



**SACRED HEART
GRAMMAR SCHOOL
NEWRY**

Prospectus 2022-2023



Maximising the Academic & Creative Potential of Students Since 1930

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am delighted that you have taken the time to read our school prospectus. Apart from allowing you to access useful information, I hope that this enables you to capture the essence of our warm, supportive and vibrant school community.

The school was founded in 1930 by the Sisters of St. Clare, a congregation which can trace its history back to the first convent founded in Assisi in 1212 by St. Francis and St. Clare. Since its foundation, both past and present members of our school community have striven to ensure that Sacred Heart School is a place where students are provided with the best educational experience in a nurturing and supportive climate.



As a father myself, I have been in your position and understand the pressures that you are under when trying to choose the right post-primary school for what is undoubtedly one of the most, if not the most, precious things in your life – and that is your daughter. And realizing that this is potentially for the next seven years, it makes the decision of choosing the right school even more important. Choosing a school where she will flourish both academically and socially, where she will be stretched and inspired both inside and outside the classroom, and where she will feel safe and secure is by no means an easy task.

Believing that ‘when you are happy, you achieve more’, our overriding aim here in Sacred Heart is to create an environment in which students feel happy and safe. We value and understand their unique personalities, interests and contributions, and thus work extremely hard to meet their emotional, personal and social needs. This is achieved through an incredibly supportive and inclusive pastoral system, led by a highly-skilled, effective and compassionate pastoral team.

Our well-qualified, innovative and enthusiastic body of staff are dedicated to building students' academic confidence and independence, instilling in them high aspirations and helping them develop the wider skills needed for future study and employment. By providing a structured and relevant curriculum, delivered through stimulating and challenging lessons, we aim to create a place of intellectual exploration and achievement; one that will motivate our students, instill in them high aspirations and help them develop the wider skills needed for future study and employment.

However, we realise that education is about far more than academic achievement alone and so we aim to develop every aspect of our students, tapping into their interests and enabling their talents to blossom. It is this development of the whole person that inspires and energises us as a school community. By providing a wide range of extra-curricular activities for personal, spiritual and physical development, including an extensive range of sporting, musical, creative and fund-raising activities, we aim to provide something of interest to every student. In doing so, all students are supported and challenged to grow in confidence and to develop the skills, abilities and character to enable them to leave the school as confident, resilient and responsible young people equipped to navigate life in an increasingly complex world.

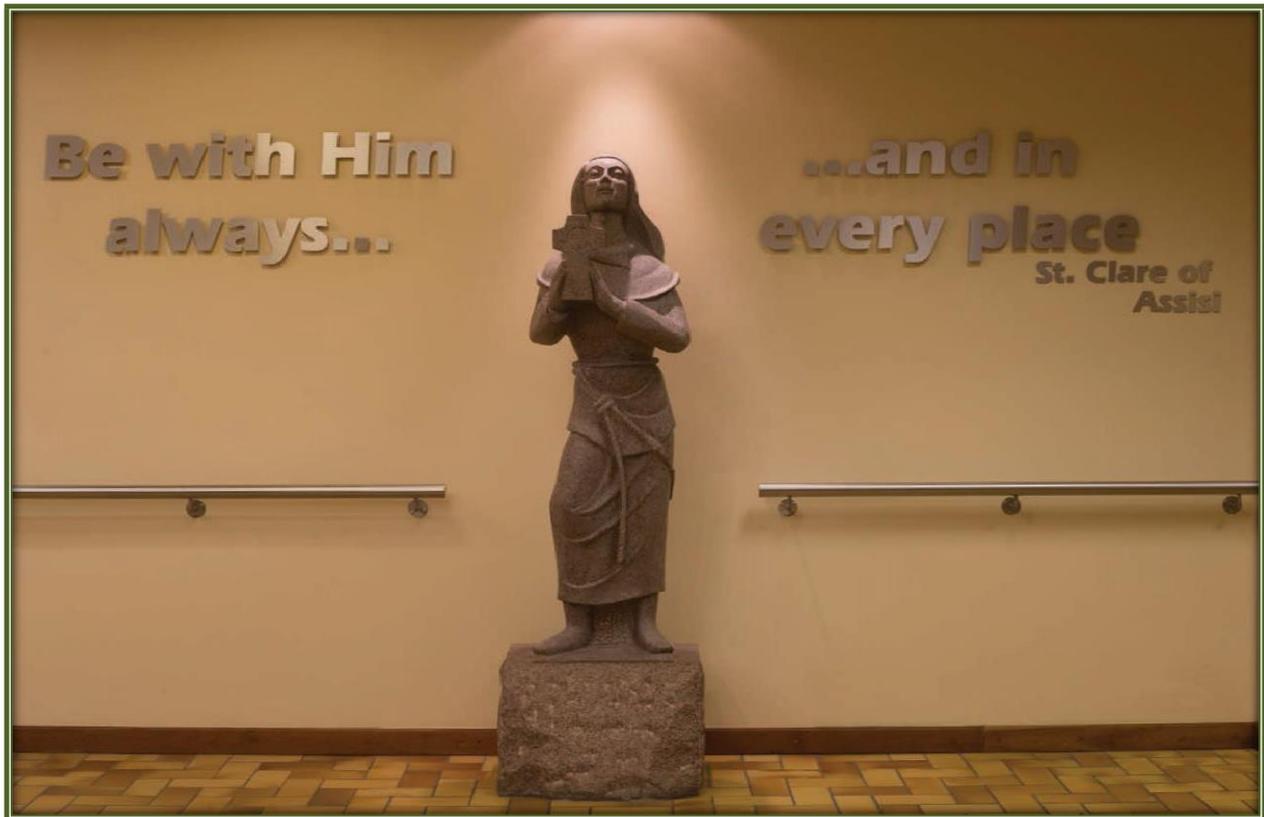
Moreover, we are confident that they will leave with a widely felt sense of a shared identity, characterised by those famous words spoken by the many tens of thousands of past students before them “Once a Sacred Heart Girl, always a Sacred Heart Girl.”

Finally, after you have journeyed through our school prospectus, may the angels watch over and protect you, may the love of God live in your hearts and may the joyous simplicity of our school patrons, St. Francis and St. Clare, be an inspiration and guiding force as you continue on your life’s journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Paul Kane'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Paul Kane

Principal



SACRED HEART GRAMMAR SCHOOL

10 Ashgrove Avenue, Newry, Co Down, BT34 1PR

Telephone: (028) 3026 4632

Website: www.shsnewry.com / **Email:** info@shsnewry.com

PRINCIPAL: Mr Paul Kane

CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Mrs Posey Gilenan

Admissions Number: 120

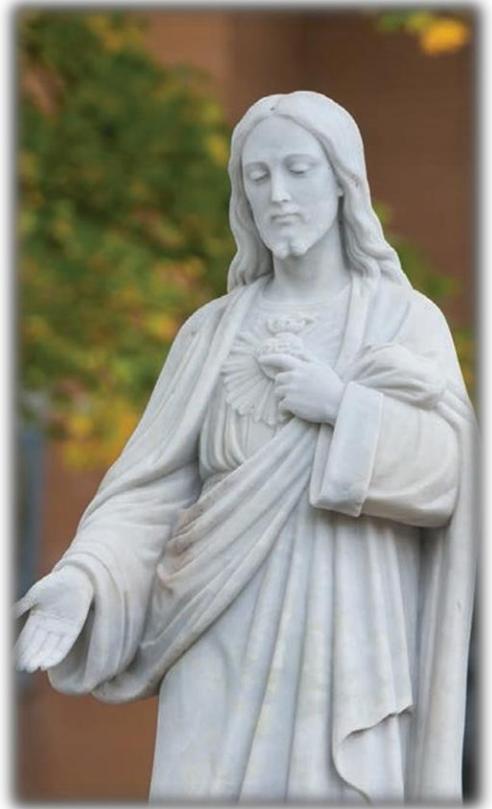
Enrolment Number: 875

Sacred Heart Grammar School is a voluntary day grammar for girls aged 11 – 18.

The curriculum of Sacred Heart Grammar School is designed to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the students, and to prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

Our Aims are:

- to provide a Christian environment where students can grow in an appreciation of their Catholic faith and in the knowledge and love of God
- to maximise the academic and creative potential of the students through the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum
- to provide students with the necessary skills and advice relevant to their life style and future career
- to encourage students to appreciate and respect their natural environment.

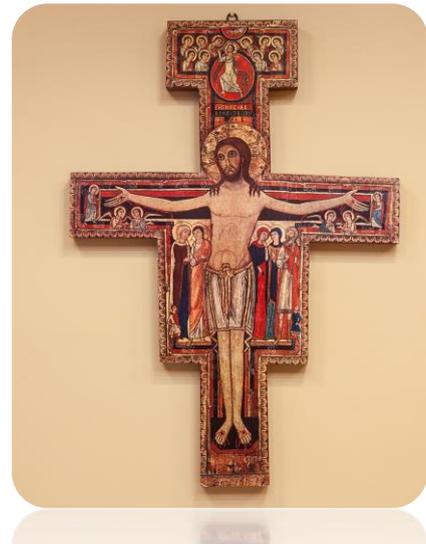


Our objectives are to transmit the spirit of St. Francis and St. Clare by fostering a friendly and caring atmosphere in the school and encouraging students to:

- respect the dignity of the human person
- care for and protect their environment
- work for peace in their country and throughout the world
- grow in their personal relationship with Christ
- make informed decisions on relevant moral issues
- achieve high academic standards.

In Sacred Heart Grammar School, we value the importance of:

- home/school links and encourage parents to play an active role in the education of their children
- giving students experience and appreciation of the aesthetic arts
- students making an appropriate choice of vocation and encouraging them to do what is necessary to attain their goals
- students participating in activities which will develop an awareness of their own cultural heritage and an understanding of other traditions and cultures
- encouraging students to participate in extra-curricular activities and learn how to use and enjoy their leisure time.



San Damiano Cross at St Clare's Hall

The Curriculum

The curriculum in Sacred Heart Grammar School is concerned with values and attitudes as well as knowledge and skills. It is designed to help students to become independent learners and take responsibility for their own learning. Curriculum planning is guided by current statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The school is on target to fulfil the requirements of the Entitlement Framework. Classes are un-streamed except for Mathematics classes, which are grouped by ability in Years 11 and 12.



KEY STAGE THREE SUBJECTS

ART	GENERAL SCIENCE	MATHEMATICS
BIOLOGY	GEOGRAPHY	MUSIC
CHEMISTRY	HISTORY	PHYSICAL EDUCATION
CODING	HOME ECONOMICS	PHYSICS
DRAMA	ICT	RELIGIOUS STUDIES
ENGLISH	IRISH	SPANISH
FRENCH	LEARNING FOR LIFE & WORK	TECHNOLOGY

Key Stage Three students will also be assessed on the Cross Curricular Skills of:

- Communication
- Using ICT
- Using Maths.

Area Learning Community

Sacred Heart Grammar School is a member of Newry & Mourne Area Learning Community (ALC). Collaborating with 16 other local schools and learning-providers, the ALC strives to offer greater choice and flexibility for all post-primary learners aged 14 and above. Sacred Heart has in recent years extended its curriculum provision at GCE AS and A Level by collaborating with Abbey Grammar School to offer students a broader curriculum so that they can choose a blend of courses which best meets their needs, aptitudes, aspirations and interests.



KEY STAGE FOUR SUBJECTS

The school offers a broad range of subjects at GCSE level:

ART & DESIGN	ECONOMICS	IRISH
BIOLOGY	ENGLISH	LEARNING FOR LIFE & WORK
BUSINESS STUDIES	ENGLISH LITERATURE	MATHEMATICS
CHEMISTRY	FOOD & NUTRITION	MUSIC
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY	FRENCH	PHYSICAL EDUCATION
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES	FURTHER MATHEMATICS	PHYSICS
DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE	GEOGRAPHY	RELIGIOUS STUDIES
DRAMA	HISTORY	SPANISH

Key Stage Four students will also have classes in:

- Careers
- Learning for Life and Work
- Personal Development
- Physical Education (*non-exam*).

AS/A Level Subjects

The school currently offers an extensive range of subjects for AS/A Level. Year 13 students normally choose 3/4 subjects at AS Level.

Some subjects are taught in collaboration with The Abbey Grammar School (indicated by *).

ART & DESIGN	ENGLISH LITERATURE	MATHEMATICS
BIOLOGY	ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY*	MUSIC
BUSINESS STUDIES	FRENCH	NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE
CHEMISTRY	GEOGRAPHY	PHYSICAL EDUCATION
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY*	GOVERNMENT & POLITICS	PHYSICS
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY	HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	RELIGIOUS STUDIES
DRAMA & THEATRE STUDIES	HISTORY	SOCIOLOGY
ECONOMICS	IRISH	SPANISH*



All Year 13 and Year 14 students have classes in Careers. They also have opportunities to use the equipment in the Fitness Suite and have access to the Study Hall, Library and Computer facilities.

School Uniform

School regulations require every student to have a full school uniform. Students are encouraged to take pride in their uniform and their general appearance.

School Day

The school day begins with Assembly & Registration. Registration also takes place in the afternoon. Students are in school from 8.55 a.m. – 3.20 p.m. Breakfast is available in the Dining Hall from 8.15 – 8.55 a.m. The Dining Hall provides a variety of healthy choices for lunch or dinner and also accommodates those students who wish to bring a packed lunch.



Annual Year 8 May Procession to Our Lady's Grotto, St Clare's Convent

Pastoral Care

Sacred Heart Grammar School is committed not only to the intellectual development of students but also their personal and social development. An excellent Pastoral Care Programme, incorporating Personal, Social and Health Education, ensures that this goal is realised.

All staff members contribute to the delivery and development of pastoral care. Special attention is given to Year 8 students to help them settle into their new surroundings. In addition to the pastoral care provision by teaching staff, two members of the school's Student Support Team are available for individual counselling.

Role of the Year Head

The Year Head occupies a key role in the pastoral care programme. He/She works with the Principal, Vice Principal, Heads of Key Stage, Form Teachers, Student Support and other staff to encourage the personal and academic development of students and to actively promote the aims and objectives of the school within the year group. The Year Head who is assigned to each year group leads and supports the Form Teachers in their role.

Role of the Form Teacher

A Form Teacher is assigned to each class from Years 8 -14 and meets the students as a Form Class group each day. Form Teachers monitor attendance, punctuality and academic progress. They also deal with any difficulties that a student may experience. The Form Teacher may refer students to the appropriate Year Head who will liaise with the Head of Key Stage who may then contact outside support agencies as the occasion arises.

Role of the Head of Key Stage

Three members of the school's Senior Leadership Team oversee Key Stage 3, 4 and 5. The Heads of Key Stage advise the Senior Leadership on all matters relating to their Key Stage. They develop a strategic vision for each Key Stage, lead and manage the various Pastoral Teams, ensure continuity and progression across the key stages and, primarily, they verify that the pastoral and academic needs of each and every student are met.

Further details regarding pastoral care provision can be found in the school's Pastoral Care Policy Document, available on the school website and App.

Positive Behaviour

Good behaviour creates the conditions for effective learning and helps to develop in students responsible attitudes and values for life. Teachers consistently encourage high standards of behaviour within the school and beyond, in the interest both of the student and society. There is an excellent relationship between students and teachers. Good order is maintained, not simply by a regime of sanctions and rewards, but by encouraging self-discipline. Teachers endeavour to create an environment where constructive and purposeful activity can take place. Full details of the School Rules can be found in the Student Planner.

A Slice of Life at Sacred Heart Grammar School



*Marking World Kindness Day
Drama Committee
Hosting the Area Learning Community
The SVDP Annual Hamper Appeal
The Liturgy Committee marking the Month of Remembrance
Junk Kouture Project
Halloween Bake off*

Religious Education

All students in Years 8-12 attend timetabled Religious Education classes each week. In addition to the formal Pastoral Care Programme, Sacred Heart Grammar School provides opportunities for each student to grow in an appreciation of the Catholic faith and in the knowledge and love of God. This is achieved by providing experiences for the spiritual growth and development of each student through the following:

- the Eucharist
- Morning Prayer/reflection
- the Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Stations of the Cross
- School and Class Masses
- Prayer Services
- Retreats
- Carol Services
- Liturgy Committee
- Spiritual Direction from the School Chaplain.



**School Liturgy Committee & Prayer
in Sacred Heart School**



Careers Education

Employability is incorporated into the Learning For Life and Work Programme for Years 8 – 11. Students from Years 12 –14 are timetabled for Careers Guidance and are also given specific guidance based upon personal interviews with their career guidance teacher. The work of Careers Teachers is supplemented by the Careers Officer from the local Careers Service, who visits the school regularly.

The Careers Department offers the following opportunities for students:

- Open Day visits to Universities and Institutes of Further & Higher Education
- a variety of careers talks for different year groups, including visits and talks by representatives from the world of work, including the S.T.E.A.M. industries
- the opportunity to attend a UCAS Higher Education Convention
- Work Experience in Year 13
- Mock Interview Programme for Year 13
- Medical Debate.



Researching Career Pathways

Physical Education

Sacred Heart Grammar School provides an extensive range of sporting activities for students. All year groups, from Years 8 –12, have two periods of P.E. per week. Students in Years 13 & 14, assisted by P.E. staff, devise a Personal Exercise Plan for the school Fitness Suite.

The top quality facilities include a fully equipped Sports Hall and large modern Fitness Suite, an Assembly Hall equipped for gymnastics, changing areas and showers, two grass pitches, two all-weather pitches, four tennis courts and two netball courts.

Students have numerous opportunities to participate in sporting activities and competitions within school and through extra-curricular provision.



ATHLETICS		HEALTH RELATED FITNESS
BADMINTON		NETBALL
BASKETBALL		ROUNDERS
BOXERCISE/HIT SESSIONS		TABLE TENNIS/ TENNIS
CAMOGIE		UNI-HOC
DANCE		VOLLEYBALL
GAELIC FOOTBALL		WALKING
GYMNASTICS		YOGA



Library

There is little doubt that the library lies at the heart of Sacred Heart Grammar School. Geographically it is situated in the centre of the school building. This is by no means a coincidence. From the earliest beginnings it was intended that the library would be seen as alive, dynamic, inviting, a centre for enjoyment and an integral part of learning and teaching. The library is equipped with the Eclipse.net library system.

The Resource Area is equipped with numerous Talking Books/ CDs/DVDs, affording students easy access to an impressive range of educational and recreational audio-visual material. The computers with internet access are linked to a high quality printer/scanner/photocopier. In addition to the literary and multi-media facilities, daily newspapers, journals and school archives are available for student reference in a comfortable reading area.

Throughout the year various activities are held in the school library including a Book Fair, National Poetry Day celebrations, The Irish News Literacy Project, World Book Day celebrations, READON, Invitations extended to guest authors, National Storytelling Week celebrations. All students are invited to participate in these events.

As Sidney Sheldon once wrote, ***“Libraries store the energy that fuels the imagination. They open up windows to the world and inspire us to explore and achieve, and contribute to improving our quality of life.”*** SHS library is, without doubt, a unique and valuable resource.



National Poetry Day



Study Facilities

Music

Sacred Heart Grammar School has a strong tradition of extra-curricular musical activities. In addition to the Junior and Senior Orchestras, there are woodwind, string and brass ensembles, a jazz band and Irish Traditional group, providing opportunities for students of all levels to perform music. Both orchestras and ensembles regularly perform at a wide range of events, including Open Night, Prizegiving, Concerts, and at the local Feis.

The Junior and Senior Choirs compete in local festivals and perform on many occasions throughout the year. The Senior Choir also participates in Ulster Youth Choir workshops.



Annual Spring Concert



Brass Ensemble

Music Makers



Extra-Curricular Activities

Art Club	Folk Group	Mini Company
Camogie	Gaelic Football	Orchestras
Careers Committee	Health Awareness Committee	Public Speaking
Choirs	ICT Club	Quiz Teams
Cross Country Running	Irish Club	School Bank
Dance	Irish Traditional Music Group	Student Forum
Drama Club/Theatre	Jazz Band	Technology Club
ECO Committee	Liturgy Committee/SVDP	Writing Club





Y8 Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Some Year 8 Events from 2021



YEAR 8- IN THEIR OWN WORDS

'I have made so many new friends and I enjoy coming to school every day.'

'I am so proud to be part of The Green Family.'

'Coming to Sacred Heart Grammar School is the best decision I ever made.'

Drama

The school has a thriving Drama Department and students of all ages have the opportunity to perform in a variety of plays and compete in a range of festivals. Years 8 – 10 have timetabled Drama class each week, while GCSE Drama and A Level Drama & Theatre Studies are popular choices for senior students. In addition to the practical work for examinations in Drama, students have the opportunity to take part in practical drama workshops led by visiting theatre companies and to participate in theatre visits and compete in drama festivals.



THE SCHOOL MUSICAL

An important cultural event in the school is the triannual musical production, which takes place in the Autumn Term. This inter-departmental project involves Music, Drama, Dance, Art, Technology and Business Studies. These are some of the productions staged by the school in recent years:

- *Oliver*
- *The Pirates of Penzance*
- *Crazy For You*
- *The King and I*
- *The Mikado*
- *Anything Goes*
- *Oklahoma!*
- *My Fair Lady*
- *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*
- *The Boy Friend*
- *Crazy For You*
- *Cats*
- *Guys & Dolls.*



Facilities

Situated on a beautifully landscaped 20-acre site, the school contains a Main Building, a purpose-built Design & Technology/Science Block, an Arts & Social Sciences Block and a Dining Area.

The facilities within the main building include an attractive Reception Area, Assembly Hall, Sports Hall and Fitness Suite, Counselling/Interview Rooms, Careers Suite, Oratory, Home Economics Rooms, Library, Humanities Rooms, ICT network rooms, Science Labs, Reprographics and Staff Resource Areas.

The Arts & Social Sciences Block boasts a Drama Studio, Art and Music Rooms, several Music and Drama practice rooms as well as Social Sciences classrooms.

The Design and Technology/Science Block offers superbly equipped ICT, Science and Technology facilities. Adjacent to this building is the Year 14 Centre.

The spacious grounds contain grass and all-weather pitches, athletics facilities, tennis courts and netball courts. St Clare's Garden, opened in 2005 to mark the school's 75th Anniversary, is a tranquil and beautiful place within the school grounds where students can walk or sit during break and lunch time. It is currently being re-landscaped as part of the 90th celebrations.



Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, we place all our trust in you.

St Francis & St Clare, pray for us.



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PRINCIPAL: Mr Paul Kane



The Blessing of Saint Clare
May the Lord show his mercy upon you,
May the light of his presence be your guide,
May he guard you and uphold you,
May his spirit be ever at your side.

When you sleep may his angels watch over you,
When you wake may he fill you with his grace.
May you love him and serve him all of your days,
And in heaven may you see his face.