St Paul's High School
Ardscoil Naomh Pól

St Paul's High School

Prospectus



Quality education for all

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We endeavour to develop skills and capabilities to help our students grow into healthy, mature and successful adults, capable of making informed and responsible choices and having the potential to make a valuable contribution to the world of work and society in general.

Principal's Welcome

Dear Parent and prospective pupil.

I am delighted to welcome you to the St Paul's High School Prospectus, in the sixtieth year of our school.

St Paul's opened its doors in 1966. For sixty years we have provided quality education for all at the heart of the South Armagh community. We are proud of that legacy and of the families who built it with us.

Truth, compassion, integrity and kindness guide every decision we make, and each decision is centred on the well-being and success of our pupils. We work closely with our exceptional primary schools so that the move to St Paul's is smooth and enjoyable.

Our pupils repay that care with their effort. In 2026, 80% of our Year 12 pupils achieved five or more GCSE grades at A* to C including English and Mathematics, and 81.8% of our A Level pupils achieved three or more grades at A* to C or equivalent. Behind each figure is a young person who was known, encouraged and expected to do well.

We are just as excited about what comes next. The pupils who join us now will shape the next sixty years, in a school that is ambitious for every one of them.

I hope you enjoy exploring our Prospectus and visiting our school. If you are considering joining St Paul's, our induction website, www.stpauls728.org, has more information.

Thank you for your interest in St Paul's High School.

Dáithí Murray
Principal



Our Mission Statement

Our Values

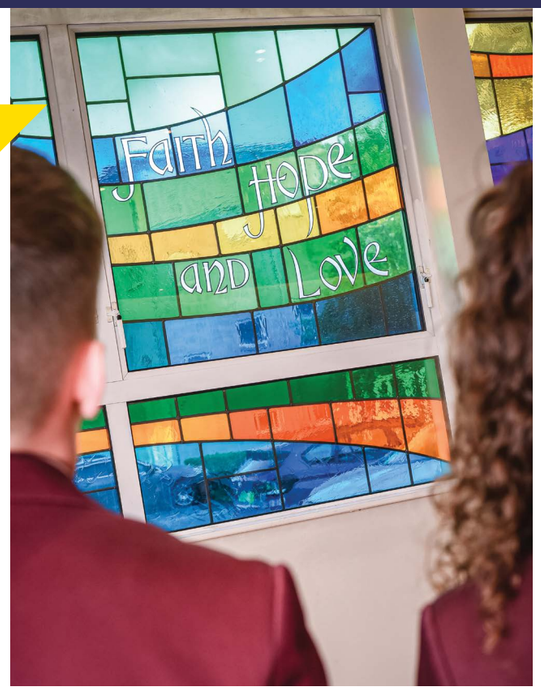
At St Paul's High School, we are a Catholic community which is part of a worldwide dynamic reality with the power to positively change lives, create futures, and enrich the lives of everyone in the school's wider community and society.

Our school, established in 1966, is founded on the ministry and message of Christ. We put the person at the centre of the education journey. We nurture development and we celebrate the unique talents of each individual.

We are committed to providing a quality education for all and inclusion is an integral part of our Christian message. St Paul's is an inclusive centre of learning where we listen, encourage constructive dialogue and support the development of mutual understanding of all faiths, cultures and backgrounds.

Truth, compassion, integrity and kindness are the guiding principles that shape our relationships with each other and provide a code for our conduct within school and when with our families and community.

In St Paul's, we recognise that upholding and protecting the dignity, self-esteem and self-worth of the individual is what provides a learning and teaching environment that enables human potential to flourish.



We fully embrace Shared Education and recognise the educational and social benefits to our learners, the promotion of equality of opportunity, good relations, equality of identity, respect for diversity and community cohesion which sharing can provide.

Our outreach programmes at home and abroad are well established and reflect a school community that is compassionate in pursuit of the common good and care for the marginalised; and the welfare of all in the school community and beyond.

We encourage openness to dialogue with our learners which influences and shapes the school community. In so doing, we create confident, capable, critical thinkers who are ready to contribute to and shape their world.

Our Vision – our destination

St Paul's will be a Catholic, person-centred school recognised for quality education for all, where every pupil's dignity and unique gifts flourish.

Our pupils will leave as confident, capable, critical thinkers who live truth, compassion, integrity and kindness.

We will be a leading partner in Shared Education and community outreach, shaping a kinder, fairer society.

Our Mission – our purpose and practice

Our mission is what we do every day to realise the vision. We place each pupil at the centre of learning and work together to deliver:

- Excellent teaching and strong pastoral care.
- A broad, balanced curriculum with clear academic, vocational and enrichment pathways.
- Inclusion in practice, removing barriers and providing effective support for additional needs.
- A safe, caring environment that safeguards wellbeing and builds positive behaviour.
- Meaningful partnerships with families, parishes, employers, universities and the wider community.
- Shared Education that promotes equality of opportunity, respect for diversity and good relations.
- High-quality professional learning and shared leadership for all staff.
- Open dialogue and pupil voice, clear communication, and evidence-informed continuous improvement.

Our Aims – what we intend to achieve

1. **Live our Catholic ethos**
   To be a Christ-centred, person-centred community, living the Gospel values and celebrating the richness of Irish cultural heritage while respecting all traditions.

2. **Place each pupil at the centre**
   To recognise and nurture every pupil's unique gifts, upholding their dignity, self-esteem and self-worth, and fostering truth, compassion, integrity and kindness.

3. **Provide quality education for all**
   To offer a broad and balanced curriculum with clear academic, vocational and enrichment pathways, strong support for pupils with additional needs, and the removal of barriers to learning.

4. **Raise expectations and achievement**
   To deliver excellent learning and teaching, set ambitious standards, and equip pupils to become confident, capable, critical thinkers who make informed and responsible choices.

5. **Embrace inclusion and Shared Education**
   To promote equality of opportunity, respect for diversity, good relations and community cohesion through meaningful collaboration with partner schools.

6. **Strengthen partnerships and outreach**
   To work closely with families, parishes, employers, universities and the wider community, and to sustain outreach at home and abroad in service of the common good and care for the marginalised.

7. **Invest in staff and shared leadership**
   To support high-quality professional learning, share effective practice and resources, and develop leadership at all levels within a culture of trust and collaboration.

8. **Ensure a safe, caring environment**
   To provide a pupil-centred school that safeguards wellbeing, builds cheerful co-operation and positive behaviour, and enables every member of the community to flourish.

9. **Communicate, celebrate and improve**
   To listen and act on pupil voice, communicate clearly, celebrate success, use evidence well and commit to continuous reflection and improvement.



Daire O'Driscoll

St Michael's PS, Killean

"Starting at St Paul's has been a really positive experience for me. At first, I was nervous because of the big school, a new timetable and different teachers. The students were welcoming and the teachers were supportive. The biggest challenge was getting around this massive building, but everyone was willing to help anybody.

The thing I love most about St Paul's is all the extra-curricular activities. From Gaelic football and hurling, to drama and netball – there really is something for everyone! One subject I particularly like is P.E. I think P.E is just different from everything else. It lets me have fun and learn without writing one word!

Another great thing is all the new friends you get to make. From when I started, I have made new friends from everywhere – Camlough, Dromintee, Whitecross, Newtown. I met most of these new friends doing extra-curricular activities, such as gaelic football and hurling. One thing I would like to tell you is to have fun in your time in school and please be kind to everyone."



Mollie Shields

St Teresa's PS, Tullyherron

"I had spent all summer thinking and preparing for my new school, the day had finally come! My stomach was filled with butterflies; I was both nervous and excited. It was daunting coming from such a small primary school, like St Teresa's. My biggest challenge was navigating my way around this enormous school. However, it now feels like I have been here for years!

Although I have been separated from some of my primary school friends, it wasn't long until I made lots of lovely new friends. I have been overwhelmed by the vast number of new subjects introduced to me. I particularly enjoy English, where Mr Mc Kenna makes the subject very enjoyable, and I was recently successful in the Year 8 Hallowe'en Poetry Competition. My form teacher Mrs O'Kane has been extremely kind, helping me settle into St. Paul's.

I thoroughly enjoy being part of the Year 8 girls' Gaelic football team and participating in the blitzes has been so much fun. I also play the violin and am looking forward to joining the school orchestra. My advice to anyone commencing Year 8 is to 'enjoy yourself' because time goes by so quickly! My journey in so far has been a pleasure and I'm sure yours will be too!"



Bobby Farrell

St Joseph's PS, Bessbrook

"Going to St Paul's, I felt nervous but excited for starting something new. I was worried that going into such a big school I would get lost, or find it difficult to get to each new class on time. However, it turned out that everyone helps each other here. There's always someone to ask for help and we found our way around quite quickly.

Things I love most about St Paul's are the opportunities for sports available to everyone, the new people I have met and I enjoy moving from class to class – which breaks up the long periods of sitting in one place for too long.

My favourite subject is PE, I love to play all sports and I look forward to our PE lesson every week. I also really enjoy Geography as Mrs McConnell teaches us and she's my favourite teacher.

She is always so kind, happy and chilled.

Since joining St Paul's, I have met lots of new friends and I have also stayed close with my primary school friends. You have the opportunity to meet so many new people and I've enjoyed getting to know everyone.

There are so many clubs and activities available to everyone, from music to sports. I am part of the first year soccer and Gaelic teams and have recently started cross country running after school. Through the soccer, we have been given the chance to play in the Blackpool Cup this Easter and I can't wait to compete in it!

My advice to all new Years 8s would be, to not worry about starting your new experience here you will enjoy every minute of it!"

Bigger IS Better

St. Paul's, with an enrolment exceeding 1700 pupils, is undoubtedly considered a large school. Our size can sometimes be a concern for parents and prospective pupils.

However, our extensive reach belies a close-knit community spirit. We welcome pupils from our contributory parishes, enhancing our school's local identity. These include:

- Parish of Lower Killeavy
- Parish of Upper Killeavy
- Parish of Dromintee
- Parish of Loughgilly
- Parish of Lower Creggan (including Newtownhamilton area)
- Parish of Ballymacnab (including Cladybeg and Ballylane areas)
- Parish of Newry (west of the railway line, covering areas from Kidd's Road to both sides of the A25 Camlough Road)

A larger St Paul's offers numerous advantages, contributing to a richer educational experience for all:

- A broader social network
- A greater variety of specialised staff members
- Enhanced facilities
- More choices in subject offerings at each key stage
- An expanded range of extra-curricular activities
- Increased opportunities for personal and academic growth
- Greater overall success

Where Every Child Belongs

As a non-selective, co-educational school, we welcome, and cater for, local children of all academic abilities. We know that each child is much more than the measure of a score at age eleven and we take great pride in nurturing children and see them grow academically, spiritually and socially – some at different rates than others.

Objective metrics from established diagnostic tests such as Progress in English (PTE), Progress in Maths (PTM) and Cognitive Abilities Testing (CAT4) are used to 'loosely gather' pupils into streams on entry. Placements are carefully tracked throughout the year, in each year group, and this allows movement within this fluid and agile streaming process – acknowledging that children grow and develop at their own unique rates.

We are very proud of all our pupils, from those who set high academic expectations of themselves and of us, but equally proud of our pupils with typical abilities and those children who experience moderate to profound barriers to learning. It is rewarding to see siblings, each with their own academic strengths, having the opportunity to have pride in the same St Paul's uniform, walk the same St Paul's corridors and become the very best version of themselves. Indeed, it is rewarding to witness academic high achievers mentor our pupils in the DEN and see each other as friends.

St Paul's is a school without labels and without boundaries. It is a microcosm of the best of society and where every child belongs.









Elaine Hughes

Parent of Erin Hughes (DEN), Isla Hughes and Moya Hughes (mainstream)

"As the proud parents of three girls with different strengths and abilities, we are just so grateful to have a school like St Paul's in our community – where each of them gets the chance to shine and grow individually. Our daughter, Erin, is part of the 'Autism Family' and is currently in the DEN. Since joining St Paul's she has had so many opportunities afforded to her, both in her education and with travelling as part of the school's Inclusion Choir. We are delighted that her younger sisters will follow in her footsteps to St Paul's, knowing they will be just as happy as Erin is there."



Cara McKee

St Brigid's PS, Drumilly

"Before starting St. Pauls, I felt nervous but also extremely excited about starting a new school and trying new things. At first, everything seemed so big and different, but I quickly settled in and started to really enjoy it.

One of the things I love most about St. Paul's is the number of amazing opportunities open to me. One of my favourite teachers is Mr McArdle, my history teacher, as he makes the class very enjoyable and fun for learning.

I have also loved getting involved in new sports, like Netball and Gaelic. It has been great fun trying different activities. So far, school has been a brilliant experience. I have grown in confidence, made great friends and I am really looking forward to everything else that is ahead. My advice would be to try something new when you start at St. Paul's!"



Eoin Gallagher

Jonesborough PS

"When starting St. Paul's I was very nervous, because I was coming from a small primary school to a big secondary school. I was worried that I wouldn't know anybody in my class. The biggest challenge was moving from class to class without getting lost. To overcome this, I spent my first week figuring out where each department was and always asked an older student or teacher for help.

My favourite thing about St. Paul's is all the new subjects I was introduced to and the craic among the students and teachers.

My favourite subject is Math because I enjoy working with numbers. My favourite teacher is Mr. Maguire in History because he is very funny and makes his lessons fun and lively!

I have made lots of new friends and this was easier than I thought it would be. I do GAA as extracurricular and really enjoy the afterschool sessions every week. This was a great way to meet new people that I don't share classes with.

I would advise new Year 8s to embrace everything St. Paul's has to offer; try new things and make new friends while continuing old friendships. Most of all, have the laughs along the way!"

Care and Welfare at St Paul's

DE's Policy for School Improvement **'Every School a Good School'** April 2009; states that every school should ensure that **'the highest standards of Pastoral care and Child Protection are in place'.**

The Board of Governors, Principal and all teaching and non-teaching staff have responsibility for the care and welfare of all pupils, maintaining a learning environment which is characterised by positive relationships and mutual respect between pupils and all members of staff.

Recent inspection reports from the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) identified **'arrangements for care and support are highly effective and based on the intrinsically linked work of the pastoral and academic teams. There is a clear commitment to inclusion and a culture of care and respect which permeates all aspects of the life of the school. The staff have a detailed knowledge of the pupils and provide them with the required knowledge and skills to respect diversity, challenge stereotypes, grow in confidence and self-esteem, and participate in the work of the school and wider community.**



Jessica Shields, and family, upon receiving the Brian Conlon Foundation Academic Scholarship Award 2026.

The school liaises closely with an appropriately wide range of external agencies to support the pupils' social and emotional well-being. The pupils who require additional support with their learning benefit from a whole-school culture of early intervention and individualised support to meet their specific needs.'[1]

A follow-up inspection report confirmed that **'an inclusive ethos permeates the school; this is evident in the very high quality of the working relationships at all levels; the mutual respect, care and appreciation of one another demonstrated by the staff and by the pupils; and the importance placed on meeting the needs of those pupils who experience barriers to learning. The nurturing and supportive approach to helping pupils overcome their barriers through a wide range of interventions has resulted in these pupils achieving high standards, the development of their personal and social skills and access to progressive career pathways. This work demonstrates very well the synergy of the school's academic and pastoral provision.'**[2]



1. https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/post-primary-inspection-st-pauls-high-school-bessbrook, Source: Education and Training Inspectorate, 2016.
2. https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/sustaining-improvement-inspection-st-pauls-high-school-bessbrook-county-armagh, Source Education and Training Inspectorate, 2019.







St Paul's places great attention and value on supporting our pupil's care and welfare through many varied mediums, here are some of the highlights offered throughout the school year:

KS3 Care & Welfare Programme

- AM registration class with form teachers
- Weekly assemblies with Year Heads
- Counselling referrals
- NI Anti Bullying Forum Workshops
- Cara-Friend Workshops
- PIPS Programmes
- PSNI eSafety Talks
- PSNI Health & Safety Talks
- Christmas Panto
- End of year trips

KS4 Care & Welfare Programme

- AM registration class with form teachers
- Weekly assemblies with Year Heads
- Counselling referrals
- PIPS Programme
- Aware Workshops
- PSNI Safety Talks
- Addiction Prevention Workshop

KS5 Care & Welfare Programme

- AM registration class with form teachers
- Weekly assemblies with Year Heads
- Counselling Referrals
- Love for Life Programme
- PIPS Programme
- Enrichment Programmes
- RSE Programme
- Financial Advice Programme
- Road Safety Programme
- PSNI Safety Talks





Cait Carragher

St Michael's PS, Newtownhamilton



"St Paul's, in my opinion, is such an incredibly diverse and variable school. It caters for those of all abilities, with differentiating interests and passions, placing focus not solely on academics yet other interests such as sports, art and music. This year, I am a member of the Student Leadership Team and we are responsible for ensuring pupil voice is heard – and for organising some of the fun pupil events throughout the year.

In my GCSEs I achieved 3A* and 6A and I can wholeheartedly state that my results would never have been possible if it weren't for the excellent teachers of St Paul's who go over and beyond, dedicating their time to cater so tremendously for their students. I am currently studying A Level English Literature, History and Religion – attaining AAA in my AS Levels. I aspire to study a degree in law, at Queen's University, and further pursue a career in law.

The trip opportunities St Paul's provides to their students sets our school out from others. I am so fortunate to have experienced one of these trips, being picked to complete the Camino De Santiago in support of Evora Hospice and Marie Curie – a truly life-changing and character-building experience. My time at St Paul's has been the best years of my life, making such incredible memories and learning lessons that will stay with me for a lifetime. I'll certainly miss St Paul's and am so grateful for the person it has shaped me into."

Grace McShane

Dromintee PS



"St Paul's provides a diverse range of extracurricular activities that caters to everyone, combining both their interests and talents. For me, I am heavily involved within the Music Department of the school, as I am a member of both Senior Mixed and Girls choirs, alongside the Ethnic Percussion Groups. I was also a part of the cast of our 2026 school musical, Joseph and the Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat. These activities have been the most memorable, fulfilling, and rewarding part of my school experience – which have assisted me to have the incredible opportunity to travel to Kenya in January 2027.

Alongside these commitments, at GCSE Level I achieved 3 A* and 7 As, which would not have been possible without the support of my teachers and staff in St Paul's. I have now continued to study Biology, Chemistry and Maths at A-Level, whilst having studied Religion at AS Level. These subjects have strengthened my ambition to eventually pursue a profession in medicine in the future.

My time at St Paul's has been unforgettable – with amazing memories such as singing in St Peter's Basilica in Vatican City and marching in the parade down 5th Avenue on St Patrick's Day. I'm so thankful for the opportunities St Paul's has afforded to me and for the friendships that have come with it. I can wholeheartedly say that it's this aspect of school that will make me miss my time at St Paul's the most."

Academic Standards at St Paul's

At St Paul's, we believe that academic excellence, where each child achieves to the best of his or her ability, is a key ingredient in personal happiness and the cornerstone of a successful future. Our strategic tracking, assessment, and reporting processes are designed to ensure that no child is overlooked. By seamlessly integrating academic and pastoral care, each Pastoral Team actively contributes to fostering high yet attainable academic standards, instilling this aspiration in all our pupils.

At St Paul's, we monitor the progress of our pupils in Years 8 to 11 through three assessment intervals each year, culminating in external GCSE examinations for all Year 11 students in May and June. For pupils in Years 12 to 14, we conduct assessments at four intervals annually, with students sitting external GCSE, AS, and A2 exams in May or June of their respective years. This strategic assessment framework has consistently driven improvements in academic standards at both GCSE and A Level and other important Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications.



Ronan Caldwell

St Peter's PS, Cloughreagh



"When I think back to why I chose St Paul's, I can still remember my first impressions from the Open Day. There was so much happening around the school, and I was particularly fascinated by the Science Department, with all the experiments and dissections taking place. What really stood out, however, was that there genuinely seemed to be something for everyone, regardless of their interests or passions.

For me, it was the Music Department that captured my attention most. From the Senior Mixed and Boys' Choirs, to the opportunity to experience something as unique as African and Samba drumming, the range of activities on offer was incredible. I certainly don't think I would have had the chance to experience or learn something like that anywhere else. Of course, another small advantage was having my Dad working in the school. Looking back, this was a particularly useful perk, given my impressive ability to leave things at home and only realise once I arrived at school!

One of the things I have valued most about my time at St Paul's is the opportunity to experience things I might never otherwise have had the chance to do. The trip to Kenya was undoubtedly one of the highlights of my time at the school. It gave me the opportunity to experience a different culture, meet new people and gain insight into a completely different way of life. It broadened my perspective and helped me appreciate the importance of seeing the world beyond my own surroundings.

In a very different way, travelling to Rome with the choir was another experience I feel incredibly fortunate to have had, particularly the opportunity to sing in the Vatican. Both experiences were very different but equally special, they have made my time at St Paul's all the more memorable.

Academically, I achieved 6 A*s and 4 As at GCSE. My chosen subjects were History, Irish, Music and Further Mathematics. At A Level, I studied Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics, alongside Health and Social Care at AS Level, achieving 2A*s and an A along with an A at AS Level. These results are something I am very proud of, but I certainly would not have achieved them without the constant support, encouragement and dedication of my teachers.

I am currently studying Medicine at Queen's University Belfast. I chose to pursue Medicine as I always had a strong interest in the sciences, particularly Biology and Chemistry, and I wanted a career that I would find both interesting and fulfilling. I was especially drawn to the opportunity to combine this interest with working closely with people. To me, there is nothing more rewarding than supporting someone, and their family, through some of the most vulnerable moments of their life. Being given the opportunity to study Medicine is a privilege, and undertaking this degree is one of the greatest achievements of my life.

If I were asked by a prospective parent or pupil what I loved most about St Paul's, I would find it difficult to choose just one thing. From the opportunities it provides for pupils to develop and showcase their talents, to the teachers who consistently go above and beyond to support every student, there is so much that makes the school special.

However, what stands out most to me is the people. From the moment I first walked through the doors, St Paul's felt like one big family, where everyone has a place and is encouraged to be themselves. The friendships I made along the way have been such an important part of my journey. It was the people who made St Paul's so difficult to leave."

Kayla Callaghan

St Joesph's PS, Meigh



"When I was selecting my secondary school, St Paul's was my first and most obvious choice. I am the oldest in my family and didn't have any older siblings to help guide me in my decision from their experience. However, the welcoming atmosphere at the Open Day, paired with the many different departments being shown off at that day, made it a clear decision for me. From ICT to Home Economics, Maths to English, there was something for everyone, and the possibilities felt endless for 10 year old me!

Throughout my time in St Paul's I've made many great memories and friends I will carry with me for life. I feel as though my best memories are less extravagant than others, but I just loved the craic every morning in Form Class, and the little moments in between spent with friends. As well as this, becoming part of the Student Leadership Team in my final year was a great achievement and helped me create many more memories, assisting in the running of many pupil-led events throughout the year, raising money for charity, and getting more involved with my fellow pupils all the way from Year 8s up to Year 14s. St Paul's has helped shape me into the person I am today and I couldn't be more grateful of the experience.

At GCSE I achieved grades of 9A* 1A, which allowed me to progress to A-level where I achieved A*A*A* in A-Level Maths, Biology and Chemistry. St Paul's taught me hard work and discipline, which helped me achieve these grades. Of course, the greatest help through all of this were my teachers, particularly my A-Level teachers, Mrs McCartan (Maths), Mrs Taylor and Mrs McGarvey (Chemistry) and Mrs Kimbley, Mrs Carragher and Miss McGeough (Biology). All of these inspiring female role models invested their time and effort into making sure each student performed the best they could, and they were always available to help whenever anyone needed it, and for that I am very grateful.

I am currently studying Actuarial Science and Risk Management at Queen's University Belfast. I chose this course because of my love for mathematics, fostered particularly in my Year 11 at St Paul's by Mrs Kearney, as she taught me GCSE Further Maths. I hope to progress through this course and qualify as an actuary.

My greatest inspirations academically would have to be each of my teachers I've already discussed, as they helped create a learning environment that was both interesting and fun. However, in life my greatest inspiration is my mum. She is the strongest woman I have ever met and I hope to be half the woman she is when I am older. She taught me how to persevere, to rise above and to have fun, and I couldn't imagine someone more inspiring.

Some advice I would have for upcoming Year 8s would be to take every opportunity that comes your way and don't be afraid to make new friends and have new experiences. Try everything because you never know what you may love, or what it may lead to. Later in your academic journey, my biggest piece of advice would be to work hard, but don't forget to have fun. Achieving the balance between the two is the most vital thing you can do to keep learning enjoyable and not something that drains you. Cherish each year, as it goes so fast! Take it from me. I had the best time ever at St Paul's and miss it a lot. Good luck in your journey through the next few years, enjoy it!"



A Rich and Varied Curriculum at St Paul's

Our extensive curriculum is designed to challenge, inspire and motivate all our pupils to be the best version of themselves possible. To ensure this becomes a reality, we have specialist staff that provide the guidance and support that will cement this success.

We are passionate about ensuring that, regardless of their starting points, backgrounds or individual needs, all our pupils are afforded an equal and ambitious curriculum and have an equitable chance to succeed. Our provision stretches beyond the NI Curriculum and maximises opportunities for all our pupils. Via our pupil-centred and flexible subject choice processes, at both GCSE and Level 2 and A Level and Level 3, we are able to accommodate the choices of all our pupils. We are alert to the demands, and opportunities, within the local, national and global labour markets and invest in researching new subject areas that will equip our pupils better, as they prepare to enter third level education or the labour force. We want to ensure that our pupils have the necessary skills and knowledge that will enhance their employment opportunities and enable them to become effective contributors to the economy.



Preventative Curriculum work in Form Class.



Luke McNally, Jack Begley, Cahir McKeown and Andrew McNally participating in the ABF Youth Challenge Competition 2026.

Our pupil-centred and flexible subject choice processes are supported by our Careers Education, Advice, Information and Guidance (CEAIG) Department. Careers provision at St Paul's aims to fully support all pupils in recognising their skills and qualities and matching them to the most suitable subject areas and courses. We recognise that while a fully academic curriculum will suit most of our pupils, this may not suit others. Where suitable, we encourage pupils to explore a hybrid or vocational curriculum that will still challenge them but will also maximise their chances of success.

Most pupils will complete nine GCSE subjects, but there are opportunities for pupils to take ten or more subjects.

At Post 16, all pupils will complete 3 A Level subjects. While most of our Post 16 pupils will take the third level university route, we equally encourage those who wish to pursue foundation degrees or Higher-Level Apprenticeships.

KS3 CURRICULUM

- Art & Design
- Careers Education
- Digital Technology
- Drama
- English
- French
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Music
- Personal Development & Citizenship/LLW
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Technology & Design

KS4 CURRICULUM

- Art & Design
- BTEC Sport
- Business Studies
- Careers Education
- Childcare
- Computer Science
- Construction
- Digital Technology
- Drama
- English Language
- English Literature
- Food & Nutrition
- French
- Further Mathematics
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Irish
- King's Trust
- Learning for Life & Work
- Mathematics
- Music
- Occupational Studies
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Science (Double Award)
- Science (Single Award)
- Spanish
- Technology & Design

KS5 CURRICULUM

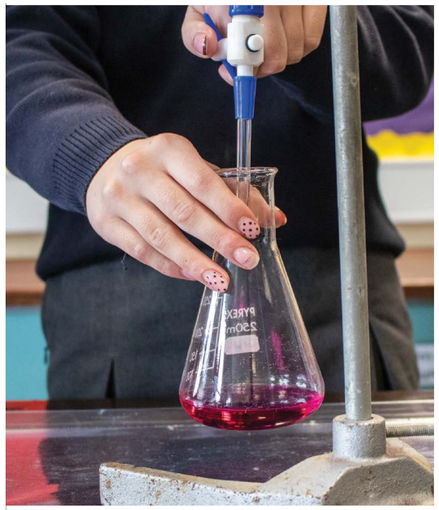
- Art & Design
- Biology
- BTEC Sport
- Cambridge Technical Business
- Cambridge Technical IT
- Chemistry
- Childcare
- Construction & the Built Environment
- Digital Technology
- English Literature
- Environmental Technology
- Food Science & Nutrition
- French
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Irish
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education
- Physics
- Professional Business Services
- Religious Studies
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sports Science & the Active Leisure Industry
- Technology & Design

At KS4, where applicable, we also offer subjects at Level 2 equivalencies.

At KS5, where there is a demand for subjects not offered at St Paul's, we work in partnership with Newry & Mourne Area Learning Community and endeavour to ensure pupils are still able to access subjects they are interested in.











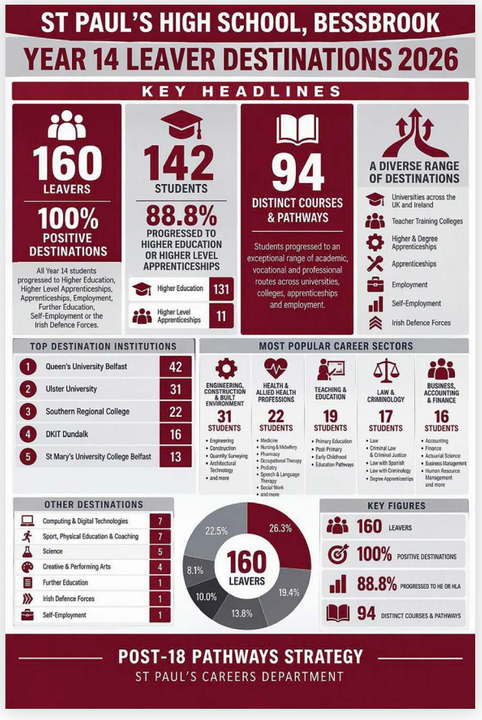




Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) at St Paul's

The CEIAG Department plays a vital role in preparing students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The department's mission is to help students understand themselves, develop their capabilities, explore career options, and implement personalised career paths – whether that leads to university, apprenticeships, further education, or full-time employment.

CEIAG staff work closely with students, encouraging them to realize their full potential and providing the necessary support and guidance to make informed decisions about their future. They maintain an "open door" policy, welcoming students to discuss their aspirations and access advice from CEIAG staff as well as external careers advisors from NI Careers Service.





In partnership with education, training, and industry stakeholders, the CEIAG Department empowers students to navigate the evolving job market. Flexibility, adaptability, and lifelong learning are emphasised as crucial for long-term success. To this end, the department organizes a wide range of enrichment opportunities, including work experience placements, college/university open day visits, apprenticeship presentations, guest speaker events, interview skills, careers fairs and the annual St Paul's Careers Week. Through these comprehensive initiatives, the CEIAG Department equips students with the self-awareness, career knowledge, and decision-making skills required to transition smoothly into the next stage of their academic and professional journeys.

Sporting Life at St Paul's

Gaelic Games at St Paul's

Since our inception in 1966, St Paul's has worked hard to establish its reputation in Gaelic Games and are very proud of achievements in Gaelic football for both our boys and girls, hurling and camogie. Our sporting achievements are valued within St Paul's and in the local community. We have a dedicated team of staff that is committed to coach and manage teams in a positive manner – actively encouraging pupils to wear the maroon with pride.

Girls' Gaelic Football

Ladies Gaelic Football is an immensely popular sport in St Paul's. The season is under way and, as always, we enter teams at the following age grades:

- U20 Level
- U16 Level
- U14 Level
- Year 8/9 Blitzes

We have many St Paul's girls who have been selected to represent both Armagh and Down in their respective age groups. Charlotte Havern received a Queens Future Star All Star and Alanna O'Neill received a 2026 PPS Ulster Schools' All Star.



Alana O'Neill, Meabh Watters and Shea Loughran being acknowledged for their contributions to sport at St Paul's at Senior Prize Giving September 2026.



Alanna O'Neill receives 2026 PPS Ulster Schools' All Star.



Shea Loughran receives a 2026 Danske Bank Ulster Schools' All Star.















Photo by Piaras Ó Mídheach, used with kind permission of Sportsfile.

Boys' Gaelic Football

The MacRory Cup is the blue-ribbon event of the Danske Bank Ulster Schools sporting calendar for boys. We began competing in this competition in 2013, having won an All Ireland Colleges senior B title and the Danske Bank Ulster Colleges, Mac Larnon cup in 2012 and reached the MacRory Final in our opening year, narrowly beaten by St Pat's Maghera. One of the highlights of boys' football at St Paul's has been the Rannafast Cup win of 2022/2023. St Paul's made history on this occasion by being the first former vocational school to win a senior a colleges' championship in Ulster.

As the boys move through each year, they are entered into a variety of competitions, including:

Year 8	Joe Canning Cup, Caoimhin Mallon Blitz
Year 9	Corn Colmcille
Year 10	Loch an Iuir Cup
Year 11	Treanor Cup/Oisin McGrath Cup/ Paddy O'Hara Cup
Year 12	Rafferty cup
Year 13/14	MacRory Cup/ Mc Larnon cup (depending upon seeding)

We are also very proud of how many of our current and past pupils go on to play an active role in both their club and county teams and can point to the fact 30% of the Armagh Senior Panel who won the All-Ireland in 2024 are past pupils of St Paul's.



Patrick Crilly (Joint MacRory Captain)
St Michael's PS, Killean

"My time playing Gaelic football at St Paul's has been a huge part of my school life. It has given me the chance to represent my school, make good friends and develop qualities that help me both on and off the pitch. One of my proudest moments was captaining the Year 9 team to win the Brock Cup Ulster Championship. It was a brilliant experience and something I will always remember. Leading the team taught me how important communication, teamwork and staying positive are – especially during difficult games. Winning this competition made all the hard work and training worthwhile.

I am currently the joint captain of the MacRory Cup team which is a role I am very proud of. I enjoy helping and encouraging my teammates and doing my best to lead by example. The role has helped me become more confident and has improved my leadership skills, both on and off the field.

Football has taught me the importance of commitment, resilience and working as part of a team. Through training and matches, I have learned how to deal with challenges, support others and always give 100%. Overall, my involvement in Gaelic football at St Paul's has been one of the most enjoyable parts of my school experience and has helped me grow as a person."



Hurling

St. Paul's Hurling has been building year on year and we now have a strong cohort of committed players in each of our year groups who have made regular occurrences in Ulster Finals this year.

This year we entered teams at:

- Year 14
- Year 12
- Year 11
- Year 10 – This team won the Corn Bro Mallon Final
- Year 9

In March 2025 our year 10 hurlers captured the Danske Bank Bro Mallon Ulster Title with a strong showing in each of their games throughout the competition. This group of dedicated young hurlers now take a step up to Leopold Cup hurling in their year 11 hurling campaign which begins this Autumn and we wish them the very best of luck in their endeavours.

A growing number of St Paul's hurlers are now selected across each of the County Under 15, 17 and 20 hurling squads. We are proud of their efforts and look forward to following their progress in the coming months and years.



Ronan Martin (Joint MacRory Captain)
Dromintee PS

"My experience with sport in St Paul's has been nothing short of amazing. From taking part in P.E lessons from in Year 8-12, annual Sports Day, A Level and GCSE practicals and fitness tests to ,most importantly for me, the Gaelic Football teams. I have been heavily involved in afterschool trainings and playing on the school's Gaelic football teams throughout my time in St Paul's. From winning the Brock Cup in Year 9, to progressing into playing in prestigious Rannafast and MacRory cup competitions, I would recommend getting involved in sport in St Paul's for health and fun. It has led a path for me throughout my years in St Paul's which has blossomed into friendships for life. I am very proud to have been selected to jointly lead our MacRory Campaign this year and I consider it an honour to represent my school in this prestigious role."

Soccer at St Paul's

At St. Paul's High School, we are proud to offer an outstanding extra-curricular soccer program for boys in Years 8/9 and Years 13/14. Our commitment is to develop every player's potential and passion for the game. You will benefit from the guidance of experienced coaches who focus on developing skills, strategy and teamwork. We train on our well-maintained fields, equipped with the latest soccer equipment and in partnership with Gullion Youth and with generous sponsorship from Re-Gen Waste Management we have been able to acquire soccer goalposts; we now play our home fixtures on the school grounds. You will be given the opportunity to represent St. Paul's in local, regional and national tournaments, showcasing your talent and school spirit. You will enjoy weekly training sessions that enhance physical fitness, build confidence and create lasting friendships. In 2025/26 our Year 8 were Mid Ulster Schools' League and Cup double winners with the Year 9 team also victorious in the prestigious Mid Ulster Schools' Cup competition. In Easter 2027 our Year 8 and 9 teams are travelling to England to compete in the Blackpool Cup for the first time. Our school teams will play in the following competitions in 2027/2028:

Year 8 Boys – Year 8 Boys – South Down Cup, Mid Ulster League & Cup, Co. Down School Blitz

Year 9 Boys – South Down Cup, Mid-Ulster League & Cup, NI Schools' Cup

Year 13/14 Boys – South Down Cup



Year 8 Mid Ulster Cup Winners 2026.



Mr O'Rourke, Head of PE, and George Connolly at our Sports Day in May 2026.

Athletics at St Paul's

All pupils are given the opportunity to represent the school in a variety of athletic events throughout the year. Cross Country takes preference in term 1 with team members representing the school in the district competition in January. Top achievers qualify for the Ulster Championships later in the year. In the Summer term, pupils experience a range of athletic track and field events during curriculum PE. Those who excel in their specific disciplines compete for St Pauls at regional and provincial level.

Dance at St Paul's

In addition to our competitive achievements, St. Paul's boasts a vibrant and inclusive dance community, exemplified by our hugely popular Year 8 lunchtime dance club. Whether they're exploring hip-hop, jazz, or contemporary styles, students in the Year 8 dance club are encouraged to embrace the joy and world of dance at St. Paul's!

Netball at St Paul's

St Paul's netball tradition continues to enjoy strong participation, with over 100 girls involved in all competitions.

The school competes in the Netball NI League and Shield competitions, with after-school training on Tuesdays & Wednesdays, according to age group. Year 8 pupils are introduced to the sport in September and participate in new Netball NI blitz competitions.

The school reached the shield semi-final and quarter-final stages at Junior and Minor level in 2026. Players also had the opportunity to trial at U15, U17 and U19 Netball NI performance academies, with Alayna Mallon being selected onto the Southern U15 squad and Niamh Cunningham selected for the U19 NI Academy.

Sports Day, each May/June, signals the end of the sporting calendar in St Paul's and is a much anticipated event. This was re-established after Covid 19 and is organised by the PE Department. The April/May PE Scheme of Work involves trials in the various track and field disciplines and Sports Day sees the winners of the trial, in Year 8-10, compete against each other for the big prizes. According to the overall outcomes, a male and female Victor Ludorum in each year group is awarded and is a much sought after accolade.

Musical Life at St Paul's

The value of music in St Paul's lies in its contribution to the enjoyment and enrichment of our pupils' lives and, indeed, the lives of the wider St Paul's community.

The high-quality music education we offer enables lifelong participation and enjoyment of music, we well as providing the foundations for those who wish to pursue a career in this field. Outside curriculum music, there are ample opportunities for our pupils to contribute to musical life at St Paul's:

- Junior Girls' Choir
- Junior Boys' Choir
- Senior Girls' Choir
- Senior Mixed Choir
- Inclusion Choir
- Orchestra
- Irish Traditional Group
- Ethnic Percussion Groups

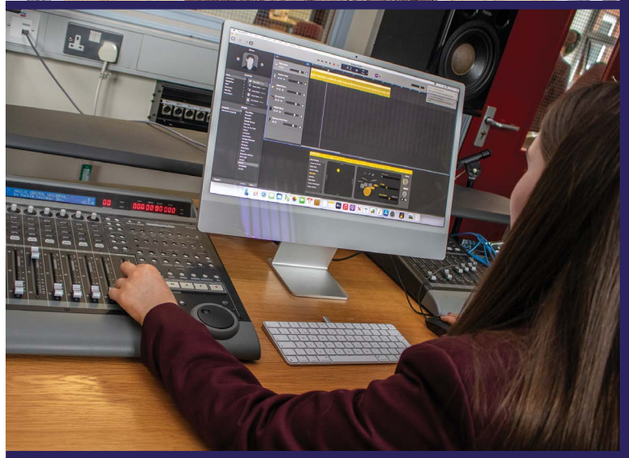
Our various musical groups participate in various feiseanna and, in recent years, our Senior Mixed Choir have competed in Feis Ceoil. In 2022, we won the ESB School Choir of the Year – the first time in our history.

The annual Spring Concert serves as the highlight of our musical calendar and our various vocal and instrumental ensembles entertain the wider community to a very high standard.

Supporting our Music Department, we have a range of tutors who provide private tuition on site and pupils are encouraged to take their grades in their preferred music discipline.









Daithi Hoey



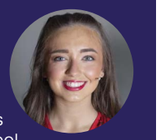
Jonesborough PS

"I had my first taste of the musical life in St. Paul's with the Junior Boys' Choir, in Year 8, along with the Ethnic Percussion Group. Both of my older sisters, Cara and Aoibhe, were heavily involved in the music aspect of St. Paul's and that's how I became part of it. Having started musical life off in the Junior Boys' Choir, as a male soprano, I'm now a Bass II in the Senior Mixed Choir. At the moment, I'm doing Grade 6 musical theatre and classical singing with Fiona Flynn.

A perk of being musically involved in St. Paul's is the countless trips you experience such as: Rome, with the choir, New York and London, with the samba and ethnic percussion group, and tons of feiseanna, such as the annual Feis Ceoil. From singing in the choir and banging on the snare drum in the Samba group, I've made countless friends.

The part that separates St. Paul's from the rest of the schools in the area is its inclusivity. Everyone has a place and purpose in St Paul's and this is evident in the school musicals. In 2024, I was a part of the Oliver! cast and I got to play the role of The Artful Dodger. It's one of my best memories and experience and people still praise/slag me about it two years later. More recently, I got to be a part of the production of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat – as Joseph! I learnt a lot of valuable lessons from it like teamwork, friendship and to trust the process. Music is just as important as the other aspects of school life, like sport, which I also enjoy. I'd be lying if I didn't say I enjoyed every moment of it!"

Olivia Ward



St Peter's PS, Cloughreagh

"Music and performing have always been a huge part of my life, and the opportunities available at St Paul's have made my school experience especially memorable. I joined the Orchestra, Ethnic Percussion Ensemble and Junior Girls' Choir in Year 8 before progressing to the Senior Girls' Choir and Mixed Choir. Through these groups, I developed my musical abilities, built confidence and formed lasting friendships with others who share my passion for music.

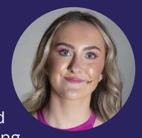
Alongside school ensembles, I have continued to develop my individual musical skills through vocal and instrumental lessons. I am currently working towards Grade 7 Musical Theatre & Classical Singing, Grade 7 Piano and Grade 5 Violin.

One of the highlights of every year has been the Spring Concert, where students come together to showcase their talents. I have also been fortunate to travel and perform with school groups, including singing in basilicas in Rome with the Senior Mixed Choir and performing in London's St Patrick's Day Parade with the Samba Group. Representing St Paul's at music festivals, including Feis Ceoil, has also been a rewarding experience.

Musical theatre has always been particularly important to me. I was delighted to be involved in Chicago in 2022 and later played the Narrator in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat in 2026. These productions allowed me to combine my love of singing, acting and performing while creating unforgettable memories with cast and friends.

What makes music at St Paul's truly special is the dedication of the Music Department staff. Their commitment to providing pupils with so many opportunities, from concerts and competitions to trips and productions, has been invaluable. Music has been one of the happiest and most rewarding aspects of my time at St Paul's, and I will always be grateful for the experiences, friendships and opportunities it has provided."

Ruby Lee Ward



St Monnina's PS, Cloughoge

"My musical journey really took off in Year 9 at St Paul's, when I joined the Senior Mixed Choir and Senior Girls' Choir. I had the amazing opportunity to perform alongside plenty of others who also share a deep interest in music. One of the highlights of my time in the choirs has been performing at Feis Ceoil as a Soprano 1. Nothing compares to the feeling of achieving success alongside others who share the same love for music as you do.

During this time, I also started my singing lessons with Fiona Flynn, who really taught me how to take the voice I had and turn it into something powerful. I am currently doing my Grade 6 and I have never been more proud of my singing or how far I have come. My love for music has also encouraged me to take GCSE Music, as I wanted to develop my musical knowledge further and explore my passion for music beyond singing and performing.

The highlight of my musical journey here in St Paul's was when I auditioned for the part of the Narrator in the musical Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. When I got the part, I was so overwhelmed with joy and couldn't believe what I had achieved, as this was my first-ever musical in such a leading role. The show really brought me out of myself. I went from someone who used to sing for no one, to singing in front of huge crowds. However, there is so much more to taking part in musicals. I made precious memories, formed amazing friendships and gained a confidence I never knew I had. I was surrounded by people who believed in me and pushed me to be my best. We were all like one big family. I truly believe taking part in the musical was one of the best things I have ever done. Nothing can replace the feeling of making your loved ones proud and achieving your goals.

I still have a few more years left at St Paul's, and hopefully I will have the opportunity to take part in one more musical and many more Feis Ceoil performances with the choir. Overall, if I could be the Narrator again, I would do it in a heartbeat!"

Niamh Noade



St Malachy's PS, Camlough

"Music has always been a big part of my life, so when I came to St Paul's I quickly grasped every opportunity to be involved in the Music Department. I joined African Drumming and Junior Girls' Choir in Year 8, before progressing to the Senior Girls' Choir and Senior Mixed Choir in Year 10. Choir is one of my favourite elements of music in St Paul's. It has given me the opportunity to perform at feiseanna, masses – including travelling to Rome, seeing the Pope and singing in Vatican City – which was definitely one of my highlights!

Outside of school, I have been involved in music from a very young age and I sing whilst accompanying myself on the harp. St Paul's has always been so supportive of my musical development, both within and outside school – especially in relation to external competitions I have competed in, such as 'The Voice Kids' and 'Britain's Got Talent'.

I love the Music Department and really feel we have all grown so close over the years. It definitely will be a community I miss when I leave St Paul's!"

Dramatical Life at St Paul's

As with our sporting and musical reputations, our footprint on the stage goes beyond the boundaries of South Armagh. In collaboration with our Music Department, St Paul's has a wonderful tradition of producing top class dramatic and musical productions since its inception in 1966.







Since 2006, our musical productions run every two years and are much anticipated inside and outside school.

1972	Oh! What a Lovely War
1976	H.M.S. Pinafore
1979	The Pirates of Penzance
1984	Oliver!
1991	The Sound of Music
2000	Grease
2006	Viva Mexico
2008	Oklahoma
2010	The Fiddler on the Roof
2012	Les Misérables
2014	The King and I
2016	The Sound of Music
2018	Beauty and the Beast
2022	Chicago
2024	Oliver!
2026	Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat

We were delighted to stage the crowd-pleasing production of Oliver! forty years after it first graced the St Paul's stage. Indeed, already we are thinking ahead to 2026 for a musical to mark our Diamond Jubilee year.

Beyond these landmark events, our Key Stage 3 pupils access drama classes and there also is a very successful Drama Club after school.



Curriculum Enrichment at St Paul's

At St Paul's, we recognise that learning and personal development is enhanced beyond the curriculum content. To this end, we have a very diverse extra-curricular programme that seeks to meet the needs of all our pupils and ensures they have school memories beyond the classroom.

We encourage pupils to get involved in at least one extra-curricular activity and this serves as an opportunity to make even more new friends.

- Extra-curricular Activities
- Sports Clubs (see previous section)
- Musical Groups (see previous section)
- Drama Club
- Rebel Readers
- Carnegie Shadowing Group
- Literacy Club
- Coding Club
- Science Club
- Art Club
- Quiz Team
- St Vincent de Paul Society
- Young Enterprise Teams
- Year 8 Spelling Bee
- Chess Club
- Baking Club

We are particularly aware of the need to enrich the curriculum for our Post 16 pupils – beyond the three subjects they have selected for A Level. Some of the opportunities on offer are:

- Year 8 Mentoring Group
- Inclusion Choir Mentors
- RSE Programme
- Personal Training
- Financial Management Programme
- John Paul 2 Award
- Sports Coaching Team
- Young Enterprise – Company Programme
- Sign Language
- Politics in Action
- DEN Mentors
- Nurture Numeracy Support
- First Aid
- Public Speaking Workshop
- Debating Society

We also embrace opportunities for pupils to represent St Paul's and get involved in external competitions, beyond sport, music and drama. These include:

- Abair Gael-Linn Public Speaking Competition
- Tráth na gCeist
- Feiseanna
- European Day of Languages
- Francofest
- Hispanofest
- Creative Writing Competition
- Irish News Young Readers
- CREST STEM Bronze Award
- BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition
- All Ireland Concern Debating Championships







Uniform at St Paul's

The St Paul's uniform is designed to be smart, comfortable, affordable and it is readily available in local shops.

Wearing the St Paul's uniform correctly signifies pride in being a pupil of this school and is clearly associated with our high standards and the high expectations we have of all our pupils.

All Pupils

- School blazer
- White shirt
- Tie
- Black trousers (boys)
- Grey skirt (girls)
- Tights (girls)
- Black socks (boys)
- Black shoes
- Jumper (optional)

PE Uniform

- School crested jersey, half zip, shorts or joggers
- For Year 8–10 pupils, full PE uniform is to be worn on 'PE day'

St Paul's also operates a pre-loved system each summer and parents are free to take items they may require, free of charge.

Should parents have any concerns regarding uniform, please contact Ms C Fearon (Vice Principal) or Mrs M McMahon (Vice Principal).

Transport and Dining Facilities at St Paul's

St Paul's draws its pupils from our rural catchment area. Many pupils, therefore, travel to school each day by bus.

We have bus boarding bays at the front and side of the building, to accommodate the large numbers of pupils who travel to school via either Translink, EA or private bus companies. The bus bays are clearly marked and supervised by staff, to ensure all pupils safely board their designated bus. For pupils who travel by car, parents are able to use the one way traffic system and leave them at the back of the school.

Our staff works closely with Translink and EA bus inspectors to ensure the safety of all pupils travelling via buses. Strong partnerships allow any issues to be quickly resolved.





Our pupils have access to a modern dining facility during each designated lunch and a wide range of food options are on offer each day. These facilities are also available for pupils who prefer a packed lunch. Picnic tables are also situated in the quad and many pupils enjoy eating lunch here on good weather days. We also have Breakfast Club, open to KS3 pupils, which operates from 8:30am each morning.

Travelling the World with St Paul's

Come to St Paul's and you will see the world! We actively try to enhance the mindset of all our pupils by allowing access to a wide range of educational travel experiences that cater for all age groups and interests.

In Year 8, one of the main highlights is our annual Christmas Panto Trip to the Gaiety Theatre in Dublin. The Christmas Panto 2026 will be Robin Hood and we know it will be an amazing experience.. During Year 8, alongside Year 9/10 during Wellbeing Week, our Year 8s also get the opportunity to travel to the annual Balmoral Show. Regardless of coming from a farming background or not, this is a trip all our pupils are keen to attend. Our Year 8 ends with our annual trip to Emerald Park and marks the beginning of the summer holidays.

In Year 9, we offer a very successful Ski Trip to Italy. This is firmly re-established now, since 2017, and we have 115 pupils and staff heading for the Ponte Di Legno Italian Ski Resort in January 2027. They will get the opportunity to try a thrilling new sport, as well as sample Italian culture and create memories of a lifetime. As with our Year 8s, Balmoral and Emerald Park remain on the Year 9 trip agenda.

Year 10 marks the end of Key Stage 3 education and, each year, the respective Head of Year 10 organises the Barcelona Trip. Each year, approximately 240 pupils and staff depart for a fun-filled experience. For those who opt not to travel to Barcelona, we have a designated Wellbeing Week. This consists of outdoor trips, sports and hikes. It is much enjoyed by all and is firmly part of our inclusion agenda here at St Paul's.

During Key Stage 4/5, trips tend to be subject linked to enhance the pupils' knowledge of the given subject area – as well as the obvious enjoyment that comes with that.

Language learning, via educational trips, is well catered for in St Paul's. Pupils in Year 8-14 have the opportunity to attend summer colleges in the Donegal Gaeltacht, where they can practise, and expand, their oral Irish – as well as immerse themselves in our culture. French and Spanish language trips rotate on a biennial basis. Last year, our Spanish Department ran a very successful trip to Salamanca for GCSE and A Level pupils of Spanish. Pupils attended language classes in the morning and cultural classes in the afternoon and this firmly benefitted their language skills and contributed towards exam preparation.



Team Camino October 2026.



St Paul's Samba Group at London St Patrick's Day Parade March 2026.



Business Studies Trip to NYC in February 2026.

Our Art Department organises trips each October/November for pupils of GCSE/AS/A2 Art and Design. They have travelled to Florence, Rome and Paris. This year, London was a new destination for inspiration. Museums and iconic sites were visited for research, and enjoyment, purposes. Pupils are afforded the opportunity to gather information that helps inform their final assessed pieces – all of which are displayed at our annual Art Exhibition, each June.

Our Business Studies Department has organised numerous educational trips, with the most recent being a return visit to NYC in February 2026. Here, they followed a tailored programme that assisted in their studies. As well as taking in the sights and sounds of this amazing city, we were delighted that past pupil, Raymie Hanratty, hosted a seminar on the challenges faced.

Our Music and Religion Departments also now work collaboratively in organising a trip to Rome every three years. This caters for our choristers, as well as our A Level pupils of Religion. During this four day trip, visits are made to key cultural sites and various basilicas in Rome, involving choral performances and scripture readings. It is a truly uplifting experience and one which pupils and staff cherish. We had a wonderful visit in February 2026, with one of the spiritual highlights being our visit to Assisi to see the body of St Carlo Acutis.

In 2026, we were invited to London to be part of the St Patrick's Day festivities and it was equally as good as our 2025 NYC experience. Our samba group paraded from Green Park down to Trafalgar Square, cheered by thousands, with members of our Trad Group going viral with their impromptu performances on the London Underground. We are taking a rest for 2027, but hope to resume for 2028 again.

Led by Mr Slane, our International Projects goes from strength to strength. In October 2026, St Paul's pupils and staff undertook the French Way of the Camino de Santiago – walking 100km to arrive at the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. Their walking efforts raised £14,500, with the proceeds being split evenly between Evora Hospice and Marie Curie Cancer Care. Our Kenyan Humanitarian Trip will take place in January 2027. Both these experiences are spiritually enriching for our Year 14 pupils and memories remain with them forever.



Samba Group visits Stormont June 2026.

Pupil Leadership at St Paul's

We have a strong pupil voice at St Paul's throughout all key stages. We recognise that encouraging leadership roles in school can help our young people gain valuable experience that assists their own personal development and helps prepare them for their future workplace roles.



James Hughes (Head Boy)

St Joseph's PS Bessbrook

"I am incredibly proud to have been appointed Head Boy at St Paul's. The school has played a fundamental role in shaping who I am today, providing countless opportunities, lasting friendships and unforgettable memories.

One of my highlights was the Business Studies trip to New York in 2026, where we visited Wall Street and met with a senior finance executive at Morgan Stanley. Experiences like this show how St Paul's encourages students to aim high and explore opportunities they may never have imagined.

I achieved 7 As and 2 Bs at GCSE and currently study Professional Business Services, Spanish and Digital Technology at A Level. I hope to study either International Business with Spanish at Queen's University Belfast or Finance and Investment Management at Ulster University. I am also excited to travel to Kenya through the school's International Projects programme.

What makes St Paul's special is that we never feel the need to be something we are not. There is an appreciation of every individual's strengths, ambitions and interests – which is something to be celebrated, rather than changed to align with other schools. As Head Boy, I hope to represent my fellow pupils with pride and give something back to a school that has given me so much."



Tomas Fox (Head Boy)

Dromintee PS

"I feel extremely fortunate to be part of St Paul's and have many special memories from my time here, including sporting successes, school trips and friendships that will last a lifetime.

One of my standout experiences was completing the school's inaugural Camino de Santiago walk. Along the way, I raised over £1,200 for Marie Curie and Evora Hospice while building strong friendships and gaining a greater appreciation of kindness, community and the positive influence teachers can have on young people. The experience helped inspire my ambition to become a teacher.

Another unforgettable memory was scoring the winning goal in St Paul's first Rannafast Ulster Schools Cup victory, a significant achievement for the school.

I achieved 8 As & 1 B at GCSE and currently study Irish, Maths and Biology at A Level. I hope to continue my study of Irish and pursue a career in teaching. My favourite thing about St Paul's is its close-knit community, where students are encouraged to thrive academically, socially and in sport. Being elected Head Boy is an honour. This was a role I aspired towards since my neighbour, Peter Hughes, passed away over ten years ago; he was also Head Boy. I am committed to serving the school community to the very best of my ability."



Carla Feehan (Head Girl)

St Joseph's PS, Bessbrook

"I am incredibly proud to have been appointed as one of the Head Girls at St Paul's for 2026/27. During my time here, I have enjoyed many opportunities, formed lasting friendships and created memories I will always cherish.

Highlights include trips to Barcelona and Rome with the Senior Mixed Choir, as well as being selected to travel to Kenya through the school's International Projects programme. Both trips were unforgettable and allowed me to make special memories with friends and staff, while representing our school. I achieved nine A*/A at GCSE, followed by three As at AS Level. I currently study Biology, Maths and Health & Social Care. I hope to study Dietetics at Ulster University, inspired by my interest in nutrition and wellbeing.

Outside the classroom, I have enjoyed Gaelic football, choir and musical productions. What I value most about St Paul's is its strong sense of community and the opportunities available to every student. As Head Girl, I hope to be a positive role model, encouraging others while ensuring every pupil feels supported, heard and valued. One of my main goals is to be a mentor and positive role model for younger pupils, someone they feel comfortable approaching and talking to without ever feeling intimidated. I believe being a good leader is about more than simply having a title; it is about leading by example, treating everyone with kindness and making sure every individual feels heard and valued. I strive to uphold these values and make the most of the role I have been given."



Eibhleann Hughes (Head Girl)

Dromintee PS

"I am proud to be one of the Head Girls at St Paul's and a past pupil of Dromintee Primary School. Some of my favourite memories include the school trips to Barcelona and Florence, which provided unforgettable experiences with friends and staff.

I achieved 1 A*, 3 As, 3 Bs and 2 C*s at GCSE and recently received AAA in my AS examinations. I currently study Religion, Art and Health & Social Care, with Art being my favourite subject. I hope to attend St Mary's University College Belfast to study Primary Education, combining my passion for learning and helping others.

What I value most about St Paul's is its welcoming and inclusive atmosphere. There is truly something for everyone, whether in music, sport, art or academic life. St Paul's has shaped the person I am today and provided me with countless opportunities. Being elected Head Girl was a tremendous honour, and I strive to lead by the school values of integrity, compassion and kindness while representing every student to the best of my ability."

Spiritual Development at St Paul's

Pope Francis said, 'Education cannot be neutral. It is either positive or negative; either it enriches or it impoverishes; either it enables a person to grow or it lessens, even corrupts him. The mission of schools is to develop a sense of truth, of what is good and beautiful.'

St Paul's is a Catholic school and seeks to live out our Christian values of truth, integrity, compassion and kindness. As a Catholic school, our aim is that all the pupils in our care are nurtured in a lived and living faith. This is reflected in our weekly assemblies and all communication with our pupils and parents. We endeavour to provide spiritual nourishment which is meaningful and prompts our pupils to appreciate what is important in their lives.

We are lucky to have a Chaplain here at St Paul's and Father Seamus White works closely with our Lay Chaplain, and Religion Department, to ensure that the spiritual development of all our pupils is nourished. In line with our school motto, In Caritate Radicati, charity is at the heart of our many enriching activities at St Paul's. Our Pastoral Team actively encourages our pupils to develop their sense of social responsibility and social justice. This leads to our school community supporting many local, national and global causes.

Central to religious life in St Paul's is our beautiful oratory. Mass is celebrated here two mornings a week and is well attended by staff and pupils. This sacred space provides a quiet place for individual prayer and reflection, amidst the hustle and bustle of school life.



Past Pupil Success at St Paul's



A past pupil of Dromintee Primary School, **Maeve McShane** studied Religion, Nutrition and Food Science and Health and Social Care at A Level. She has graduated, from St Mary's University College, Belfast, as a Bachelor of Education in Religious Studies and IT (Post Primary), achieving First Class Honours. Maeve is now teaching in St Paul's.



Past Pupil **Peter Finnegan** at his graduation. Peter is a past pupil of St Malachy's PS, Ballymoyer. Peter studied Double Award Construction and Business Studies for A Level and has graduated from Ulster University as a Bachelor of Science in Building Surveying, with Distinction, and has secured employment with Qestcon Chartered Surveyors in Dungannon.



A past pupil of Jonesborough Primary School, **Caoimhe Hanrahan** studied Chemistry, Biology and Religion at A Level. She has graduated, from Queen's University of Belfast, as a Master of Pharmacy and has started work locally as a pre-reg pharmacist.



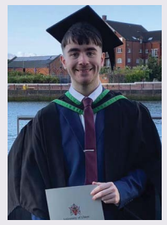
A past pupil of Bunscoil an Iúir, **Mairead Campbell** studied Biology, Chemistry and Irish at A Level. She has graduated, from Queen's University of Belfast, as a Bachelor of Dentistry with Distinction. Mairead is working within a foundation dentist post in Manchester.



A past pupil of St. Brigid's PS, Drumilly, **Orlagh McKenna** studied AS Religion and Biology, Chemistry and Maths at A Level. Orlagh has graduated, from Queen's University of Belfast, as a Bachelor of Medicine, Surgery and Obstetrics. She is now a junior doctor in Craigavon Area Hospital.



A past pupil of St. Monnina's PS Cloughoge, **Claire McKevitt** studied Maths, Spanish, Cambridge Business & BTEC Sport at A Level. She has graduated, from Liverpool John Moores University, as a Bachelor of Science in Sport Psychology – with First Class Honours. Claire is in Liverpool to study a Masters in Sport, in LJMU, to continue on the journey of becoming a Sport Psychologist.



A past pupil of St Joseph's & St James's Poyntzpass, **Ciaran Rafferty** studied Cambridge Technical IT, Cambridge Technical Business Studies and Religion at A Level. He has graduated, from Ulster University, as a Bachelor of Science, with First Class Honours, in Marketing.



A past pupil of St Malachy's Primary School, Carnagat, **Conor Cinnamond** did A Levels in Spanish, French and Health & Social Care. He has graduated, from the Queen's University of Belfast, as a Bachelor of Arts, with First Class Honours, in Spanish & International Relations– also achieving a Distinction in Spoken Spanish.

In Partnership with Parents at St Paul's

When you entrust St Paul's with your child, we see that as the beginning of a parent–school partnership where we work together in the nurture and care of your son or daughter in their journey towards becoming young adults.

For this partnership to be meaningful and effective, we provide many opportunities for all parents to become closely involved with their child's education and holistic development.

Working in partnership with all our parents involves the following:

- P7 to Year 8 Parent Transition Evening (June)
- Year 8 Mass of Welcome (September)
- Year 8 Parent Information Evening (September/October)
- Year 11 & 13 Parent Information Evenings (September/October)
- Parent–Information Evenings
- Progress statements twice a year for Year 8–11
- Progress statements three times a year for Year 12–14
- Written reports once a year for each year group
- Annual Reviews for all pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Needs
- Target Setting meetings for pupils who are underachieving





Final Word from Chair of Board of Governors

Hello everyone, I hope you have enjoyed reading our prospectus and I'm sure you appreciate the wide range of subjects on offer to suit every student.

However, as a parent and grandparent myself, the choice is more than academic. Here at St Paul's we pride ourselves on our holistic offering, ensuring your choice of school caters for all your child's needs and aspirations.

In choosing St Paul's, we say thank you and look forward to welcoming you in September.

Thank you
God Bless

Eileen Fearon
(Chairperson of the Board of Governors)



Prayer to St Paul

Patron of our school

O glorious St Paul, by your prayers and example enable me to be a better person, more considerate towards others, more honest with myself and more faithful to God. Give me the courage to accept the pains and problems of this day, rejoicing always in the Lord.

Through your prayers, may I be "rooted in love", always loving God in fidelity to Sunday Mass and daily prayer: always loving my neighbour especially my family and friends.

Make me patient and kind, never jealous or rude. Give me strength to trust, to hope and to endure whatever comes. May I always know in my heart what you taught so well, that there are only three things that last; faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

Amen

Special thanks to Mitso Marketing, Gary Crossan Photography and Conrad Madden Photography



St Paul's High School

Ardscoil Naomh Pól

108 Camlough Road
Bessbrook, County Armagh,
BT35 7EE

T: (028) 3083 0309
E: info@stpauls.bessbrook.ni.sch.uk
W: www.stpaulsbessbrook.org