and Cathy Ann McRory have recently been selected as Queen's Future All Stars and will receive their awards in April 2026. This continued success reflects the commitment, skill and growing profile of LGFA within St Joseph's.

## HURLING & CAMOGIE

Following the recent success of our first Ulster Schools' All-Star in hurling, awarded to Leo Hughes in 2024 to 2025, our Under-13.5 hurlers enjoyed a breakthrough season by capturing the Corn Setanta title.

Our camogie programme continues to flourish. With Ulster Schools' All-Star and Future Star awards in 2022 and 2024 for Aoife Quinn and Kaitlin Gallagher, the standard of performance has remained exceptionally high. Our Under-16 teams have reached the Ulster Final in each of the past three years, narrowly missing out on the title on every occasion.

Success at junior level has been equally impressive. Our Under-14 camogs secured their first Ulster Schools' title with a strong win over Loreto Cavan at Scotstown, a memorable achievement and a sign of many more titles to come. Further individual recognition came with Hollie Croucher, who earned her first Ulster Schools' All-Star. This is only the school's third camogie All-Star and she will receive the award in April 2026.

"As a parent and a former governor I have watched sport go from strength to strength in St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef. The school is a force to be reckoned with on the pitch. I have seen first-hand that St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef now produces some of the best and up-coming talent in Tyrone GAA. You just had to look at the make-up of the Tyrone Minor finalist panel in the summer to see the calibre of sport in the school".

## FEARGAL LOGAN





## NETBALL

Netball at St Joseph's has flourished in recent years, with our teams achieving outstanding success at both regional and national levels. In 2024, our minor team captured the Northern Ireland Division One League title, while our intermediate team continued their strong run of form by winning the Intermediate Bowl at the NNI Finals in Lisburn Racquets, building on their 2023 achievements.

A proud moment for the school came when the team was formally recognised by Mid Ulster District Council at the awards night in the Hill of O'Neill and Ranfurly House. This acknowledgement reflects the dedication, teamwork and growing prominence of netball within St Joseph's.

The sport continues to thrive, with many of our players progressing into Northern Ireland regional development squads, a testament to the depth of talent and the positive, ambitious netball culture within the school.

## BASKETBALL

Basketball continues to be a hugely popular sport at St Joseph's, particularly among our Key Stage 3 boys. Building on the achievements of our historic Year 9 team, who won the school's first Ulster title in 2024, our minor basketballers followed up with further success by securing the Ulster Schools C League title last year.

The enthusiasm and participation levels within basketball continue to grow each year, creating a strong platform for continued development and future achievements across all age groups.

## ATHLETICS & CROSS-COUNTRY RUNNING

Athletics and cross-country continue to bring significant acclaim to St Joseph's, with students regularly excelling at district, Ulster and All-Ireland levels. Most recently, Laura Quinn is placed third in the district championships, progressed through to Ulsters, and represented the school at the All-Ireland Championships - a fantastic achievement for a young athlete.

## SWIMMING

Swimming success has also been prominent. Eimear O'Neill was one of five finalists for the Mid Ulster Young Sportsperson of the Year award. This incredible recognition follows her outstanding performance at the Irish National Swimming Age Group Championships in Dublin last July. Eimear qualified for multiple events, competed in five, and achieved an amazing five national medals. Sophia Kostanetska produced an outstanding performance at the Swim Ulster Primary Schools Cup and Championships in Bangor, securing first place in both the 50m breaststroke and the 100m individual medley.





# Sports Competitions

Sports competitions that our students are entered for include:

## BOYS GAELIC FOOTBALL

Senior MacRory Cup  
Years 11 / 12 Rafferty Cup  
Years 10 / 11 Treanor Cup  
Years 9 / 10 Loch an Iúir cup  
Years 8 / 9 Corn Colmcille  
Year 8 Oisín McGrath Shield

## HURLING

Ulster Colleges Year 10 Brother Mallon Cup  
Tyrone Schools Development League  
Ulster Colleges Year 8 / 9 Corn Setanta  
Ulster Colleges U16 Maguire Cup

## CAMOGIE

Ulster Schools Camogie U19 Competition  
Ulster Schools Camogie U16 Competition  
Ulster Schools Camogie U14 Competition  
Year 8 Ulster Camogie Development Blitz

## LADIES GAELIC FOOTBALL

Senior Ladies Ulster Schools  
Under 19 League

Ulster Schools Under 16 Schools League  
Ulster Schools Under 14 Schools League  
Year 8 Ulster Schools Development Blitz

## ATHLETICS

District Schools Athletics Championships  
Ulster School MS Athletics Championships

## CROSS COUNTRY

District Schools Championships  
Ulster Schools Cross Country Championships

## NETBALL

Year 9-12 NNI League & Cup  
Year 8 Area Netball Blitz

## BASKETBALL

Year 8 Ulster Schools Blitz

## SWIMMING

Ulster Grammar Schools Championships







# Student Voice

## OUR SCHOOL...OUR VOICE

The aim of the School Council in St. Joseph's Grammar School / Scoil Íosaef is to encourage all students to play an active, conscious and democratic role in improving their school community.

St. Joseph's / Scoil Íosaef School Council is a forum for enabling students to offer opinions and advice on a broad range of subjects.

Students are elected to represent their year group and attend meetings with other year group representatives at various times throughout the school year.

The Student Council acts as the voice for all students, helping to put forward ideas, raise issues of concern and bring about change. Council members are consulted on relevant school policies and have their opportunity to have a say in the matters that ultimately impact them. Members have recently been consulted on their learning experiences and this information has helped to shape staff professional development. Recent initiatives that students on our council have been the driving force behind include updating our uniform and the introduction of more water stations around the school. There is no doubt that being a School Council member has a lasting impact on the lives of our students, equipping them with a skillset to help them navigate through life. It helps develop their leadership qualities, communication and listening skills and working as part of a team to drive positive change.



# Extra-Curricular Provision

We believe students learn as much, if not more, outside the classroom as they do inside it. Our extra-curricular provision is designed to build resilience, improve self-discipline, and develop the skills required to work as part of a team.

## MUSIC

Choir  
Orchestra  
String Group

## CLUBS

Drama Club  
Maths Puzzle Club  
Chess Club  
Debating Club  
Public Speaking Club  
Arts and Craft Club  
Film Club  
Cookery Club  
Eco-Committee

Table Tennis Club  
Coding Club  
Minecraft Club  
Cumann Gaelach  
Liturgy  
Sacred Space  
Science Club  
Horticulture Club  
Engineering Club  
Water Sports

## LINK-UP GROUPS

St Patrick's P.S. Donaghmore  
Donaghmore County P.S  
St Mary's Lisbuoy  
Blessed Patrick O'Loughran  
Gaelscoil Aodha Rua  
Sacred Heart P.S. Rock  
Sperrinview Special School Dungannon

## COMPETITIONS

Irish Language Competitions  
Rotary Club Competition  
Quizzes  
Environmental Youth Speak  
Irish Drama Competitions  
University of Leeds Maths Challenge  
Geo Challenge

## OTHER

Charity Fundraising  
Literacy Mentoring  
Numeracy Mentoring  
Credit Union  
Daughters of the Cross Award  
Muiredach Cross Award  
John Paul II Award  
Habitat for Humanity  
International Build, Cambodia  
Habitat for Humanity Change makers Programme  
Daughters of the Cross Public Speaking Competition  
Knights of Columbanus Public Speaking Competition  
Guitar for beginners  
Minecraft Club  
Tae agus Plé  
Geography Clinic  
Mindfulness/Meditation  
Pioneer group  
Gardening Club  
Marvel Club  
Gael Zone  
Yoga  
Daily Mile  
Running/Cross Country  
Year 8 Micro-Bit Club  
Young Enterprise  
QUB IT Ambassadors Programme  
Microsoft Dream Space Ambassador Programme  
Ethos Group











In Hoc Signo Vinces

In This Sign Thou  
Shalt Conquer