

# PROSPECTUS 2020

St. Joseph's  
Grammar School

Scoil Iósaef  
Donaghmore





# St Joseph's Grammar School *Donaghmore*



## Principal's Address

### Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to St Joseph's Grammar School/Scoil Iósaef, an exciting and vibrant school community where each child's unique talents are nurtured and developed from the moment they join us until the time they leave for university or employment. As a Catholic school, we work with parents to instil in our young people a love of God and a strong sense of respect for self and others.

Our school ethos is based on our Founder's directive: "Be kind, be kind, be kind" and this is tangible in all of the relationships within school. Our staff have the highest expectations for our pupils and we work tirelessly to ensure each child reaches their full potential, both inside the classroom and outside it.

Our wide variety of team sports and enrichment activities ensures that every possible preference is catered for. Our clubs and societies offer pupils the chance to forge new friendships across all year groups and to build important inter-personal skills that will serve them well as they progress to further study and employment.

Our young people leave St Joseph's Grammar School/Scoil Iósaef with a strong sense of their purpose in the world and the skills and qualifications to match their ambition.

We are renowned for being a friendly, childcentred school and we would be delighted to give you the opportunity to learn more about us from this prospectus and during your Open Night visit.

Please use the opportunity to talk to our pupils; they are the experts and will be delighted to tell you all about their school.

I take this opportunity to wish every parent and child embarking on the next phase of their school career every possible success for the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geraldine Donnelly".

Geraldine Donnelly  
Principal





## History of the School

St Joseph's Grammar school in Donaghmore was founded in 1922 by a Belgian Order of Sisters, the Daughters of the Cross. The first contingent of nuns arrived in 1920 having been permitted to open a hospital in the only building on the site at that time, now commonly known as the Convent building.

The purchase of the land for the school site had been facilitated by the then parish priest, Reverend Fr. Joseph O'Neill and the first three Sisters arrived with very few belongings but were able to rely on the generosity of local people who supplied them with farm animals and other provisions.

Within two years of arriving, the Sisters had managed to persuade the Diocese that there was a need for another Catholic school in the area and St Joseph's opened its doors as a boarding and day school for both boys and girls in 1922 and the hospital was quietly shut down.

Initially, enrolment numbers were small but over time, St Joseph's came to be the school of choice for many families and particularly so during the second world war years when parents evacuated their children out of Belfast to the relative safety of the countryside. The boarding facility ceased to operate in the 1980s and there followed a period of uncertainty for the future of the school as enrolment figures dipped below 300 before stabilising to the 700 pupils we now have today.

As the number of vocations to the Order diminished and so as to provide for the future of the school, the decision was taken by the Daughters of the Cross to transfer the trusteeship from their Order to the Armagh Diocese in 1998. Sadly, the last 3 Sisters left the school community for retirement in Dublin in 2007 but the legacy they have left us lives on and is deeply treasured by all who are connected to the school.

The school has always been forward-thinking and has seized all opportunities presented so as to reposition itself as one of the leading post-primary schools in Ireland. The Board of Governors of the school changed its admissions criteria in 2003 so as to admit boys and the gender balance of the school population is now approximately half male and half female.

In 2010, the school again re-invented itself by opening a non-selective Irish Medium Stream to meet the growing demand for post-primary IME in Mid-Ulster. The demand is so great that the school plans to double the enrolment number to the IMS for 2020.

Equally, capital investment in the school has been significant in recent years. Having recently developed a new state of the art sports and drama facility in 2016, the Department of Education has committed to investing another £4 million for a new building at the school to include canteen, library, engineering and general classroom facilities. As the school continues to go from strength to strength, we invite you and your child to be an important part of our future success story.



## Head Boy's Address

Is mise Seosamh Mag Fhionnachtaigh agus is mór an onóir dom labhairt libh mar phríomhchinnire Scoil Ghramadaí Naomh Iósaef. My name is Joseph McGinnity, and I am privileged to have the prestige to address you as the head boy of a distinguished school such as St. Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore.

Before beginning my time at St. Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore, I attended Edendork primary school. Coming into P7, I was always set on continuing my education at St. Joseph's Grammar School. This decision was confirmed upon attending the highly anticipated, open night. That night I was able to experience what it was like to be immersed in a Grammar School Community and was also able to meet so many wonderful teachers and pupils. Hopefully, you will enjoy tonight's open night the same way I did, some 7 years ago, and get a brief insight to what it would be like to wear a green uniform as a year 8 student at St. Joseph's Grammar school Donaghmore!

Throughout my time in St. Joseph's, I have been supported and encouraged inside and outside of the classroom, developing my skills in a range of diverse areas. St Joseph's has developed and fostered my talents and skills, giving me a strong mind and stable foundation for the start of adult life. St Joseph's provides many enrichment activities for its students, whether it be GAA, helping with different events in our local community e.g. the Special Olympics or participating in a school mass. No matter what the activity is, the school's aim is always the same, to sculpt each of its students into the best version of themselves and give them the best possible start in life. This belief, care and equality towards each student, in my opinion, sets this school apart from the rest.

St. Joseph's has a fantastic Catholic ethos and as Ms Donnelly pointed during my open night, all those years ago, the school crest bears the latin inscription "in hoc signo vinces" or "in this sign you will conquer" and this school, I believe, bears testimony to this. The Daughters of The Cross who formed this school had the motto, "Be kind, Be kind, Be kind". The school staff embodies this motto, by providing great pastoral care and support in times of need. In my time at St. Joseph's, this mantra has provided me with strong spiritual nourishment and has developed my

core Christian beliefs, which in my opinion are critical in today's society. In St. Joseph's, there are countless opportunities to develop faith and put faith into action, for example, I was able to complete the Muirdeach Cross Award and I'm currently completing my Pope John Paul 2 award. I have also been able to partake in our, 'Community Link Programme' where I was able to go and help in out in our local community in Sperrinview Special School, where I was able to develop my communication skills as well as being able to spend time with many wonderful people (students and staff alike). Since joining the School in 2013, this catholic ethos has enabled me to learn the power of kindness, humility and respect towards others.

St. Joseph's, I have found and I believe it can't be emphasised enough, has a very strong and close-knit community, which allows no-one to go unnoticed, where staff cultivate instrumental and influential working and learning relationships with all students. Every staff member offers a helpful and kind attitude towards each student. This ensures that the somewhat difficult transition between primary and post-primary education is made as easy as possible.

I firmly stand by my decision to attend St. Joseph's was the best decision I have ever made in my life. From my time in St Joseph's, I have made many happy memories and made friendships which I will take with me into the next chapter of my academic life.

From a young age, I've been told by my parents to enjoy school as they are the best days of your life. In my seventh year at St. Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore, I testify to such advice. I wish you all the best with your future endeavours and hope that you someday will be able to say, as a student of St Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore, 'In hoc signo vinces'



*Joseph McGinnity*





# Head Girl's Address

My name is Clara Deehan and I am the Head Girl at St. Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore. Prior to starting my journey at St Joseph's, I attended a fairly small primary school called Derrylatinee St. Francis. Making the transition from primary to secondary school is such an important choice and I found that I was struggling to come to a decision about where was the right place for me. It wasn't until the open night that I found St. Joseph's Grammar School had most certainly fulfilled all my expectations and more and I knew this is where I wanted to spend the next seven years.

During my time here at St Joseph's I have learned so much from both inside and outside the classroom. Students are encouraged to take part in the many different activities and clubs that our school has to offer and there really is something for everyone. I have had the pleasure of taking part in the St. John Paul II award, the Duke of Edinburgh award, English Mentoring, the Soroptimist Public Speaking competition and many more activities throughout my time at school.

I am currently studying English Literature, Religious Studies and Performing Arts for A2 level, with the goal of achieving my full potential. Balancing this with the demands of being Head Girl, Senior Prefect, Charity prefect and my volunteering endeavours has allowed me to get involved in many different aspects of school life and allowed me to meet many wonderful people along the way.

Next year, I hope to attend Queens University Belfast to embark on a new journey studying either Law or Law with Politics, something that I would have never dreamed of applying for if it wasn't for the help, support and advice of the teachers who really do go far and beyond their call of duty. I have learned many things here at

St. Joseph's, however, I have found the most valuable lesson comes from the Daughters of the Cross - "Be kind, be kind, be kind."

The thought of leaving next year has left me feeling a little heavy hearted as this is not only a school, but a closely knitt community with teachers that will guide and support students every step of the way.

I owe a lot of what I have achieved to St. Joseph's as here I have been shaped into the person that I am today and have given me the many memories that I will cherish.

As you embark on the next chapter of your life, I wish you all the best of luck and hope that you too will get the chance to study at St. Joseph's Grammar School.



*Clara Deehan*

# St Joseph's Grammar School *Donaghmore*



## SCHOOL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

### £8 million building investment in St Joseph's

Pupils and staff are currently enjoying state of the art educational facilities in the new Sports and Drama block provided under the Department of Education's School Enhancement Programme.

This £4 million investment in St Joseph's enhanced facilities with a competition size sports hall together with a hydraulic gymnasium system, the first of its kind in the U.K.

This investment also saw the provision of a new science block and two additional modular classrooms.

The technically advanced specification of the drama suite allows for the development of drama in the school's curriculum.

The Department of Education, in Spring 2018,

reaffirmed their commitment to the future of St Joseph's by granting cohort 2 of the School Enhancement Programme. A further £4 million will see the provision of an additional block which will include 10 new classrooms and new technology, engineering, canteen and library facilities.

We are delighted that are pupils are benefiting from these exciting developments and we continue to work with the Department of Education to ensure future investment in the school's infrastructure.







## CATHOLIC ETHOS

Our school was founded by The Daughters of the Cross of Liège, a religious congregation established in 1833 by the Blessed Marie Thérèse Haze, whose motto we share. Our motto “In hoc signo vinces” (“In this sign thou shalt conquer”), reflects our mission to enrich through education the life of our students and underpins our pastoral care system. While the last of the sisters left Donaghmore in 2007 their rich legacy continues to permeate our daily actions and their vision of being “a compassionate heartbeat in the world” continues to guide us today.

In light of our motto, we are an inclusive and caring community who takes seriously our core aim to be a visible expression of the love and compassion of the cross. The mantra of The Daughters, “be kind, be kind, be kind”, shapes all relationships across the school and ensures all members of our community are treated with inherent dignity and respect. As a school we take seriously our call to service and strive to make a tangible difference in the world.

Jesus said, **‘I am here among you as one who serves’.** (Luke 22:27)

St. Joseph’s, rooted in the person of Jesus Christ, welcomes young people from all cultures, backgrounds and faiths. The measure of our success as a Catholic School is found in the reality that every aspect of life in St Joseph’s reflects the teachings of the gospel. All our activity, implicitly or explicitly, is ‘sacramental’ in making the loving presence of Jesus Christ a reality for every child. As a Catholic School we are committed to the

development of the whole person. While we enjoy a very strong tradition of academic excellence we know that young people only achieve their full potential when they feel happy, secure and are invigorated by their school environment. It is therefore central to our mission to ensure that all our students experience success which is recognised, celebrated and commensurate with their individual ability.

**“There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit”**  
(1 Corinthians 12:4)

At St Joseph’s we are clear that the human person is holy ground; everyone is made in the image and likeness of God (Genesis 1:27). All those working in St Joseph’s, as teachers, leaders, support staff and governors, seek to recognise and treasure the unique gifts of each pupil and to do all they can to allow these to develop and flourish in response to the creative action of the Holy Spirit. We acknowledge individual needs and respond positively, using professional skill, experience and loving care to draw out the best in everyone, as Jesus Christ did.

Jesus said, **“I give you one commandment: love one another. Just as I love you, you must also love one another.”** (John 13:34)



## THE GLOBAL DIMENSION

“The significant problems that exist today cannot be solved by the same level of thinking that created them.”

Albert Einstein

At St Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef we recognise the importance of empowering our students to become confident, capable, critical thinkers who are ready to contribute to and shape their world. We appreciate that growing interdependence between countries changes the way we view the world and ourselves. At St Joseph's we are actively responding to the demands of globalisation to support our students to develop a responsible, international outlook which is based on an appreciation of the impact of their personal values and behaviours on global challenges.

Our commitment to develop students who are able to deal with the local and global challenges of tomorrow begins in the classroom here in Donaghmore. We adopt a forward thinking and innovative approach to teaching and learning which helps ensure that our students are future proofed with the skills necessary to become independent

thinkers and learners. We have embarked on an exciting journey where we are applying the science of cognitive education to the classroom to explicitly teach our students to think critically and independently.

We have a well-established link with Habitat for Humanity in Cambodia. Our students have the opportunity to travel to Cambodia to help support some of the 2.5 million people who live below the poverty line as the country emerges from decades of conflict and inequality.

Our students work as part of a team to help develop sustainable communities with decent housing, and water, sanitation and electricity access. Their fundraising also supports the development of training programmes to promote gender equality, income generation and appropriate responses to HIV/AIDS and vulnerable groups.



# Scoil Íosaef

## Domhnach Mór



By working with Habitat Cambodia, our students developing a global vision to help them develop the skills needs to be global citizens.

### Supporting the Daughters of the Cross missionary work in South America and Asia

We have recently established a new charitable foundation to support The Daughters of the Cross Missions in Asia and South America. This will help support the Sisters' mission in Brazil where they work with children who have profound special needs, in Cameroon where the children are thirsty for knowledge but are denied it because of the civil war and in Nepal where the Children have no resources. It is our aim that in the coming years our students and staff will travel to a school founded by the Daughters of the Cross far up in the Himalayas, facing Kanchenjunga, to carry out missionary work.

### Other Global Opportunities

We have a link with our sister school in Liège where are students have the opportunity to take part in an exchange programme. Other destinations our students have travelled to in recent years include Greece, Rome, Krakow, Italy, Iceland.



## SCOIL IÓSAEF



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

### Fáilte / Welcome

Tá fearadh na fáilte romhaibh anocht chuig Oíche Oscailte Scoil Iósaef. Is am corraitheach é an t-aistriú ón bhunscoil chuig ‘an scoil mhór’ agus geallaim daoibh go mbeidh eispéireas iontach ag do mhac/iníon linn i Scoil Iósaef. Is sruth uile-chumais é Sruth na Gaeilge agus táimid tiománta do shárchaighdeán scolaíochta a chur ar fáil do Scoláirí an tSrutha. Gheobhaidh do pháiste neart deiseanna barr a gcumais a bhaint amach sa seomra ranga agus sna himeachtaí seach-churaclaim a bhíonn ar fáil. Tá blianta corraitheacha romhainn anseo i Scoil Iósaef. Tá plean forbartha ar na bacáin chun uimhreacha iontrálacha an tSrutha a mhéadú, soláthar EC4 a leathnú agus a fhorbairt, agus deiseanna chomhoibriú le pobal na Gaeilge a chaomhnú agus a neartú.

Guímse gach rath agus bláth oraibh anocht.

Beirigí bua,

**Mr Dessie Tennyson**

Múinteoir Sinsearach, Ceann an tSrutha

Céad Míle Fáilte to Open Night. Transferring to ‘big school’ is an exciting time and I promise you that your son/daughter will have a superb educational experience here in Scoil Iósaef. Sruth na Gaeilge is an all-ability stream dedicated to providing excellent educational opportunities to IMS students both inside and outside the classroom. I am genuinely excited by the opportunities that lie ahead of us here in Scoil Iósaef. We have recently published plans to expand our IMS intake and are currently developing and extending our KS4 provision as well as strengthening our relationships with the Irish language community here in Mid-Ulster.

I hope you enjoy the rest of your evening with us.

Beirigí Bua,

**Mr Dessie Tennyson**

Senior Teacher, Head of IMS

### SRUTH NA GAEILGE

Dátheangach | Déliteartha | Gaelach

Sruth na Gaeilge, Scoil Iósaef, was founded in September 2010 to provide high quality post-primary Irish Medium Education in the Mid-Ulster area. The aim of the IMS was to promote and develop a curriculum tailored to bilingual students in a supportive and caring environment. Since its inception nine years ago, students from ‘An Sruth’ continue to excel in all aspects of school life. We have grown from our first intake of 15 and now have 170 students in Sruth na Gaeilge, with our first ever cohort having completed their A Levels in June 2017.

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

### Rath Acadúil / Academic Success

For the past three years our first IMS intakes excelled academically during their 7 years, topping the Northern Ireland average at GCSE Irish. Our IMS pioneers obtained their 3rd level choices and



# Scoil Iósaef

## Domhnach Mór



are currently studying a range of subjects including Engineering, Business, Maths and Applied Physics. Academic success for IMS students continues with GCSE success in 2017 outperforming the NI Average by 19.3%. Such academic excellence is nothing new to 'Scoláirí an tSrutha' with our students placed first, second and third in GCSE Irish in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018 and 2019.

Success continued in 2019 as Sorcha Canavan, a Year 10 student, was awarded 1st in GCSE Irish, Niamh Ní Ágáin, Niamh Ní Mhuirí, Eva Ní Dhoibhlín, and Cora Conlon were joint 2nd and both Grace Teague and John-Paul Coyle were awarded Joint 3rd Place.

### **Soláthar / Provision**

Sruth na Gaeilge is an all-ability stream which provides an opportunity for children from local bunscoileanna to continue with their Irish medium education. Our vision is to offer a 'bilingual, biliterate and gaelic' education, to provide our pupils with the best education, life-skills and life-long learning opportunities for an ever-changing world. At Key Stage 3, we offer 50% of the curriculum through the medium of Irish. Our IMS students sit their GCSE Irish examination at the end of Year 10 and at KS4, Scoláirí an tSrutha benefit from a full choice of subjects as well the opportunity of achieving an additional GCSE in Gaeilge.

### **Litearthacht / Literacy**

Developing bilingual and biliterate students is central to all that we do in Scoil Iósaef. We have recently invested a substantial amount of money to provide a wealth of enjoyable and modern Irish Medium books for our school library. IMS students spend one period per fortnight in the school library and are encouraged to immerse themselves in Irish language books and novels. With our newly founded 'Club Leabhar' pupils can 'lose themselves' in a novel while sipping at a cup of hot chocolate in their weekly reading club. We recognise that excellent oracy and literacy skills are essential in the modern workplace. Through the Gael-Linn public speaking competition, Abair, Féile Scoil, drámaíochta and Comórtas Uí Chadhain and our new internal focus on public speaking called Tuairimí, all our IMS students are encouraged to build their confidence in public speaking and thus prepare themselves for the world of work.

### **Ceiliúradh / Celebrating Success**

We host our annual Sruth na Gaeilge prizegiving ceremony (An Bronnadh) to celebrate all of the academic, sporting and extracurricular achievements of our students. Our pupils have been inspired by our special guests and all-Ireland

winners Sean Cavanagh of Tyrone GAA and Eamon Magee of Donegal GAA, as well as TV and Radio stars Lynette Fay, Tomáí Ó Conghaile, Karen Kirby and Conall Ó Máirtín. Last year Scoil Iósaef were awarded the prestigious 'Gaelbhrtach' flag by Gael-Linn, in recognition of the tireless work to promote spoken Irish right through the school.

### **Turais / Trips**

IMS pupils benefit from regular school trips as part of whole-school opportunities. Every year we take our Year 10 students on a trip to the Donegal Gaeltacht to get a taste of our native language and culture. We meet up with the local secondary school Pobalscoil Ghaoth Dobhair and our pupils get an insight into life in a Gaeltacht school. In 2017 Year 10 students had the opportunity to visit the European Parliament in Brussels along with IME students from other post-primary schools across the North, to get an insight into the workings of the parliament and opportunities for Irish Language employment. 2019 saw our first every Keystage 5 trip to Galway and the Arann islands.

### **Gairmoideachas / Careers Education**

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

### **An Ghaeilge / Irish**

Scoláirí an tSrutha are encouraged to use Irish outside of the classroom and this is facilitated through the organisation of a range of events throughout the school day such as Tae agus Plé, An Cumann Gaelach, Gaeilge 24, Seachtain na Gaeilge and An Cumann Scoil, drámaíochta agus An Cumann Díospóireachta. This year our newly formed Coiste na Gaeilge has been an excellent asset to our students: led by our senior pupils, all students have the opportunity to learn music, cookery skills, drama skills and play sport through the medium of Irish. In partnership with Cairde Uí Néill pupils are recognised on a weekly basis as 'Gaeilgeoirí na Seachtaine' and are rewarded with a £10 gift voucher. We have also introduced a supportive but firm Riail na Gaeilge to ensure that Irish remains the spoken language of An Sruth.

# St Joseph's Grammar School *Donaghmore*

## **Keystage 3**

Gaeilge	History	Geography
ICT	Employability	Citizenship
Religion	Personal Development	

## **Eochairchéim 3**

Gaeilge	Stair	Tíreolaíocht
TFC	Infhostaíocht	Saoránacht
Reiligiún	Forbairt Pearsanta	

## **Rath na Gaeilge**

Ard Leibhéal Gaeilge 2018-19	A*- C	100%
GCSE Gaeilge 2018-19	A*-C	100%
GCSE Irish 2019	A*/A	100%

## **Centre of Excellence**

Best Post-Primary Irish Medium school in Ulster for spoken Irish - Corn an Bhiaitagh winners 2018 and 2019

## **Academic Success**

GCSE 7+ (incl. English & Maths)  
2019 88% 2018 85%  
2017-2019 91% IMS students transfer to University / FE

## **Rath Acadúil**

GCSE 7+ (Béarla & Mata san áireamh)  
2019 88% 2018 85%  
2017-2019 91% scoláirí an tSrutha ag aistriú chuig ollscoil

## **Scléip Ulster Champions 2018**

Joint 1st/2nd/3rd GCSE Irish in the North of Ireland 2018  
7 Pupils shared 1st/2nd/3rd in GCSE Irish 2019

## **Lárionad Sármhaitheasa**

Iarbhunscóil is fearr i gCúige Uladh -  
Buaiteoirí Corn an Bhiaitagh 2018 agus 2019  
Scléip - Curaidh Uladh 2018  
1ú/2ú/3ú áit GCSE Irish i dTuaisceart na hÉireann 2018

## **Extra-Curricular**

Abair Public Speaking	Scoildrámaíochta
Debating	Scléip
Feiseanna	Gaeltacht Trips

## **Seach-churaclaim**

Caint Phoiblí	Scoildrámaíochta
Diospóireacht	Scléip
Feiseanna	Turas Gaeltachta

## **Year 8 Gaeilge Provision**

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

## **Soláthar na Gaeilge - Bliain 8**

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

## **Seach-churaclaim**

Caint Phoiblí	Scoildrámaíochta
Diospóireacht	Scléip
Feiseanna	Turas Gaeltachta

## **Irish Success**

A-Level Irish 2018-19	A*- C	100%
GCSE Gaeilge 2018-19	A*-C	95%
GCSE Irish 2019	A*/A	100%







# PARENTAL VOICE

“As parents, of all the important decisions we make, and doubts we face, the decision to send my girls to St Josephs was an easy one. Furthermore, 7 years later, we remain confident that the academic, and indeed life education of our children has been in the safe, secure and committed hands of teachers and staff who want the best for them now and in the future. We will always be thankful to St Joseph’s.”

*Diane & Paul Coyle, (parents of Cara Jane Year 14 and Aoibhinn Year 13)*



Teaghan has been attending St Joseph's for 3 years now. In his words 'I love it'. Donaghmore excels academically and this can be seen in their excellent exam results, but it is about so much more than academic achievements.

Since starting Donnaghmore, Teaghan has had great success in both football (winning 2 Ulster titles) and at show jumping. St Joseph's creates a nurturing and supportive environment within the school and they encourage each and every child to reach their full potential in all fields of life.

It is the pride they show in each child's achievements, (which can be followed on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter) that makes Donaghmore such a special place.

Any school can be a centre of learning – but Donaghmore is building our pupils for their future, allowing them to develop and become who they want them to be.

*(Eimear Burns, parent of Teaghan Yr 10)*

My daughter Áine is in 2nd year in Scoil Iósaef and I have to say she has thoroughly enjoyed her time at school to date. The teachers are very professional, caring and friendly. Like her sisters who have gone before her, they flourished and have grown in confidence in Scoil Iósaef. “mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí” (praise the youth and they will flourish)

Marc Ó hÁgáin  
(Parent of Áine Yr 9, Meadh Yr 10, Niamh Yr 11 and Aoife Yr 12)

St Joseph's Grammar School is not only an educational environment for our two children, but also forms a large part of our community in Donaghmore and beyond. It is always a joy to visit the school to be greeted by polite,

well-mannered students and ever supportive and helpful staff.

Our children's educational needs are surpassed and they both flourish with sporting achievements, after school activities, community involvement and exceptional pastoral care.

St Joseph's Grammar School is an excellent stepping stone to their future path in life.

*Brenda McKenna (parent of Anna Yr 13 & John Yr 10)*

My daughter is coming to the end of her years in St. Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore, she has really enjoyed all her experiences throughout her seven years. The teachers have given her confidence within herself and have taught her so much. Niamh is an IMS student, who has made many friends from other Irish Medium schools as well as the mother school. During Niamh's time in Donaghmore she has been given the opportunity to experience different trips, such as going to Italy twice, for skiing and she has enjoyed many trips to the Gaeltacht. As a parent I am blessed that Niamh has been given all these opportunities and experiences throughout her seven years in St. Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore. And we are delighted we made the choice to send her to Scoil Iósaef.

*Ursula Donnelly (Parent of Niamh Year 14 and Micháel Yr 9).*

Both of our children attend St Joseph's. They are two very different people and they have both thrived in the caring and supportive atmosphere of the school. They are treated with respect and encouraged to be the best version of themselves at all times.

They both enjoy school and we as parents have no regrets in choosing St Joseph's as the place to continue their post primary education.

Mary Gates  
(Mother of Rebecca May Yr 14 & Aaron Yr 11)

## YEAR 8

“ At St. Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef, we recognise that the move from Primary School to Secondary School can be daunting. ”

At St. Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef, we recognise that the move from primary school to secondary school can be daunting. To make the transition process as smooth as possible and to assist the pupils to settle into school life at St. Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef, we have a broad induction programme in place.

The first event in the induction programme is the Induction Meeting at the start of June. All incoming Year 8 students and their parents are invited to attend a meeting with a member of the Year 8 team. This event provides an opportunity for pupils and their parents to meet staff and to become familiar with the school environment at St. Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef.

This is followed by a Year 8 Registration Evening for parents and pupils, where pupils are introduced to the Principal, Vice-Principals, Head of Year 8 and the Year 8 form teachers.

In mid-June, all incoming Year 8 pupils are invited to attend a Familiarisation Day in St. Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef. This is an opportunity for the students to meet the other students in their form class.

To help students to settle in and develop friendships, all Year 8 students are invited to attend a Year 8 Transition Programme at the end of August.

In September, the return to school dates are staggered. This gives the new Year 8 students an opportunity to become familiar with their new surroundings before all seven year groups return. During their first day, the Year 8 students remain with their Form Teacher and Year 14 Form Prefect while participating in a range of activities.

Also on this day, the new Year 8 students who travel to and from school by bus will meet their Year 13 bus buddy, who will meet with them before the end of the school day for the first month and accompany them to their designated bus pick up area.

Year 8 students can avail of the Peer Buddy System. The peer buddies will offer support and advice to our new Year 8 students.

Towards the end of September, parents and pupils are invited back into school for an Induction Evening. This is also an opportunity for parents to speak with their child's form teacher.

Year 8 pupils meet with their form teacher every morning for registration and also for a timetabled form period once a week. This time has been provided to support the Pastoral programme but also to allow the pupils to build relationships with the other pupils in their form class and their form teacher particular during the first term.

At various times throughout the year, the students will attend a Year 8 Assembly. This gives the students an opportunity to meet as a year group. During the first term, the assemblies focus on topics around the transition from primary to post primary.







# TYPICAL DAY

“ Here at St Joseph’s we take pride in every aspect of school life and we believe that our school uniform plays a key role in promoting this pride, self-confidence and a strong feeling of belonging among the pupils. ”

Girls' Uniform	Boys' Uniform	PE Kit
Blazer	Blazer	School jersey
Jumper	Jumper	School shorts
Blouse	Shirt	School socks
Bottle green pleated skirt	Trousers	
Tie	Tie	
Bottle green tights	Black shoes	
Black shoes	Black socks	
Green Trousers		

## Uniform

All students are expected to wear full school uniform (and full PE kit during PE lessons).

## School Day

Our school day begins officially at 8.55 a.m. On arrival at school, pupils have the option to go to the school canteen until registration begins.

8.55 - 9.00am	Registration with Form Teacher
9.00 - 9.30am	Period 1
9.30 - 10.00am	Period 2
10.00 - 10.30am	Period 3
10.30 - 10.45am	Break
10.45 - 11.15am	Period 4
11.15 - 11.45am	Period 5
11.45 - 12.15am	Period 6
12.15 - 12.45pm	Period 7
12.45 - 1.20pm	First Lunch / Period 8
1.25 - 2.00pm	Second Lunch / Period 9
2.00 - 2.30pm	Period 10
2.30 - 3.00pm	Period 11
3.00 - 3.30pm	Period 12



## LOOKING FORWARD



My name is Aine Heagney and I am in 8X. I came from a small primary school in Dunamore and was very scared to enter a much bigger school, but I needn't have worried. From day one all of the teachers, staff and older pupils have been so supportive and kind to me. I feel like our school is one big family as we all care for each other and we are there for each other when needed most.

I have made lots of new friends and I have got involved in some of the after school clubs such as football and basketball. I am also really enjoying new subjects such as Technology, Art, French and Science. My main advice to any new year 8's would be to get involved in various lunchtime and afterschool clubs, spread your wings and make new friendship groups. You will love it here.



My name is Matthew Price and I am a Year 8 student in Scoil Iósaef Domhnach Mór.

I love this school. I have made so many new friends and the teachers are friendly and helpful. I have learned so many new things this year. I have so many new subjects and my favourite subjects are PE and Math. I enjoy every subject very much. The food here in Scoil Iósaef is amazing and the dinner ladies are putting so much hard work and dedication into feeding hundreds of students.

Scoil Iósaef is more of a home than a school in my opinion, every teacher and student is so caring and is always there to help you. I could not have asked for a better school than this one. In my opinion Scoil Iósaef Donaghmore is one of the best schools in Ireland.

# S.J.S





# LOOKING FORWARD



Erin Mullan 8I

I really like Scoil Iósaef because they have so many great facilities including the new sports hall and new computer suites. I also love the new subjects which I get to study, my favourite subjects include English, Art, and Home Economics. I have really enjoyed the challenges of learning new skills.

As well as classes there are loads of extra activities that are so much fun including handball, football and music. I also really like the school dinners, especially the vegetable lasagne. They are a must have. The school promotes healthy eating and offers a wide-range of healthy options.

I was so nervous about starting my new school in September, but now looking back I don't know why. I have loved every minute of it. The staff are very kind and my year group are so supportive and friendly. In my experience I would recommend all students to join Scoil Iósaef as it is the best school around.



My name is Alfie and I am a Year 8 student here at St Joseph's Donaghmore. This school is great. From the moment I started I felt a real sense of community. The teachers are very understanding and caring (and sometimes you even get less homework than P7 which is brilliant.)

The food in the school canteen is lovely and there are always lots of different options each day. I have made lots of new friends here and have enjoyed taking part in loads of clubs for example: Gaelic, Minecraft, Nintendo Switch and soccer. Oh yeah, and Maths is so fun here!

The school day flies as you get to experience a wide range of new subjects. My favourite subjects are French, Technology, Music and ICT. I have loved every minute of my time here so far and I look forward to the exciting challenges which lie ahead of me in 2020.

S.J.S

DOM

## SIXTH FORM

Sixth Form – where every student achieves



Sixth Form at St Joseph's/Scoil Iósaef Grammar is a vibrant and elevating experience. Our provision in Sixth Form enables our students to be resilient, grounded and ready for new challenges. There are approximately 200 pupils in the Sixth form and this allows for a lot of time to be dedicated to each and every pupil – big enough for choice, small enough to care!

The emphasis in Sixth Form is on self-motivated learning, extracurricular involvement and achieving your potential. This approach will provide the life skills necessary for university study and future career paths. The aims and objectives of the Sixth Form are to enable AS and A2 students to realise their full academic and personal potential. In addition to excellent A level grades, universities and employers are looking for bright and innovative young people with a range of transferable skills. The "Sixth Form experience" will be one that fosters social and personal development. By becoming a volunteer in many of our extracurricular activities you will develop a sense of purpose which will allow you to empathise with young and old within your community enriching your own personal development. Upon completion of A level studies pupils should have developed as critical and independent thinkers, with an awareness of occupational opportunities and an ability to make considered choices for their future career path.

There is access to a wide range of courses, both academic and vocational, to suit students' needs and interests. These subjects are in The Curriculum section of the Prospectus. Pupils are encouraged to study four AS subjects during Year 13. Pupils will be expected to take responsibility for their own learning, supported by their teachers. The study facilities, ICT provision and study hall all afford pupils the space and amenities for constructive private study. Achieving the best possible AS/ A2 grades is at the core of Sixth Form life and therefore time management and how best the pupils utilise the facilities on offer are crucial to their success.

### Enrichment programme

At St. Joseph's we acknowledge that academic achievement is important and we strive to develop well rounded individuals ready to face the next stage of their career, be that university, apprenticeships or employment. This means that there is a substantial enrichment programme to ensure that pupils are given every opportunity to develop their interpersonal, communication and leadership skills.

Some of these activities include:



# Scoil Iósaef

## Domhnach Mór



- ▶ **Champions League Soccer**
- ▶ **Charity/Fund Raising**
- ▶ **Choir /Orchestra/Music Box**
- ▶ **Community Link Programme**
- ▶ **Debating Club**
- ▶ **Digital Leaders**
- ▶ **Drama Club**
- ▶ **Driver Safety Workshops**
- ▶ **Duke of Edinburgh**
- ▶ **Irish Presidents Award**
- ▶ **English Mentoring**
- ▶ **Formal**
- ▶ **John Paul II Awards**
- ▶ **JP Mc Manus Awards**
- ▶ **Lourdes Summer Pilgrimage**
- ▶ **Maths Mentoring**
- ▶ **Mencap Summer Scheme**
- ▶ **Much Haddam**
- ▶ **Nolan Cup U19 Boys GAA**
- ▶ **Pioneer Society**
- ▶ **Prefect Positions**
- ▶ **Rosary Club**
- ▶ **Rotary Exchange Programme**
- ▶ **Sacred Space**
- ▶ **School Bank**
- ▶ **School Newsletter**
- ▶ **Soroptimist Public Speaking**
- ▶ **Special Olympics**
- ▶ **Traditional group**
- ▶ **U19 Camogie**
- ▶ **U20 Ladies GAA**





## THE CURRICULUM

“ Our policy is to provide a curriculum characterised by quality, breadth, balance and scope taking cognisance of DENI and the needs of the students ”

St Joseph's Grammar School/Scoil Iósaef has a broad, balanced curriculum which meets all of the statutory requirements of the Entitlement Framework. Our well qualified, experienced and dedicated staff help students to reach their full potential.

### **Key Stage 3 pupils followed the relevant programmes of study.**

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

- ▶ Art
- ▶ Drama
- ▶ English
- ▶ French
- ▶ Geography
- ▶ History

- ▶ Home Economics
- ▶ Information Communication Technology
- ▶ Irish
- ▶ Mathematics
- ▶ Music
- ▶ Physical Education
- ▶ LLW – Citizenship, Personal Development, Employability
- ▶ Religious Education
- ▶ Science covering Biology, Chemistry, Physics
- ▶ Technology

IMS students study some of these through the medium of Irish.



# Scoil Íosaef

## Domhnach Mór



### Policy on Option Choices

It is the school's policy to facilitate as many optional choices as possible. The school uses free choice model to allow maximum possibility in choosing at both Key Stage 4 and Post 16. The results of this consultation are then used to provide a "best fit" model, whereby as many pupils' choices are facilitated as possible. In the event that some pupils' choices cannot be facilitated, these pupils will have priority in choosing a "back up" optional subject. Pupils will be allowed to change subject up until the third Friday in September provided there is room in the subject they wish to move to. After this date no movement is permitted.

Some pupils will be asked to follow a reduced curriculum in Key Stage 4 based on their individual needs and aptitudes. If this is the case, there will be meetings with parents/carers in the June of Year 10 before the holidays. This is to ensure that all pupils maximise their full potential.

### Key Stage 4 GCSE

Pupils were encouraged to sit at least nine subjects at GCSE. Six are compulsory and three are optional subjects.

### Compulsory Subjects

- ▶ **Maths (all pupils)**
- ▶ **English Language (all pupils)**
- ▶ **English Literature (the majority of pupils)**
- ▶ **Religion (the majority of pupils) or OCN RE Science (worth 2 GCSE equivalents)**
- ▶ **Double Award Science (worth 2 GCSEs) or Occupational Studies (worth 2 GCSEs)**
- ▶ **Gaeilge (for IMS pupils only)**

### Optional subjects

- ▶ **Art and Design**
- ▶ **Business Communication Systems**
- ▶ **Business Studies**
- ▶ **Digital Technology (Programming)**
- ▶ **Digital Technology (Multimedia)**
- ▶ **Engineering**
- ▶ **Food Nutrition**
- ▶ **French**

- ▶ **Further Maths**
- ▶ **Geography**
- ▶ **History**
- ▶ **Irish**
- ▶ **Music**
- ▶ **Physical Education**
- ▶ **Technology**

### Post 16 A Level

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

The following subjects are on offer:

- ▶ **Art and Design**
- ▶ **Biology**
- ▶ **Business Studies**
- ▶ **Chemistry**
- ▶ **Digital Technology**
- ▶ **BTEC Engineering**
- ▶ **English**
- ▶ **French**
- ▶ **Geography**
- ▶ **Health and Social Care**
- ▶ **History**
- ▶ **Irish**
- ▶ **Mathematics**
- ▶ **Music**
- ▶ **Nutrition and Food Science**
- ▶ **Sociology**
- ▶ **Physics**
- ▶ **Religious Education**
- ▶ **Sports Science and the Active Leisure Industry**
- ▶ **Technology**
- ▶ **OCR Cambridge Technical in IT (new in Sept 2018)**
- ▶ **OCR Cambridge Technical in Business (new in Sept 2018)**
- ▶ **Performing Arts (through Collaboration)**
- ▶ **Moving Image Arts (through Collaboration)**
- ▶ **Systems Software Development (through Collaboration)**

All these subjects are offered but some may not run due to small numbers.



## PASTORAL CARE

“ Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life in St Joseph's Grammar and is integral to the academic, social, physical, emotional and spiritual education of students. ”

Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life in St Joseph's Grammar and is integral to the academic, social, physical, emotional and spiritual education of students. Pastoral Care is the ethos created so that an atmosphere of care exists in the school community. In St Joseph's Grammar, through its pastoral care arrangements and provision, the school demonstrates its continuing concern for the academic, spiritual, moral, personal and social development of the students. By doing so we hope to assist each student to apply themselves fully and confidently to the learning process and hence acquire the knowledge, understanding, values, attitudes and skills necessary for a successful and satisfying school experience and future personal and professional life. We provide the opportunity for every student to develop into responsible, self-aware, confident and capable young people

equipped to cope with the challenges of the 21st century.

In particular, our aim is to help: -

- ▶ **Promote the holistic development of students in a happy, secure, supportive and stimulating environment.**
- ▶ **To develop in students a strong sense of their own dignity, identity, self-esteem and a mutual respect for others.**
- ▶ **To facilitate the exploration and comprehension of personal and health-related issues pertinent to the students i.e. mental and physical health.**
- ▶ **To prepare students to become Christian citizens in the community.**



# Scoil Iósaef

## Domhnach Mór



- ▶ **To develop their talents to the fullest extent.**
- ▶ **To empower students to become effective lifelong learners.**
- ▶ **To promote positive relationships at every level within the school and with stakeholder groups involved in the school.**
- ▶ **To develop good relations with parents guardians for the mutual benefit of all.**
- ▶ **To establish and maintain active links with the wider community**

The pastoral care of students is an integral part of the education programme of the school and the pastoral dimension permeates all school activities and is complementary to the academic work of the school. The delivery of Pastoral Care is co-ordinated by a Pastoral Team, led by the Vice-Principal Mrs McGleenan through a general and specialised focus.

### General Focus

This demands a caring community by all teachers to guide and advise pupils on both a formal and informal basis on personal, educational and vocational matters.

### Specialised Focus

This helps ensure that the teachers within the school especially the Form teacher have a thorough knowledge and understanding of the many individual needs, aspirations, interests and academic progress of each student. It is hoped this serves to integrate the worth of teachers, parents and others in supporting the holistic development of each student.

Each student in St Joseph's Grammar School/Scoil Iósaef has daily contact with their form teacher who has responsibility for the students in their form group. A Year Head supported by the Key Stage Co-ordinator, Vice Principal and Senior Leadership Team, oversees the general welfare of all students in the Year Group and supports the Form Teacher at all times. The help and support of a number of services is also made available to students including, an Educational Welfare Officer, Medical Services, Social Services, Careers Personnel, School

Counsellor and School Chaplain - which continue to meet the varied and often complex needs of students. We ensure that any external agencies used to support our work with students adhere to the values and ethos of our school.

In Year 8 students follow an extensive induction programme which begins with an induction evening in June followed by a familiarisation day and a two-day induction programme in September. This is designed to ensure a smooth transition from Primary School, establish the ethos of the school, forge positive relationships and develop responsibility for their learning.

Year 11 also follow a one-day induction programme in September which helps to prepare the students for the transition from K.S.3 to K.S.4 and provides guidance and help to enable them to achieve their full potential. Induction is carried out at the beginning of each year in K.S.5 to ensure that students are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities and the school's expectations of them. This also ensures a smooth transition for students who come from other schools. The induction day is followed for K.S.4 and K.S.5 with a Parents and Pupil Information Evening to inform parents and students of the curriculum requirements for the Key Stage, Examination details, Careers Guidance and Support Systems which are in place. All other year groups follow a one-day induction programme at the beginning of September to celebrate achievements, review the work of the previous year and set targets for the coming year. Learning skills workshops and a range of seminars and activities are organised for students.

### School Counselling Service:

In St Joseph's Grammar School, we endeavour to support and empower our students at challenging times in their lives when they need help and guidance. A Counselling Service is provided weekly by Familyworks School Counselling Service funded by the Department of Education. The service is non-judgemental, confidential and free. Students are seen by appointment, by self-referral or referral from a member of staff to the Vice-Principal - Mrs McGleenan.



# St Joseph's Grammar School *Donaghmore*



## ART - MUSIC - SPORT

Art & Design is an enjoyable part of our curriculum and we are delighted with the achievements of all our pupils. We love to see talent and artistic confidence grow and each year we celebrate their successes at all levels.

This year Karl Kenwell, Cora Quinn, Jessica McKenna and Lorcan Ferguson won the Credit Union Poster Design Competition, Michael Byrne's GCSE Art work was selected for CCEA's annual True Colours Exhibition, Erin McDonald was joint Top Candidate in NI GCSE Art & Design and Kerri Quinn was joint Top Candidate in NI AS Art & Design.

In October, pupils participated in a Printmaking workshop with local artist, Fionnuala O'Neill and we enjoyed a guided tour and workshop, with artist Dan Dowling, while visiting the RUA exhibition in the Ulster Museum in November.





# Scoil Íosaef

## Domhnach Mór



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



Sport in the school is constantly evolving with school teams breaking new ground throughout the term. This term has been no different with the boys teams competing in the prestigious Grade A Corn Na Nog and Grade B Rafferty and McLarnon Cup competitions, while our ladies senior team have reached another Ulster school's final.

The Year 10 Corn na nÓg squad achieved further success when securing the shield victory and adding to the 15 Ulster School's titles won by the school in the last 11 years.

Further success has seen Eimear Colton gaining her second Ulster Schools' Camogie All-star and the A-level Sports science class host two very successful Primary school sports events featuring Futsal and Disability Gaelic. The last of which received Ulster Gaelic council approval and recognition.







## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The pastoral care of our students means responding to their needs at a period of their young lives when they are growing physically and acquiring a wide range of knowledge and skills.

Personal Development is fundamentally about the holistic development of our students. The Personal Development Programme is designed of our students with the qualities, attitudes, values, knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for personal development. It also aims to facilitate the acquisition of social competencies and to encourage responsible social participation. The Personal Development Programme is delivered in a weekly timetables series of lessons which have been planned in a progressive manner. The programme includes topics, relevant to each year group, to enable our students to:

- ▶ **achieve their potential;**
- ▶ **become confident, independent and participative citizens;**
- ▶ **make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives**

The topics for this programme, which may be added

to in response to the needs of individual class groups, address the following ten key themes: -

- ▶ **Health and the whole person**
- ▶ **Self-Concept**
- ▶ **Feelings and Emotions**
- ▶ **Morals, Values and Beliefs**
- ▶ **Managing influences and making decisions**
- ▶ **Managing change**
- ▶ **Learning about learning**
- ▶ **Relationships and Sexuality**
- ▶ **Safety and Managing Risk**
- ▶ **Drug Awareness**

Our Personal Development Programme also includes topics on personal safety for each year group which aim to develop the skills, values, attitudes, knowledge and understanding to help them resist or avoid potentially dangerous situations and to reject inappropriate behaviour. Important elements of this personal protection education include age related information on Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE), Substance Abuse, Bullying and e-Safety.



# Scoil Íosaef

## Domhnach Mór



### Drugs Education

St Joseph's Grammar School does not condone the misuse of drugs. However, we recognise that there has been a considerable increase of drugs in recent years in Northern Ireland. We believe that our school has a vital preventative role to play in combating the misuse of drugs by young people and we therefore include a Drug Education programme in our curriculum.

We see our role as that of a caring community committed to the physical, mental, social, emotional, moral and spiritual health, safety and well-being of our pupils and staff. The drugs education programme provides opportunities for students to acquire the values, skills and aptitudes which enable them to make informed choices.

Copies of the school Pastoral Care Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy and Drugs Education Policy can be obtained by contacting the school office.





# St Joseph's Grammar School *Donaghmore*

## Safeguarding Children

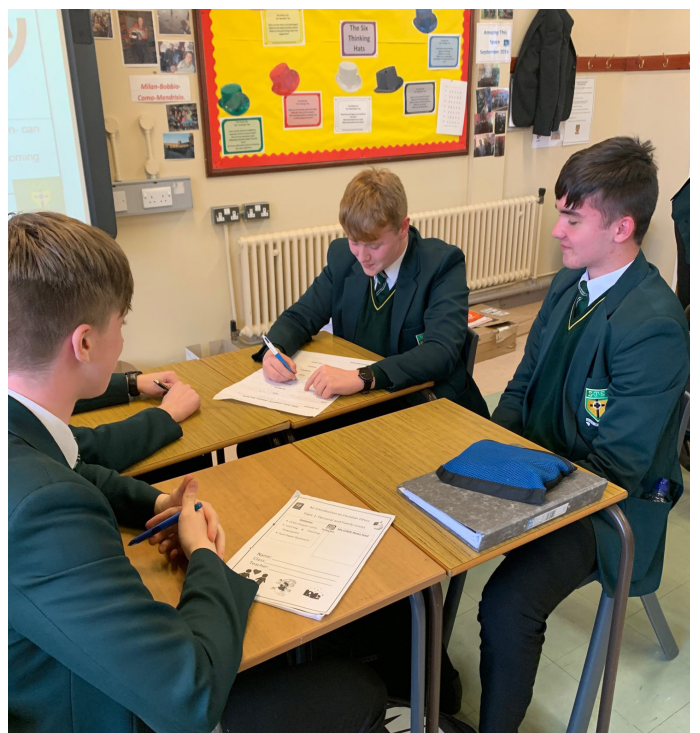
Our Child Protection Policy aims to safeguard our students by ensuring that everyone who works in our school – teachers, support staff and volunteers – has clear guidance on the detection and inter-agency management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The overriding concern of all caring adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the child and the welfare of each child is our paramount consideration. In all their contact with students, staff in St Joseph's Grammar School follow the guidelines and procedures described in the DENI publication *Pastoral Care in School – Child Protection (1999)*. The following principles form the basis for our safeguarding activity: -

- ▶ **Children should be listened to and complaints investigated thoroughly**
- ▶ **A proper balance must be struck between protecting children and respecting the rights and need of parents and families; where there is conflict, the child's interests must always come first.**
- ▶ **Children with disabilities are children first and have equal rights to protection. However, they may have particular needs which require specialist attention.**
- ▶ **In particular, the central principle which our staff support is that every child has a fundamental right to be safe from harm and to have proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.**

In all cases of suspected child abuse the action that will be taken in St Joseph's is that of informing Social Services and the Education Authority. The school will not be involved in investigating the suspected abuse.

It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held "in confidence". In the interests of the child, staff members need to share this information with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be told.

The Pastoral Team in St Joseph's Grammar School update the school Child Protection Policy and procedures in the light of any further guidance and legislation as necessary, and review it annually. Copies of the Child Protection Policy are available upon request from the school office.





# Scoil Íosaef

## Domhnach Mór



### Partnership with Parents

We believe that the fostering of trust and good with the Parents/Guardians of our students is very important. A close partnership between home and school helps ensure that all our young people learn and develop to their full potential in a caring, supportive and safe environment. Good communication is essential if we are to achieve this. We therefore urge parents and students to share any concerns so that effective solutions can be found as quickly as possible. Attendance at Parent Teacher meetings is essential in supporting our young people to fulfil their full potential.

### Developing our young people

**“The Temple of the Holy Spirit”.**  
(Maynooth Catechism)

We aim to inculcate self-discipline, self-esteem and respect for others. Older pupils’ example is most valuable here. Neither indiscipline nor vandalism are problems in our school. As an on-going contributory formative process, emphasis is laid on Christian courtesy and consideration. Those already in school, lead by example.

**“The Grace of God is in Courtesy”**  
(Belloc)

Discipline in the school is traditionally excellent and is organised for the good health, good training and happiness of the students as a body. Christian courtesy is the keynote. Students are encouraged to treat each other considerately and to practise charity in its widest sense. Younger students assimilate school standards and attitudes from those older; senior students encourage and maintain discipline in all areas of school life.

Students are representatives of the school and their conduct should reflect credit on themselves and on all members of the school community. In dress, attitude and demeanour their standards should be exemplary.

Self-Discipline is the key to communal discipline. School rules are laid out in the students’ planners and are discussed in PD class and at the School Council on a regular basis. The inculcation of high personal standards borne of self-esteem is an integral part of the Pastoral Care system. In working with others, students are working for themselves.

### As Individuals

Students are expected to behave in a mannerly, honest, open and cooperative way. They must respect the dignity and property of others and of school and treat facilities and fittings with the same care and respect as in their own homes. They may not impinge on another student’s right to learn or encroach on their privacy. Under no circumstances should another student’s dignity or character be attacked by word or deed. Responsibility in the spoken word is to be nurtured and emphasised.



### Bullying

Bullying may be defined as:

**“Any deliberate repeated action by word, deed or intent which causes harm or distress to anyone”**

The school believes that every student has the right to attend school, free of intimidation of any kind and that every student has the duty to respect each other’s person, property, time and point of view. To this end any individual or group act of bullying is viewed as a serious offence against the individual and the school community. Any such complaint will be thoroughly investigated and the parent/guardian notified. Where it is deemed necessary, a psychologist will be involved and in more extreme incidents it will be punishable by suspension or expulsion.

# St Joseph's Grammar School *Donaghmore*

## Local and Global Context

Relationships with the local and global community are highly valued. We have many well established partnerships with a wide range of organisations. Existing projects include:

- ▶ **Business Education Partnership**
- ▶ **Pebbles Charity, South Africa**
- ▶ **Twinned with San Augustin School in the Philippines**
- ▶ **Partnership with First Trust Bank**
- ▶ **Involvement in Credit Union Competitions and Activities**
- ▶ **Twinned with Daughters of the Cross in Brazil**
- ▶ **Links with Sperrinview, St Patrick's P.S., Donaghmore**
- ▶ **St Joseph's P.S., Galbally, Donaghmore County P.S.,**
- ▶ **Edendork P.S., St Mary's P.S., Lisbuoy and Gaelscoil/Naiscoil Aodha Rua**
- ▶ **Sharing of skills and materials with Bardic Theatre**

In addition our facilities are used by Donaghmore Bowling Club, Tyrone Towers Basketball and St Patrick's GAA Club.

## Careers Education

Careers education is an integral part of the curriculum. In the first three years it is delivered through Education for Employability lessons. In year 10 this assists the students with informed choice for Key Stage 4. In year 11 and 12 all students study GCSE Learning for Life and Work which has a strong employability/careers component. In addition, year 12 students have one lesson of careers each week. Each year group avails of a dedicated careers workshop delivered by Young Enterprise N.I. The local Careers Officer has individual contact with students on an ongoing basis.

There is widespread commitment to capacity building in terms of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and STEM CEIAG (Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance).

The Careers Department works closely authority advisers and local business bodies to provide up-to-date and practical opportunity and challenge. A-level students have time allocation for Careers Guidance with a Careers adviser from DEL (Department for Employment and Learning) and also avail of the August consultation facility. Year 13 and 14 have Careers timetabled in groups and have individual attention and consultation as required in the specialised careers suite. Personnel from the Universities both here and in England/Scotland visit school.

## Monitoring Progress

In keeping with our aim to ensure that every student reaches his/her full potential in all aspects of school life, it is essential that progress is closely monitored. Class teachers monitor and assess progress on a regular basis using a range of methods including written or oral/aural work, as well as practical experiments, demonstrations or investigations. Tracking pupil progress is an integral part of the school's Assessment for Learning (AFL). Other forms of assessment include homework, which is designed to complement the classroom experience, unit/topic tests and coursework assignments.

More formal synoptic assessment takes place regularly with results being monitored by the Year Head who highlights achievement: any improvements are noted. Year Heads employ a number of strategies to ensure that areas requiring improvement are identified and achievable goals set so that students feel they are being supported in their efforts to improve their performance.

One full written report is provided each year with additional interim reports. Form teachers provide comments on the personal development and extra-curricular commitment of each student.





# Scoil Íosaef

Domhnach Mór





## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

“ Staff give time, effort and planning to help students experience their subjects outside the classroom and outside the campus. In all areas competition is encouraged and the volunteer method is universal. ”

### Music

- ▶ Choir
- ▶ Orchestra
- ▶ Traditional Group
- ▶ String Group
- ▶ Musical Theatre Club

### Clubs

- ▶ Media Club
- ▶ Drama Club
- ▶ Maths Puzzle Club
- ▶ Chess Club
- ▶ Debating Club
- ▶ Public Speaking Club
- ▶ Arts and Craft Club
- ▶ Film Club
- ▶ Cookery Club
- ▶ Eco-Committee
- ▶ Harry Potter Club
- ▶ Table Tennis Club
- ▶ Contemporary Arts Club
- ▶ Coding Club
- ▶ ICT Club
- ▶ Cumann Gaelach
- ▶ Liturgy
- ▶ Sacred Space
- ▶ Science Club
- ▶ Horticulture Club
- ▶ Engineering Club

### Link-up Groups

- ▶ Sperrinview,
- ▶ St Patrick's P.S., Donaghmore
- ▶ St Joseph's P.S., Galbally,
- ▶ Donaghmore County P.S.,
- ▶ Edendork P.S., St Mary's Lisboug,

### ▶ Gaelscoil/Naíscoll Aodha Rua

### Competitions

- ▶ Irish Language Competitions
- ▶ Ashbourne Shield
- ▶ Rotary Club Competition
- ▶ Quizzes
- ▶ Environmental Youth Speak
- ▶ Irish Drama Competitions
- ▶ Mathematiques Sans Frontieres
- ▶ University of Leeds Maths Challenge
- ▶ Geo Challenge

### Other

- ▶ Charity Fundraising
- ▶ Literacy Mentoring
- ▶ Numeracy Mentoring
- ▶ Credit Union
- ▶ School Bank
- ▶ Driving Lessons
- ▶ John Paul II Award
- ▶ Habitat for Humanity, Cambodia

### Language Experience

Every effort is made to encourage students to attend language courses both in the Gaeltacht and in France.

The Irish Department organises bookings and savings for children who wish to attend Coláistí Samhraidh. The French Department facilitates placement of au-pair and family exchanges through the Central Bureau and in a private contact capacity as well as our annual trip to Paris.



# Scoil Íosaef

## Domhnach Mór



### Extra Curricular Sporting Activities

Participation in sporting activities is encouraged and where possible efforts are made to meet the interests of our students.

- ▶ Running
- ▶ Badminton
- ▶ Basketball
- ▶ Gaelic Football for both Boys and Girls:
- ▶ U-14, U-16, U-19
- ▶ Hurling
- ▶ Camogie
- ▶ European Handball
- ▶ Rugby
- ▶ Northern Ireland Schools Cup Soccer: Year 8, Under 14
- ▶ Athletics
- ▶ Golf
- ▶ Netball
- ▶ Volleyball
- ▶ Tennis
- ▶ Table Tennis
- ▶ Equestrian
- ▶ Circuit training
- ▶ Year 8, 9 and 10 one-wall Handball Championship
- ▶ Year 13 and 14 Champions League Soccer
- ▶ Fitness Suite
- ▶ Jiving
- ▶ Yoga
- ▶ Futsal
- ▶ We also offer Duke of Edinburgh/Gaisce Award

The following lunch-time activities are also offered:

- ▶ Inter-form Gaelic
- ▶ Inter-form Soccer League
- ▶ Cookery Club
- ▶ Guitar for Beginners
- ▶ Tae agus Plé
- ▶ Choir
- ▶ Eco-Committee
- ▶ Netball
- ▶ Sacred Space
- ▶ Digital Leaders
- ▶ ICT Club

- ▶ String Music Group
- ▶ Poetry/  
Public Speaking
- ▶ Gaelic Football
- ▶ Art revision Club
- ▶ History Mentoring
- ▶ An Phictiúrlann
- ▶ Orchestra
- ▶ Geography Clinic
- ▶ Mock Magistrates
- ▶ Numeracy Mentoring
- ▶ Traditional Group
- ▶ Rosary Club
- ▶ Literacy Mentoring
- ▶ An Cumann Gaelach
- ▶ Debating Club
- ▶ Soccer
- ▶ Drama Club





# St Joseph's Grammar School *Donaghmore*



Belgium - September 2018



Manchester United Vs Tottenham game - December 2019

## TRIPS



Ski Trip Italy - January 2019



London - December 2018



Cambodia - July 2018





# TRIPS



Belgium - September 2018



Brussels



Belgium - February 2019



Gaeltach - July 2019



Athens - October 2019



## PUPILS' VOICES

Is mise Séamus Mac Suibhne agus is scoláire Bliain 14 anseo i Scoil Iósaef mé. Ón chéad lá sa scoil seo bhain mé sult as gach bomaite mar gheall ar an méid féidireachtaí a thugadh dom chun mé féin a fheabhsú. B'iad an dá rud is tábhachtaí dom de mo shaol scoile i Scoil Iósaef ná an Ghaeilge agus spórt. Is scoláiré an tsrutha anseo mé agus tá mé fíor-bhuíoch go raibh an deis agam lean le mo chuid Ghaeilge ó bhunscoil. Tá múinteoirí an tsrutha ar dhaoine dena daoine is cairdiúla agus cinéalta ar bhuail mé leo riamh. Chuidigh an tsruth na Gaeilge go mór dom snas a chur ar mo chuid Gaeilge agus le bheith bródúil as, tá sé mar sprioc agam slí beatha le Gaeilge a bhaint amach. Is agus ba chuid fíor-thábhachtach de mo shaol é spórt, tá na scileanna a bhí agam forbartha agus cinn úra foghlama agam. Chuidigh spórt na scoile le mo fhéinmhuinín agus fheabhsaigh sé m'obair foirne agus tá mé an-bhuíoch mar gheall air seo. D'imir mé mar chuid de chuid mhór foirne maithe sa scoil seo agus d'fhoghlaim mé léir mór ó na cóitseálaithe agus na himreoirí níos sine. Imrím faoi láthair don chéad fhoireann Corn Mhic Giolla Earnáin dá raibh ag an scoil riamh agus beidh muid ag imirt sa dhara bhabtha cáilithe ag deireadh mhí Eánair. Tá peil na scoile seo ag dul ó neart go neart bliain ar bhliain agus tá seo le feiceáil leis an bhua iontach a bhí ag na buachaillí i mBliain 10 sa Chraobh Sciath na nÓg. Tá na baill foirne uilig iontach cairdiúil agus comhbhrách agus tá áthas an domhain orm go bhfuil an seacht mbliain anuas de mo shaol caite agam anseo. Mholfaínn an scoil seo go hard na spéire do dhaltaí i Rang 7.

My name is Séamus Sweeney and I am a Year 14 pupil here in St. Joseph's. From my first day in this school I have enjoyed every minute because of the many opportunities that

have been offered to me here to better myself. The two most important parts of my school life in St. Joseph's were Irish and sport. I have come through the Irish Medium Stream here and I'm very grateful to have had the chance to continue with my Irish from primary school. The teachers in the Irish Medium Stream are some of the friendliest and most helpful people I have ever met. The Irish Medium Stream has helped me develop my Irish and be proud of it, I hope to pursue a career that I can use my Irish in. Sport has always been a very important part of my school life, I have developed my previous skills and learned new ones. Sport in school has helped me build confidence and improve my teamwork skills and I am very thankful for this. I have played for many great teams in this school and have learnt so much from the coaches and from older players. I am currently playing for the school's first ever McLarnon Cup Team and we will play in the second round of the qualifiers at the end of January. The football in this school has been constantly improving every year and this is shown by the Year 10 boys winning the Sciath na nÓg final. All the staff in the school are all very friendly and caring and I am delighted to have spent the last seven years of my life here. I would recommend this school very highly to Primary 7 pupils.





# Scoil Íosaef

## Domhnach Mór



My name is Teresa Hamill-McGuigan and I am currently a Year 13 student at St Joseph's Grammar School. Throughout my time at St Joseph's I've been able to get involved fully in many aspects of school life- particularly within the music department. I've been tutored in trumpet and violin and have been lucky enough to join the South Ulster Youth Band outside of school. I'm a member of the school string group and the school choir, and we have performed at many events throughout the year including School Masses, the Christmas Carol Services and the Annual Spring Recital.

Being a member of the school choir has given me many opportunities such as travelling to Belgium to sing at the ceremony for the founder of the Daughter's of the Cross: Mère Marie-Thérèse.

St Joseph's has also given me the opportunity to complete my Muirdeach Cross Award along with my John Paul II award.

I also enjoy helping the younger members of our school community and I'm heavily involved in the Faith Development Team throughout the school. I am a Maths and English mentor.

All of these activities have been offered to me by St Joseph's Grammar and I've been encouraged to get involved in as many extra-curricular activities as I can.

The subject teachers here at St Joseph's ensure we reach our full potential, they welcome you asking for help and I've felt so supported throughout all of my years here at school.

Staff are extremely approachable and they have always helped me manage a busy extra-curricular time table alongside my school work allowing me to achieve a great academic profile at GCSE level.

The people I've met here both inside and outside my own year group are amazing and are always willing to help, laugh and listen. I would definitely recommend St Joseph's to any P7 pupil, I have loved every minute of my time here at St Joseph's and I look forward to seeing what the last year and a half holds for me here.



# S.J.S



## PAST PUPIL TESTIMONIES

My name is Elanna and I am a past pupil of St Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore.

It is a real honour for me to tell you about this wonderful school and about my life experiences, career to date and more importantly, what attributes I attained from my time in St. Joesph's Grammar School Donaghmore.

After many fantastic years in SJS I graduated from Liverpool with a degree in Quantity Surveying and decided to move to Australia and took up a graduate post. Within 4 years I had become the Senior Quantity Surveyor over a team of 6 Quantity Surveyors on a contract that was worth over \$1bn on an overall Chevron project of \$55bn. My Career was thriving, I was on a six figure salary and everything seemed great. But was it... I wasn't happy.

I came home 4 years ago to get married and had every intention of returning to my life and career in Australia but then anchors went down. I started to realize what was truly important. It wasn't money, it wasn't material things. It was family and true friends those which were rooted in Donaghmore. I said to myself, I'm going to do something I really love doing. So I started to think, what do I really love, I love food! I love team work. I love being part of a fun environment. I love my family. I wanted to bring all these elements together so I opened the café "Moon and Back". I didn't let anything or anyone stand in the way of this little dream. I asked people for their help, I started to form a great team and now I go to work every day excited to see who I'll meet, what conversations I'll have and who I can help feel a little less lonely today.

This courage was instilled in me by my family and this wonderful school. This school created my foundation, which helped me achieve all these things to date. It has given me the following fundamental skills needed in life: a strong work ethic; a willingness to learn from others; excellent organisational skills; good manners and an appreciation of the importance of friendship.

The teachers in this great school were there to help me, to nurture me and to guide me. As a student of Donaghmore, they want you to exceed expectations; they are on your team, they want you to win because, good results mean better life chances for you. Without these teachers we wouldn't have structure, deadlines, manners, patience and pride. 5 things which are imperative in the real world. I can say whole-heartedly that my time here in Donaghmore Convent was some of the best days of my life.

The friends that I made here over the seven years are still a pivotal part of my life. Some through football, some through being in 8R together right up to A-Level and some from my days in the choir.

My advice to you all – "in life all you truly need is to be kind to people." A motto I learnt from the Daughters of the Cross "Be Kind, Be Kind, Be Kind" and a motto I still live by to this day.



*Elanna Arthurs*





# PAST PUPIL TESTIMONIES

My name is Joseph McConnell and I am a proud past pupil of St. Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore.

I began my education at Roan St. Patrick's Primary School Eglish and after seven enjoyable years there I followed my older sister to St. Joseph's where I started in September 2008.

When I began "big school" I didn't know anyone as I was the only boy in my primary class to come to Donaghmore, however I settled in straight away and made lots of new life-long friends. I got involved in many of the extra-curricular activities that were on offer and I have fond memories of putting on the St Joseph's jerseys and representing the school's Gaelic football team with pride. I am so pleased to see the football in St Joseph's has gone from strength to strength and the teams are now competing at the highest level due to the hard work and commitment by all the staff and pupils.

After receiving my GCSE results, I decided to stay on at St Joseph's and complete my A-Levels.

I studied Maths, Physics Business Studies and P.E. in my AS year but decided to focus on just 3 subjects for A-Level, dropping PE and allowing me to put all my effort into my other A-Levels to ensure I received top grades.

Throughout my years in St. Joseph's I developed a keen interest in Maths and Physics. This love and passion for these subject led me to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. I started Ulster University (Jordanstown) and completed a four-year bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering which included a one-year industrial placement.

I was fortunate to complete my placement in CDE Cookstown which not only developed my knowledge and skills in the world of Engineering, but it was also a great starting point for my career.

On completing my final year in university, I graduated in the summer of 2018 and decided to spend a summer in Philadelphia playing football for Kevin Barry's GFC while also working in the construction industry in America.

After a fantastic summer I returned home in late August to begin my graduate role with Kiverco Recycling Plant in Brockagh as a Design Engineer.

Kiverco design and build recycling plants for the waste recycling industry and it has been both challenging and enjoyable working within the engineering team on their projects throughout the world.

Looking back on my time at St. Joseph's I have nothing but fond memories. The hard work and dedication of all the staff there is second to none. The school recognises that education is only a part of school life and offers so much more than just a traditional education. I have no doubt that my time in Donaghmore has shaped my career and I will always be thankful for that.



*Joseph McConnell*

# GENERAL

## NOTES





# GENERAL

## NOTES

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# GENERAL

## NOTES

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**Scoil Iósaef**  
*Domhnach Mór*



# St Joseph's Grammar School *Donaghmore*



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