

ST. MARY'S CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS



CREATING A CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITY





CONTENTS

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL	4
OUR HISTORY	5
SCHOOL ETHOS	6
STAFF AND PASTORAL CARE	8
TRANSITION	10
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	14
LEARNING	18
THE CURRICULUM	20
CAREERS	24
SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES	25



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Mrs. Siobhan Kelly *BEd, MEd, PQH (NI)*



As Principal of St. Mary's Christian Brothers Grammar School, I am delighted that you are taking time to read our prospectus and get a flavour of life in St Mary's.

St. Mary's was founded by the Christian Brothers in 1866 and this proud tradition of excellence in teaching and learning continues to permeate through the life of the school. We are mindful of this history and heritage and value the legacy that has been entrusted to us by the Christian Brothers. The school is located in West Belfast against the backdrop of Hannahstown Hill, on a spacious and attractive site, comprising of both traditional learning spaces and extensive sporting facilities.

As a Catholic Grammar School we offer quality education built on a foundation of strong Christian values that have been established at home. We are guided by the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter (ERST) and ethos,

nurturing faith and Christian Spirituality, encouraging our pupils to be caring, confident and independent young men. This Edmund Rice ethos underpins all aspects of our pupils' education and experiences making the school a welcoming one. Our pupils are happy, safe and encouraged to work hard to achieve success.

High quality, effective learning and teaching is at the centre of all that we do so that each pupil realises his full potential and develops transferable skills to prepare him for adulthood. The curriculum on offer fully meets the Entitlement Framework for Northern Ireland. Staff work hard to make sure that our pupils are focussed and engaged in their learning and develop positive attitudes to study.

Examination outcomes at both GCSE and A Level are of a consistently high standard. Our pupils are supported and challenged by our experienced and dedicated staff to achieve both in class and in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. This means that our pupils experience outstanding success across their education. Parents and guardians work as partners encouraging, supporting and getting involved in their son's education. We are confident that our pupils will leave here as young men who have achieved excellence, can be leaders in their chosen career, making a valuable contribution to their local communities and the wider world.

As Principal, I hope you enjoy reading our prospectus. We know that you have high aspirations for your son and we regard it as a privilege to be part of this journey. We look forward in anticipation of working with you and together we will enable your son to fully realise his potential as a St. Mary's pupil.

SIOBHAN KELLY
Principal





OUR HISTORY

St. Mary's is an Edmund Rice school. It is inspired by the vision of Edmund Rice to create school communities dedicated to the pursuit of excellence in teaching and learning, and which cultivate Gospel-based values.

Most Rev. Dr. Dorrian, Bishop of Down and Connor, invited the Irish Christian Brothers to Belfast in 1866. Four Brothers arrived in Belfast on 3rd November and took up residence at 26 Regent Street. On 12th November 1866, St. Mary's opened its doors and over three hundred students enrolled on the first day. In 1868 the Bishop asked the Brothers to open a second school, St. Patrick's, Donegall Street. Further expansion took place with the opening of the Oxford Street School in 1874.

From the beginning, all three schools provided primary and secondary education. However, in 1924 it was decided to build a completely separate secondary school and a site was purchased in Barrack Street. St. Mary's was opened in 1929. With the population explosion of the 1960s, this site proved totally inadequate and it was decided to build a new Grammar School on the Glen Road which opened in 1968. We now cater for over 1200 pupils. To facilitate junior students, from north, south and east Belfast, junior classes were still held in St. Mary's Barrack Street until 1998.

1866

1929

1968

SCHOOL ETHOS **CORE VALUES**



Our core values, decided by our pupils and staff, are:

EQUALITY, RESPECT AND TRUST.

At St. Mary's everything we do as a school community seeks to continue the work and vision of Blessed Edmund and his religious congregation.

- We cater for young people from a diverse range of backgrounds.
- We recognise the uniqueness of every student and seek to build upon their God-given talents and abilities.
- We fully subscribe to the holistic vision expressed in the five key elements of the ERST Charter.

THE ERST CHARTER IN ACTION

NURTURING FAITH, CHRISTIAN SPIRITUALITY AND GOSPEL-BASED VALUES

At St Mary's, we

- Provide and develop a Catholic education that cultivates a living faith.
- Educate our young people in Gospel-based values.

PROMOTING PARTNERSHIP

At St Mary's, we

- Promote inclusiveness, mutual respect and the development of the school as a community where personal growth is facilitated.
- Strive to develop meaningful and engaging relationships within the school, in our local community and in our global outreach endeavours.

EXCELLING IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

At St Mary's, we

- Have high expectations of our pupils.
- Create an orderly, safe and positive learning environment which enables the holistic development of every pupil.
- Review, evaluate and assess our progress.
- Engage with best educational practice as a means of school improvement.
- Challenge our pupils and support them in achieving their true potential.

CREATING A CARING SCHOOL COMMUNITY

At St Mary's, we

- Recognise the uniqueness of every member.
- Build relationships and foster the sense of care, compassion and community that characterised Jesus' life.
- Encourage school involvement and the development of the person.
- Strive to live by Christian values and encourage others to stand in solidarity with those who are powerless, vulnerable and marginalised.

INSPIRING TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP

At St Mary's, we

- Believe that partnership between school and home is essential.
- Encourage leadership and responsibility amongst our pupils
- Encourage pupils to play an active part in the prefect system and student council.

Our hope is that the pupils we engage with today will play a leading role in and make a worthwhile contribution to the society of tomorrow. Our hope is that they will use their skills and talents to work for justice in the wider world.



STAFF AND PASTORAL CARE



St Mary's has very clear and effective staffing structures:

- The Principal
- Vice Principal (Pastoral) and Vice Principal (Curriculum)
- Senior Leadership Team (Heads of School for KS3, KS4 and KS5, SENCo)
- Year Heads and Heads of Departments
- Form Teachers
- Subject Teachers

Year Heads and Form Teachers liaise with the relevant Head of School to ensure the pastoral welfare of our pupils. Heads of Departments are responsible for the teaching and learning in their departments.

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care is at the heart of our school. We provide a caring, supportive environment in which pupils are nurtured and allowed to develop their unique talents. We celebrate the diversity of our pupils and their place in our school community.

ALL TEACHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PASTORAL AND ACADEMIC GROWTH OF OUR PUPILS.

We have a strong team of Classroom Assistants, Study Supervisors and Learning Support Tutors.

Our administrative and ancillary staff complete our school community.

THE FORM TEACHER

All pupils are placed in a form class.

The Form Teacher is an important person in your son's academic and pastoral journey through St Mary's and is a key point of contact for parents.

Your son's form teacher:

- Meets with the form class each morning
- Monitors the well-being of each pupil in the form class
- Supports and encourages each pupil to achieve his academic potential
- Monitors behaviour and attendance

- Explores the Careers and Personal Development Programmes with the form class during the weekly form period.

Year Group assemblies, led by the Year Heads, are held weekly.

Form Teachers remain with the same Form Class throughout Key Stage 3 (Years 8-10), allowing strong relationships to be established. To enhance continuity further, your son's Year Head remains with the Year Group from Years 8-12 and is the key figure in tracking your son's progress. We encourage parents to engage in positive partnership with our pastoral team to ensure that your son is supported during his time at St Mary's.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICE IN ST MARY'S

At St Mary's, we are committed to using restorative practices to complement our Positive Behaviour Policy. A restorative approach places an emphasis upon the ownership of both the problem and the solution lying with the key parties involved in the situation. Furthermore, it puts relationships at the heart of the process when resolving conflict or addressing behaviour.



“

Teachers are always willing to help you.

Cameron, Year 8

”

“

Teachers are the best thing about this school.

Declan, Year 12

”

“

My teachers motivate and inspire me.

Odhran, Year 11

”

TRANSITION FROM **PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The transition into Post-Primary Education is an exciting and significant event in the life of your child. It can also be a daunting time for pupils and parents. New subjects will be studied, the school day will be very different to what your son has experienced at Primary School and new relationships will have to be fostered with a new set of peers and teachers. At St Mary's we provide a full and varied Induction Programme to guide your son as he embarks on this new journey.

- The initial Year 8 Induction Programme takes place in late August before classes commence. Pupils get to get to know their Form Teacher, form class, meet senior pupils, staff and learn about life in St Mary's.
- The Edmund Rice Camp provides lots of opportunities for pupils to participate in fun activities which require team work.
- The Induction meeting at the beginning of term provides an opportunity for Year 8 parents to meet the pastoral team who will be working with their sons.
- Subject teachers escort Year 8 classes to their next lesson in the first week of school.
- Senior prefects are assigned to each Year 8 class in the first weeks as an additional support network.
- Each Year 8 class goes on retreat in the first term.
- The Year 8 Mass is an opportunity to welcome our new pupils into our school community and recognise the vision of Edmund Rice.
- Careers and Personal Development Programmes are followed in the weekly form period.
- ERST awards are presented to the pupils who have embodied the spirit of the different aspects of the ERST charter throughout their first year at St Mary's.

“
***I am really enjoying St Mary's
and have made so many new
friends.***
Odhran, Year 8”

“
***I like having lots of different
teachers and being able to
study new subjects.***
Caolan, Year 8”



“

I'm really glad I joined St Mary's. My teachers care about me. I've made some amazing friends and I am enjoying being able to learn so many new things.

Caoimhin, Year 8

”





YEAR 11

Transition from KS3 to KS4 is another milestone in your son's life. As in Year 8, your son will move into a new form class and will be following a new, tailored curriculum.

- Year 11 Induction.
- Year 11 retreats.
- An Induction meeting is held for all parents of Year 11 pupils. This provides them with the opportunity to meet the new pastoral team who will be looking after their sons. They will have the opportunity to meet the school's Career's Adviser too.
- Careers meetings and study skills sessions will be offered during Year 11 to support your son.
- Careers and Personal Development Programmes are explored in the weekly Form Period.

YEAR 13

Our senior pupils are an important part of our school community. The transition to KS5 can be a very different experience. Pupils will study either three or four subjects only. They have several study periods each week during which they have to manage their workload effectively. The Pastoral Team and your son's subject teachers will help guide him through this new experience.

- The Year 13 Induction Programme comprises of a variety of sessions conducted by both our own staff and external agencies.
- An Induction meeting is held at the beginning of Term 1 for the parents of Year 13 pupils.
- Throughout the year, pupils can make appointments to meet with the Careers Adviser.
- A separate, supervised study is provided for Year 13 pupils.
- Careers meetings with outside agencies, workshops and study skills programmes are provided throughout the year.

“

I have developed important friendships during my time at St Mary's. As you progress in the school, you foster closer relationships with the teachers which add to the positive experience we have as pupils here and make lessons even more enjoyable.

Rian, Year 13

”



PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

We recognise that sometimes pupils need extra support for a wide range of reasons.

- A counsellor from Family Works is assigned to the school two days per week.
- Our highly trained AEN team work with pupils who need some extra support.
- Mental health and resilience is addressed at assemblies and in the pastoral programme.
- Fundraising for mental health charities.
- Drinks machines in the school only dispense water.
- Facilities to play table tennis, basketball, hurling, football and handball are provided at lunch time to encourage our pupils to engage in exercise.

- Our fitness suite is open to older pupils.
- A range of extra-curricular activities are provided throughout the year to engage pupils in exercise and team work.
- Breakfast club.

WORKING WITH PARENTS

We recognise the importance of developing strong partnerships with the parents/guardians of our pupils as we work together to support pupils' learning and involvement in school life.

We aim to engage parents through:

- Annual Parent-Teacher meetings
- Induction meetings at key transition points in your son's school journey (Years 8, 11, 12, 13)
- Year 10 Options meeting for parents
- Year 12 Options meeting for parents

- Year 14 UCAS meeting for parents
- Home/School Agreement
- The use of the SIMs app
- The Spring Concert
- Leavers' Mass
- Senior Prize Giving
- School website, FaceBook page and Twitter

PARENTS TEACHERS AND FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S ASSOCIATION

The PTFA is a vibrant group of parents, teachers and friends of St Mary's who wish to contribute to the life of the school. While there are fundraising events organised throughout the school year, this is not the sole aim of the Association which strives to enhance the St. Mary's experience for the boys and their families.



“
Having joined St Mary's as a Year 13 pupil, I can honestly say that I have never been made to feel more welcome anywhere. The teachers are amazing and incredibly supportive. My peers have been genuinely encouraging and friendly. I am delighted to be a Simmarian.
 Corey, Year 13
 ”



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

GET INVOLVED!

We encourage all our pupils to become active members of our school community and involve themselves in the rich extra-curricular life of the school. There is something to suit everyone!

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The House System encourages pupils to work together as a team to earn points for positive behaviour and high-quality work in the classroom. Pupils are recognised for their extra-curricular contribution, attendance and punctuality. Grounded in the values of Edmund Rice, pupils develop a sense of belonging and responsibility. The winning house receives prizes each half-term. House names are based on rivers of Ireland.

WHOLE SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

Pupil voice is very important to St Mary's and pupils are encouraged to have their say in school matters that are important to them. The Whole School Student Council has representatives from each Year Group. Each class has a

council representative and every opinion is heard. In the Whole School Council, every student can have a say in the school matters that are important to him. Members of the council wear a green tie to denote their membership of the council.

SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY GROUP

This group is made up of an ever-growing number of our pupils who are interested in making a difference in their local community. They truly embody the values of the ERST Charter and are living examples of the values we wish to instill in St Mary's pupils.

At St. Mary's we have a strong sense of social justice and we are acutely aware of the increasing levels of poverty in our community. We have a long-standing tradition of supporting struggling families in our locality through the Saint Vincent de



Paul Society and our annual Catholic Caring appeal. Christmas is a time for joy and celebration. Unfortunately, for many families it is a time of sadness, fear and uncertainty. Our Christmas hamper and toy appeals help to ease this uncertainty for many families as well as instilling a sense of humility in our students who contribute so generously to both appeals.

In addition to our Saint Vincent de Paul and Catholic Caring appeals, the Social Justice Advocacy Group has been a very successful initiative since its introduction in 2016. The group is largely based around supporting local hostels for the homeless, organising food collections for the local food banks and raising awareness about the reality of homelessness in Belfast. Over the past number of years, the students have had several opportunities to engage in discussions with MLAs to encourage further work to be done to alleviate the homelessness crisis in Northern Ireland. The projects supported by the students at St. Mary's are firmly rooted in gospel values and the social teaching of the Church.

ECO CLUB

“
At St Mary's there are lots of opportunities for you to discover what you are good at.
 ”
 Patrick, Year 10

The award-winning Eco club was established in 2016 by a group of pupils who were keen to promote environmental issues in school. There are ongoing projects with Belfast City Council, Belfast Hills Partnership and NI Water. These look at issues such as litter, biodiversity and water as a resource. The Eco Club is currently developing a growing area in the school and working with the RSPB to improve habitats for endangered species of birds. The club meets once a fortnight at lunchtime and is open to all year groups.

HANDBALL

Handball has been recently reintroduced into St. Mary's and has proven to be extremely popular among our pupils. Games are played every break and lunchtime, with pupils from Year 8 to 11 competing against each other.

FRENCH CLUB

This is a specific club for Year 8 pupils. Pupils get to practise what they have learned in class as well as improving their skills in the language through games, songs and other activities. They get the opportunity to find out about French culture.

COMPUTER CLUB

Pupils from KS3 work on Educational Minecraft and computer programming.

MUSIC CLUBS

The Music department offers a range of clubs for different year groups and interests: Music Technology for KS3; Rock band for KS4 and KS5 pupils; and the Wind band and String group are suitable for all year groups.

ZAMBIA
IMMERSION PROJECT

“Whatever you do for the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you do for me.”

[Matthew 25:40]

St. Mary’s CBGS Zambian Immersion Project is part of the Christian Brothers’ Developing World Immersion Programme through which people from Ireland go to the developing World to work with some of the most marginalized and deprived communities in the world. Since 2003, our Senior students and staff have gone to Zambia to work in a number of slums in Lusaka, as well as supporting community projects in more remote villages.

Our projects include:

- Orphanages.
- Schools.
- Young women’s shelters.
- Income-generating programmes.
- Construction and agriculture.
- Working with HIV/AIDS sufferers.

The St. Mary’s Immersion Project enables our volunteers to form real, meaningful relationships with the people in Zambia. It empowers us to highlight issues of poverty and injustices such as racism, exclusion, poverty, homelessness, HIV/AIDS and discrimination in a most meaningful and practical way.

EDMUND RICE INTERNATIONAL (ERI)
YOUTH AMBASSADORS:

The ERI Youth Ambassador project aims to link Edmund Rice schools in their efforts to build a more just, sustainable and compassionate world, where all experience full enjoyment of their human rights. They will also have the opportunity to visit Geneva in January / February to see how Social Justice and Human Rights Advocacy takes place at International governmental level, which will include a visit to the United Nations.

OTHER CLUBS INCLUDE:

Hurling	Basketball
Gaelic Football	Creative Writing Club
Drama club	Science club
Soccer	Orchestra

Lots of further extra-curricular activities and competitions run throughout the school year. These are promoted during Assemblies and details are made available on Year Heads’ notice boards.

Revision classes are held throughout the year across many departments.

There is supervised study after school four days a week.





“

If you like sports, you will love St Mary's. We have so many to choose from such as Hurling, Gaelic, Soccer, Swimming, Basketball, Water Polo and Handball!

Matthew, Year 11

”

A SCHOOL THAT SUPPORTS LEARNING

In St Mary's we are committed to meeting the individual learning needs of all pupils. We recognise the important relationship between high quality pastoral support and academic achievement, therefore we value the working partnerships which exist within the school and those established with parents and external agencies.

Under the direction of the Learning Support Co-ordinator, an experienced team of classroom assistants and specialist Literacy and Numeracy Support Tutors provide a range of in class and small group interventions to assist pupils, including those with identified additional educational needs.

We recognise that some pupils might struggle with aspects of the core subjects English and Mathematics and might need some additional assistance. Baseline assessments will be used to identify pupils who might benefit from additional support for these subjects. Pupils will be involved in their own personal target setting and will follow a specific programme designed to help them improve their current position.

SHARED EDUCATION

Shared Education is the education together of students from different religious and/or socio-economic backgrounds. It focuses on educational and reconciliation outcomes, enabling students to appreciate and celebrate diversity whilst enhancing their own knowledge and experiences.

Shared Education promotes a culture of mutual understanding and inter-relationship through significant, purposeful and regular engagement and interaction in learning between pupils from different backgrounds and between schools and their communities.



In St Mary's we strive to meet the needs of all of our students by:

- **Developing partnerships with feeder primary schools to provide a smooth transition to post-primary.**
- **Providing literacy and numeracy support programmes delivered by specialist staff.**
- **Devising and reviewing Personalised Learning Plans in partnership with parents, pupils, school staff and other external professionals.**
- **Tracking pupil progress and making informed use of data to help pupils evaluate, target set and realise their full potential.**
- **Promoting effective study skills.**
- **Providing individualised feedback which enables pupil progression.**
- **Working with external agencies and accessing available support.**
- **Providing an in-school counselling service delivered by FamilyWorks.**
- **Celebrating the achievements of pupils through Year Group assemblies and our established House System.**
- **Valuing the voices of our pupils and engaging in regular consultation, especially through the Student Council forum.**
- **Providing staff with opportunities for continued professional development to ensure we best meet the needs of all pupils.**
- **Maintaining regular communication with parents.**
- **Providing a safe, supportive and nurturing environment for the entire school community.**



THE CURRICULUM

At St Mary's we strive to provide each pupil with the opportunity to develop his potential. The school offers a balanced curriculum at each Key Stage which meets the individual needs of our pupils and which is in keeping with our school ethos.

KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 8-10)

Pupils follow a broad curriculum. Data from standardised assessments conducted each year, help us to ensure your son's individual needs are being met. Classes are set throughout Key Stage 3 for Mathematics. It is possible for a pupil to transfer to a different Mathematics class based on his progress.

- Year 10 pupils sit a GCSE Maths module at the end of Year 10.
- An Enrichment Programme for Literacy and Numeracy is delivered to all KS3 pupils.
- Pupils from Irish-Medium Primary Schools, who opt to study Irish, sit GCSE Irish in Year 10. This allows them to progress to the study of an additional GCSE in Gaelge at KS4.

Art	Drama	English	Geography
I.T	Mathematics	Music	P.E
History	Religious Education	Science	Technology
Learning for Life & Work (Citizenship / Employability / Home Economics / Personal Development); Skills Builder			
A range of Languages* to be studied in Year 8 from: French / Gaeilge / Irish / Spanish *At the end of Year 8, pupils must pick one of their Languages to study for the remainder of KS3.			





KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 11-12)

Key Stage 4 is a significant period in your son's education. We ensure that the subjects offered to your son are tailored for his needs. Data from standardised assessments at Key Stage 3, alongside tracking data from the 4 key assessment points in Years 9 and 10, will inform how we adapt the curriculum to help your son achieve success at Key Stage 4.

We aim to provide your son with a curriculum which will provide appropriate and viable pathways for transition into Key Stage 5 at St Mary's and then into further education or employment.

CORE SUBJECTS

We stream pupils at KS4 to ensure that we are meeting each pupil's academic needs and provide him with opportunities to achieve success.

THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS ARE COMPULSORY:

GCSE English Language, GCSE Mathematics, GCSE Single/Double Award Science, GCSE Learning for Life and Work (LLW) or a Level 2 Certificate in Preparation for Adult Life. Pupils will complete GCSE Religious Studies or a Level 2 Certificate in Personal Effectiveness. All pupils are provided with non-exam PE lessons. Timetabled Careers periods are also provided.

FURTHER OPTIONS INCLUDE (GCSE UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED):

Art and Design	English Literature	Irish
BTEC Sport (Level 2)	French	Media Studies
Contemporary Craft	Further Mathematics	Moving Image Arts
OCN Certificate in IT Applications (Level 2)	Gaeilge	Music
Business and Communication Systems	Geography	Spanish
Business Studies	Government and Politics	Sports Studies
Digital Technology (Multimedia/Programming)	History	OCN Skills for Business (Level 2)
Drama	Home Economics	Technology



KEY STAGE 5 (YEARS 13-14)

Senior pupils are provided with a wide variety of subject choices at Key Stage 5. All courses are delivered on site. All pupils must study as minimum of three AS/A2 subjects, or the equivalent. A time-tabled Careers Programme ensures that our pupils are well-prepared for the opportunities that they can pursue after post-KS5. The following subjects are offered:

Applied Business (Level 3)	English Literature	Media Studies
Art and Design	Level 3 Applied Business Qualification	Moving Image Arts
Biology	French	Music
Business Studies	Geography	Physics
Chemistry	Government and Politics	Professional Business Services
Computer Studies	History	Religion
Design and Technology	Irish	Spanish
Drama	BTEC IT (Single Award & Double Award)	BTEC Sport (Level 3)
Digital Technology	Mathematics and Further Mathematics	Health and Life Science





PERSONALISED LEARNING PROGRAMME

The aim of the Personalised Learning Programme is to enhance our understanding of the academic potential of our pupils.

- We can help pupils to improve their performance through systematic intervention.
- We aim to identify as early as possible pupils who are at risk of underperforming and provide appropriate support for each pupil.
- All pupils sit standardised tests each year. This information is used to tailor appropriate support for our pupils.
- There are 4 assessment points (ARP1, ARP2, ARP3, ARP4) each year with formal tests being taken at Christmas and in the summer term.
- Subject Teachers, Form Teachers, Year Heads and Heads of Department are all involved in the tracking of our pupils' achievements.
- At KS3, pupils are set for Mathematics to ensure their individual needs are met in this subject.
- At KS4, the curriculum is tailored to meet the individual needs of each pupil.

CAREERS



At St Mary's we place a strong emphasis on the provision of effective careers education, information, advice and guidance. Our careers programmes for each key stage are pupil-centred and progressive, with the overall objective of supporting our pupils to develop self-awareness, career awareness and career management skills so that they are equipped to make informed decisions about their future pathways.

Our full-time Careers Adviser provides support for St Mary's students at all key stages and particularly at key transition points. All pupils have free access to professional, impartial and confidential careers advice and guidance. We aim to work in partnership with parents and carers to ensure that they are provided with the information they need to support their sons in various decision-making processes.

Careers education begins in Year 8 with the Employability strand of Learning for Life and Work (LLW) supported with

a complementary programme of careers lessons delivered to each year group during form period. These lessons and activities provide the opportunity for pupils to work on employability skills and begin to develop their career ideas and plans. This pattern continues throughout Key Stage 3 and 4, with an emphasis in Years 10 and 12 on supporting pupils through the GCSE and A level options processes. At Key Stage 5, timetabled Careers classes assist with preparation for various post-18 pathways including university, further education and higher level apprenticeships.

Our careers programmes also provide the opportunity for St Mary's pupils to:

- Attend internal and external careers talks and events specific to their age and needs and delivered by a variety of higher education, further education, training and apprenticeship providers together with a range of key employers.

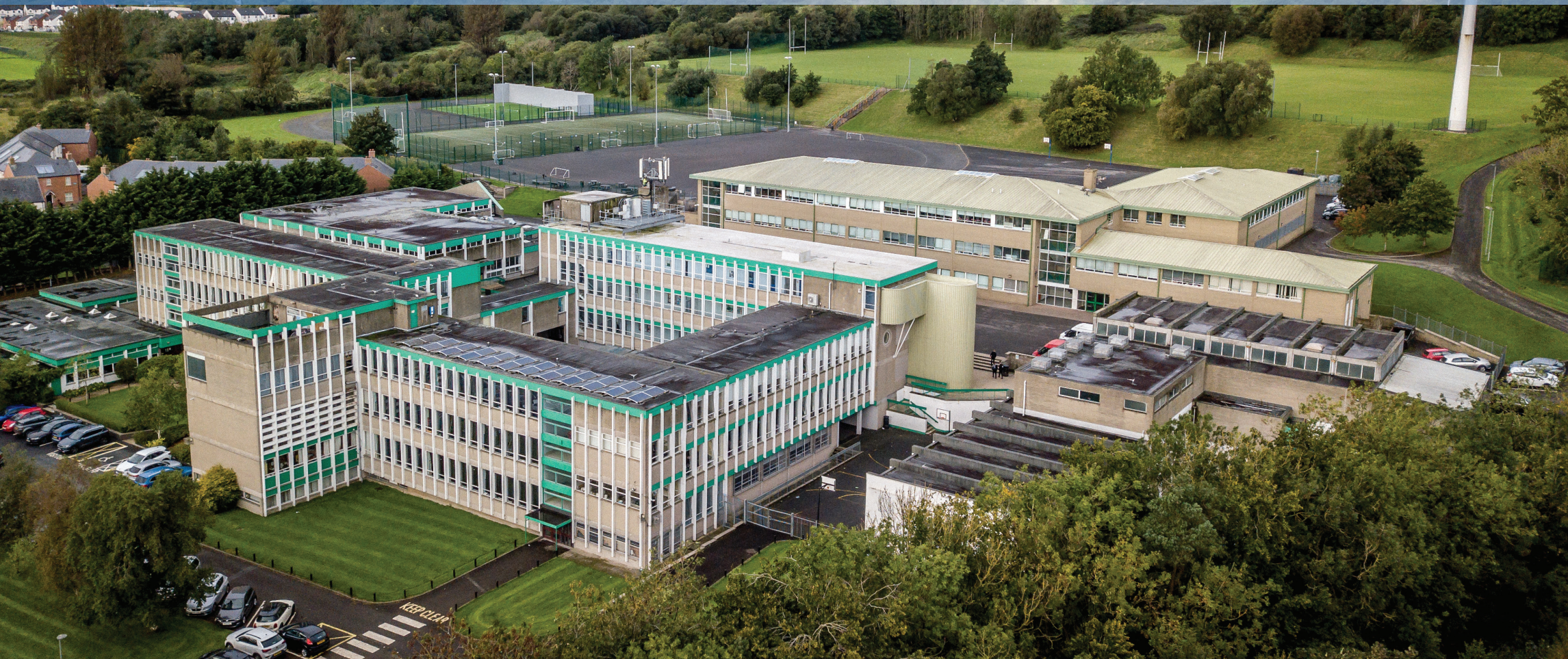
- Research post-16 and post-18 pathways and receive guidance and support in the completion of related application processes.
- Develop interview skills and have the opportunity to participate in mock interviews with the school's Careers Adviser, employers and St Mary's alumni.
- Receive a one-to-one interview in Year 12 with dedicated careers advisers from the DfE Careers Service.
- Engage in a work experience programme in Year 13 which is directly related to their career path.
- Attend Open Days in local and national universities and colleges.

THE CAREERS LIBRARY IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS FOR RESEARCH AND CONSULTATION.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

St Mary's has a wide range of facilities to provide a welcoming environment for the school community. There are specialist rooms for each subject area.

- Science, Art, Technology, RE and HE are all housed in the ER Building.
- Other departments are located in the main school building.
- A 200-seat lecture theatre.
- Separate study facilities with full-time supervisors are provided for Years 13 and 14. Extended study hours are offered throughout the year.
- IT facilities.
- A drama theatre.
- Music facilities include tuition rooms, 2 practice rooms and a sound recording studio.
- The Assembly Hall is used for morning assemblies, prize giving and school productions.
- Oratory.
- PE facilities include a gym, fitness suite, spin studio and swimming pool.
- Handball court.
- 3 grass pitches including a full-size Championship GAA pitch.
- Flood-lit 3G pitch and an all-weather pitch.
- Basketball court.
- Outside table tennis area and basketball nets can be used by all students at lunchtime.
- Outdoor picnic facilities.
- The school canteen is in the main school building and provides a range of healthy meals and snacks for the students at break and lunch.
- Students can attend the Breakfast Club each morning.
- New Sports Building planned.



“

Sport is really important to me and my coaches push me to achieve my potential during training sessions. They ensure everyone is working together as a team.”

Shea, Year 11

”





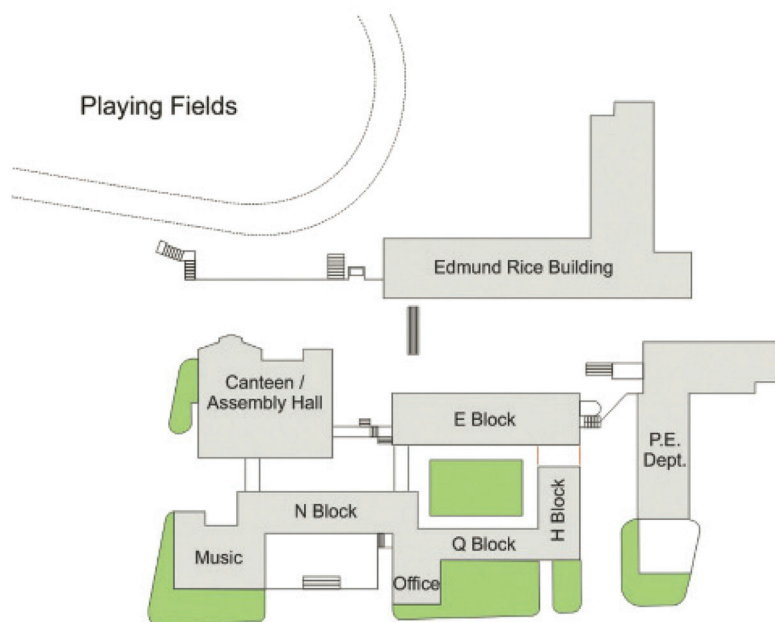
*O God, we thank you for the life of Blessed Edmund Rice.
He opened his heart to Christ present in those oppressed
by poverty and injustice.*

*May we follow his example of faith and generosity.
Grant us the courage and compassion of Blessed
Edmund as*

*we seek to live lives of love and service.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.*



EQUALITY RESPECT TRUST



SCHOOL GROUNDS



SCHOOL DIRECTIONS

**ST. MARY'S
CHRISTIAN BROTHERS'
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

147a Glen Road,
Belfast, BT11 8NR

 facebook.com/stmaryscbgsbelfast

 [@stmarysscbs](https://twitter.com/stmarysscbs)

Tel: 028 9029 4000

www.stmaryscbgs.com

Fax: 028 9029 4009



 INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Edmund Rice Schools Trust