



# St Malachy's High School

Castlewellan

Ard scoil Naomh Maolmhaoldhóg Caisleán Uidhílin



SCHOOL  
PROSPECTUS

# Your Future Starts Here





*A Friendly Atmosphere*

**WELCOME**



St Malachy's High School

# Principal's Welcome

Welcome, Céad Mile Fáilte, Witaj.

**Thank you for your interest in St Malachy's High School and for taking the time to read our Prospectus. As the Acting Principal of St Malachy's, it is with a sense of pride that I present to you an insight into the life of our vibrant and successful learning community. I trust that it will assist you in making a well-informed choice for your child's post primary education.**



Choosing the right school for your son or daughter is a very important decision. Feel rest assured that in St Malachy's we will care for, nurture and support your child to achieve their full potential and fulfil their hopes and dreams.

As an all-ability co-educational Catholic school, we are inspired by the Gospel values and the Spirit of Christ. Our school welcomes students from all faith traditions and none. We are committed to providing educational opportunities that enable our students to grow and develop into mature young adults who will confidently take their place in society and make a positive contribution to the Common Good. As a truly inclusive school, St Malachy's welcomes and values all young people equally and ensures that all students are fully supported to reach their full potential through high quality learning and teaching.

The corner stone of our school is the staff, community and parents/ guardians who in the triangulation of relationships work together to create an educational journey that brings about academic success, improved life experiences and employment opportunities.

I am privileged to be Acting Principal of St Malachy's where there is such a supportive, dedicated and highly motivated staff who are determined to provide a meaningful and purposeful education for your son or daughter. There exists within St Malachy's a wealth of expertise that promotes that special relationship that is so essential for real learning and success to happen.

It is no accident that the education and training inspectorate (ETI), when they inspected our school in October 2017, once again deemed the quality of education provided by this school as very good. We are meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of our pupils and demonstrate our high capacity for sustained self-improvement in the interests of all the learners.

Our outstanding pastoral care was also highlighted with ETI noting that:

*"The school has a caring, inclusive ethos and a strong commitment to the welfare of both pupils and staff. A key strength of the outstanding pastoral provision is the planned,*

*strategic links between pastoral and academic elements of school life, facilitated by the pastoral heads of school".*

We are delighted to offer students the full range of educational choice through the Entitlement Framework in a vibrant learning and teaching community that is situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty. Students have access to state-of-the-art facilities that include an oratory, numerous ICT suites, drama theatre, library, gymnasium, sports-hall, specialist classrooms, laboratories, art and photography studios, design and technology workshops as well as music tutorial rooms. Our Irish-medium Stream, continues to grow and develop. It provides the option for IME and enables further immersion and enrichment for students in terms of Irish language and culture. IME enriches the experiences of the whole school community.

We also provide a rich and varied extracurricular programme which allows our students to develop beyond the classroom. We are very proud of our student's achievements in all areas of school life.

St Malachy's is above all else, a happy school, a place where students are expected to work hard and where they also find friendship, enrichment and fun. St Malachy's is an amazing place for children to learn and I know it will continue to grow from strength to strength not only because of the amazing staff and the supportive parents but mainly because of the fantastic young people which it serves. As a sustainable, all-ability school at the fore front of education for over 60 years, we face the future with great confidence. It would be a privilege to work closely with you the parents, to ensure your child realises his or her dreams over the next seven years.

I trust that you will find our Prospectus informative and useful. If you require any further information, please contact the school by telephone or email. With best wishes for your child's future happiness and success.

Mrs Eileen O'Hara  
ACTING PRINCIPAL

# General School Information



<b>School Name</b>	St Malachy's High School
<b>Address</b>	3 Dublin Road, Castlewellan Co. Down BT31 9AG
<b>Telephone Number</b>	028 437 78255
<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.stmalachys.org.uk">www.stmalachys.org.uk</a>
<b>E-mail</b>	<a href="mailto:info@stmalachys.castlewellan.ni.sch.uk">info@stmalachys.castlewellan.ni.sch.uk</a>
<b>Principal</b>	Mrs Orla O'Neill, B.Sc. (Hons) PGCE PQH(NI)
<b>Chairman of the Board of Governors</b>	Mr Michael McKibben
<b>Enrolment Number</b>	950
<b>Admission Number</b>	164
<b>Number of staff</b>	Teaching 69
<b>Support Staff</b>	85
<b>School Type</b>	Catholic Maintained Co-educational, all-ability 11-19, High School with a Learning Support Centre and an Irish Medium Education Stream.

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St Malachy's High School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all learners.

**School Inspectorate**



# School Mission Statement

**It is the mission of St Malachy's High School to liberate students to achieve their full potential and awaken within them a sense of their dignity and worth.**

Each student is recognised as unique and equal to all others irrespective of intellectual ability, emotional, social or physical disability, gender, creed or class. In partnership with the home, parish and community we seek to educate students so that they can achieve their fullest potential as life-long learners, confident in their Catholic values. Students are given opportunities to reflect on their personal relationship with God and to deepen their faith through: Prayer; Liturgy and the celebration of the Sacraments; Community and worldwide outreach.

## St Malachy's Provides:

- A caring and supportive child-centred environment;
- A broad, balanced and relevant curriculum designed to equip students for the challenges of life;
- An extensive range of subject choices:
- Key Stage 3 (Years 8, 9 & 10) = 18 subjects
- Key Stage 4 (Years 11 & 12) = 28 subjects at GCSE Level
- Post-16 (Years 13 & 14) = 25 subjects at GCE A-Level/Level 3
- Support for students with special needs;
- A specialist unit for students requiring Learning Support (LSC);
- Supportive pastoral care provision;
- Well-developed links with local primary schools, parishes and the wider South Down community;
- An Irish Medium Education Stream.

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*St Malachy's High School is a great option for a new school! I was a little scared at the beginning because I came here on my own, but I made new friends easily. The other students in the school are really kind and will help you with whatever you need.*

**Poppy McGinnis Mallon - Year 8**

## At St Malachy's we aim to:

Be community inspired by the Spirit of Christ and rooted in the Gospel values of love, truth, justice, integrity, forgiveness and reconciliation;

Provide high-quality, holistic educational experiences and opportunities for all students, so that each can develop and achieve their full potential;

Create a nurturing, caring and stimulating teaching and learning environment for students and staff;

Promote a spirit of charity, social justice and concern for others that will lead to practical outreach and partnership to communities locally and globally;

Prepare students to lead fulfilling and purposeful lives which will contribute to the Common Good.



# Curriculum

## Key Stage 3 (Years 8, 9 & 10)

Students study the following subjects

An Ghaeilge

Art & Design

Business

Citizenship

Drama

Employability

English

Geography

Home Economics

History

ICT

Irish

Mathematics

Music

Personal & Social  
Development

Physical Education

Science

Spanish

Religious Education

Technology & Design

## Learning for Life & Work

Personal Development

Employability

Citizenship

## Key Stage 4 (Years 11 and 12)

Students study the following core subjects at GCSE level

English Language, Mathematics, Learning for Life & Work, Religious Education, Science (Single award).

In addition all students follow a non-exam course in Physical Education and choose from the following at GCSE:

Art & Design

Agriculture & Land Use

Biology

BTEC Business Studies

Chemistry

Computer Studies

Construction

CoPE (Certificate of  
Personal Effectiveness)

Child Care

Design & Technology

Drama

Double Award Science

English Literature

An Ghaeilge

Geography

History

Hospitality

ICT

Irish

Motor Vehicle Road

User Studies

Music

Occupational studies

Performance Skills

Physical education

Physics

Prince's Trust: Personal  
Development &  
Employability

Spanish

Health & Social Care

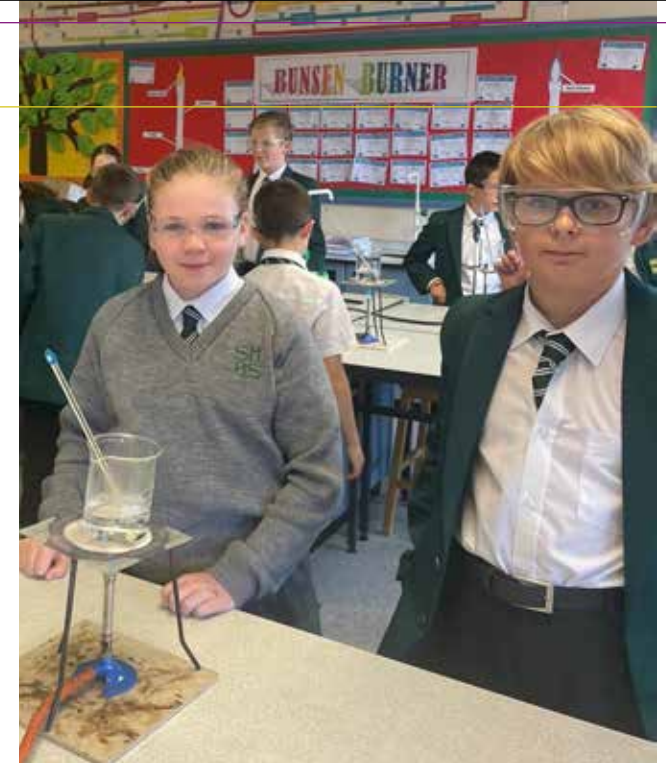
## Supervised Study

The school provides a supervised study facility in the school library at the following times:

**Monday - Friday:**  
9.00am - 9.30am

**Monday - Friday:**  
12.40pm - 1.10pm

**Monday - Thursday:**  
3.40pm - 4.30pm



## Homework

Homework is an integral part of the school's learning and teaching policy. The purpose of homework is to enhance the overall learning experience, raise achievement, improve motivation and develop the skill of becoming an independent learner. Homeworks are recorded in the 'Student Planner'. Parents are asked to support the school's homework strategy by monitoring and signing the 'Student Planner' and ensuring that homework tasks are completed on time.

# Curriculum

## Post-16

Sixth Form students are offered an extensive range of academic and applied subjects at BTEC National Award and Diploma, AGCE, AS and A2 Level. The subjects on offer at Advanced Level (AS & A2) are:

Sector	Post 16	Sector	Post 16
PERFORMING ARTS, MEDIA AND PUBLICATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Level Art &amp; Design</li> <li>BTEC Level 3 Music</li> <li>A Level Drama</li> <li>A Level Digital Photography</li> </ul>	LANGUAGES, LITERATURE & CULTURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Level English Literature</li> <li>Irish</li> <li>Spanish</li> </ul>
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND ENTERPRISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BTEC Level 3 Business Studies</li> </ul>	LEISURE, TRAVEL AND TOURISM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BTEC Level 3 Sport</li> <li>BTEC Level 3 Travel &amp; Tourism</li> </ul>
ENGINEERING & MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Level Design &amp; Technology</li> <li>BTEC Level 3 Construction</li> </ul>	PREPARATION FOR LIFE AND WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential Skills in Communication and Maths</li> <li>Careers &amp; Employability Skills</li> <li>Health &amp; Well-being</li> <li>Financial Management</li> </ul>
HEALTH, PUBLIC SECTOR AND CARE, RETAIL AND COMMERCIAL ENTERPRISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Level Health and Social Care</li> <li>Level 3 Public Services</li> </ul>	SCIENCE AND MATHS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Level Biology</li> <li>Chemistry</li> <li>Physics</li> <li>Applied Science</li> <li>Maths</li> </ul>
HISTORY AND THEOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Level History</li> <li>Religious Studies</li> </ul>	SOCIAL SCIENCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Level Sociology</li> <li>Geography</li> <li>Politics</li> </ul>
INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Level Applied ICT</li> </ul>	Only subjects with viable numbers will be delivered	

## Enrichment Courses/Opportunities

Careers

Financial Management

Health & Well-being

C.O.P.E

Personal & Social Development

## Careers and Employability

A comprehensive Careers Education programme is provided for all students starting in Year 8 with Education for Employability.

Class work, access to information technology sources, visits, conventions, speakers, practical experience and the involvement of the Careers Officer from the Department of Employment and Learning are used in the provision of this programme. Students have the opportunity to be involved with Young Enterprise to help develop business and entrepreneurial skills as well as key interview and presentational skills.

All students in Years 10 to 14 are involved in Personal Career Planning. This is a process which enables young people to make informed decisions in relation to career development and to act on these decisions.

Work Experience and work shadowing are available for all students in Years 11, 12, 13 & 14. Small group work is used for guidance and monitoring.



# Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care of the individual student is of paramount concern to us. At St Malachy's we aim to promote the physical, academic, social, moral and spiritual development of all our students and in doing so bring about self-discipline to help each student grow and develop into mature, well rounded individuals fully equipped to take their place in society.

Our staff seek to support each student individually and to develop their talents. Each student is at the core of what we are about as an educational community. A special induction programme for Year 8 students has been designed to assist with settling the students quickly and easily to become a valued member of our school community. Specially trained Sixth Form Mentors make a significant contribution to this induction programme.

## The Pastoral Care Ethos within St Malachy's is underpinned by the following strands:

### Positive Behaviour

We have three clear school rules: Be Ready, Be Respectful, Be Safe. When our students go 'Over & Above' these expectations they will be recognised, rewarded & celebrated.

### Attainment

The best pastoral care we can provide for our students is effective Learning and Teaching in order to ensure that each student achieves their academic and holistic potential

### Safeguarding

We continually strive to ensure that our school community is safeguarded at all times through raising awareness, instilling protocols and being proactive.

### Teamwork

St Malachy's is one big family and we pride ourselves on working together as a team in order to achieve successful student outcomes for over 60 years.

### Outside Agencies

We work very closely with a range of outside agencies who play a key role in the pastoral development of our students.

### Restorative Relationships

Our whole school community is built upon restorative relationships. We strive every day to create a positive learning environment for students to learn and staff to work.

### Attendance

Full attendance and punctuality are expected. These are essential for success at school and important habits to cultivate for the world of work.

### Leadership

We expect all our students to lead by example every day and fully embrace the pastoral ethos of our school. Our students are the heartbeat of our school and should play an important role in contributing to the culture of the school.





# Anti Bullying Policy

(A Positive Response to Bullying)

St Malachy's High School is a 'TELLING SCHOOL'. If something is wrong; if a student is unhappy or being bullied we tell it to a member of staff, Form Teacher, Subject Teacher, Year Head, Head of School, SMT, Vice Principal or the Principal.

## Aims of the Anti-Bullying Policy

St. Malachy's has devised an Anti-Bullying policy to:

- i. Make it clear for students, staff and parents that bullying is an unacceptable mode of behaviour;
- ii. Create a safe and secure environment where individuals can learn without feelings of anxiety and therefore fulfil their true potential;
- iii. Foster the importance of human relationships based upon respect, mutual understanding, empathy, sympathy and co-operation;
- iv. Emphasise the Christian value and ethos of 'love your neighbour'.

## Personal and Social Development

At St Malachy's a carefully prepared Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme is designed to help, guide, prepare, train and equip all our students to engage effectively in interpersonal relationships and daily living.

The general aim of the PSHE programme is to:

- Promote the all-round development of the students;
- Empower students to be effective learners;
- Assist them to become responsible members of society;
- Instil in students a sense of their dignity and selfworth and respect for the dignity and rights of others.
- Provide opportunities for students to work with many outside agencies to enrich the student experience such as NIFRS, PIPS, HSS, Familyworks, Daisy and AEP Services.

## Safeguarding

In accordance with DENI Child Protection Policy, St Malachy's High School has a duty of care to refer disclosures of a child protection nature to the appropriate statutory authorities. The following members of staff have specific responsibility for Safeguarding within St. Malachy's High School.



My favourite thing about St Malachys is getting to do subjects that I have not done before. My favourite subjects are PE and Technology because you get to make things and have fun! In PE you get to play football and basketball. If you enjoy sport, St Malachy's is the place to be!

Conor McCabe - 8C

### Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mr Mark Vernon

### Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection

Mrs. Kathryn McLarnon  
Senior Teacher  
Mrs. Eileen O'Hara  
Vice Principal

# Special Educational Needs

St Malachy's High School caters for students with a wide range of Special Educational Needs and we make all reasonable attempts to cater for the needs of any student who wishes to enrol with us. Whilst students with SEN are the shared responsibility for all staff, their provision is managed and co-ordinated by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo).

There are students with SEN in every year group and every class in the school, from those with Learning Difficulties in our Learning Support Centre to those studying for four 'A' Level examinations.

Students with statements in mainstream are placed in classes according to their individual ability levels. They have access to classroom assistant support; internal literacy and numeracy support and external outreach support from a range of different service providers. All students are encouraged to reach their own individual potential and, with appropriate careers guidance, the majority progress to further and higher education.

Students who have been identified with SEN (but do not have SEN statements) have access to our internal support

structures. These include students with Specific Literacy and Numeracy Difficulties, Sensory Impairments, Emotional Difficulties, Medical conditions etc.

We also aim to provide a high level of support for parents/guardians of our students as we believe that their success relies on the partnership that exists between home and school. All our students are treated as individuals and every effort is made to meet their needs in a caring, supportive learning and teaching environment.

Students with statements of SEN may be taught either in our Learning Support Centre or in mainstream, depending on the nature of their individual educational need.

## Learning Support Centre

The Learning Support Centre caters for statemented students with a range of difficulties in years 8 to 12. These students enjoy small teaching group settings and the Learning Support Centre is staffed by specialist teachers who are supported by a team of classroom assistants. In line with our school's policy for inclusion, these students attend The LSC for up to 50% of their timetable and are integrated with their mainstream classes for the remaining time. In collaboration with parents and teachers all LSC students in year 10 will be supported to carefully select the Key Stage 4 pathway most suited to their particular strengths and interests, from a wide range of GCSE subjects as well as more vocational pathways.

## Withdrawal Groups

Students in Years 8, 9 and 10 who have been identified as needing help with literacy or numeracy skills are withdrawn for extra support. This is done on the basis of prioritised need.



*“The pupils take pride in their school and express this through the manner in which they conduct and present themselves and through their achievements. They show respect for, and sensitivity towards, the needs of others, engaging in learning with enthusiasm, resilience and maturity”.*

**School Inspectorate**



# School Uniform / Appearance

All students at St.Malachy's are required to wear the school uniform at all times during the school day when travelling to and from school and to be neat and tidy in appearance. Our uniform creates a community identity and encourages our students to take pride in themselves and in their school.

- Ties must be knotted and worn outside the shirt
- Collars buttoned
- Shirts and blouses tucked in
- Skirts knee length (short skirts will not be tolerated)
- No jewellery other than a watch is permitted
- No earrings, no facial studs or body piercings (including tongue piercings) are permitted
- No visible tattoos
- No make-up allowed in Years 8 & 9. Light foundation and concealer is permitted in Years 10-14. No eye make-up or false eyelashes permitted in any year group.

It is impossible to anticipate fashion trends and it will be the decision of the Senior Leadership Team re: the suitability of adopting current styles, e.g. inappropriate hairstyles and hair colours and including youth trends which may cause danger and discomfort in the school environment. These will not be permitted.

The final decision with regards to all of the above rests with the Senior Leadership Team. Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in this regard.

## The Uniform For Boys

- School blazer with badge
- White shirt
- Mid-grey v-neck pullover
- Black trousers
- School tie
- Black low heeled shoes (trainers or boots are not permitted)
- School scarf (Optional)

## The Uniform For Girls

- School blazer with badge
- White blouse
- Mid-grey v-neck pullover
- Grey kick pleat skirt - below knee length (short skirts will not be tolerated)
- School tie
- Hair accessories, if worn, to be black
- Green knee length socks (Summer Term only)
- Black tights
- Black low heeled shoes (sole, less than 3 centimetres, Fashion shoes, trainers or boots are not permitted)
- School scarf (Optional)

Being in St Malachy's High School makes me really happy. The teachers are really nice plus they are always there to help when you need them. I'm glad I chose this school!

**Maisie McVeigh - Year 8**



# P.E. Uniform



We recommend that all uniform be marked clearly with the student's name.  
Items marked with an \* indicate that these are only available directly from the O'Neill's website.

## P.E. Uniform For Boys

- White shorts with school badge\*
- Green & White jersey with school badge\*
- Trainers with non-marking soles
- Football boots
- Gum Shield
- White Socks

## P.E. Uniform For Girls

- Green shorts with school badge\*
- White & Green jersey with school badge\*
- Trainers with non-marking soles
- Football Boots
- Gum Shield
- White Socks

# Charging Policy

The Board of Governors of St Malachy's High School is required by Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 to draw up a charging policy and remission policy. It is the policy of the Board of Governors:

- To levy a charge for all board and lodging costs on residential visits except where students are entitled to statutory remission;
- To levy a charge for all activities wholly or mainly outside school hours which are not part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, statutory religious education or in preparation for a prescribed public examination;
- To levy no charge for examination entries except as indicated in the Schools Examination Entry Policy in the School Management Plan;
- To provide without charge the essential materials required by the Northern Ireland Curriculum to prepare for prescribed public examinations;
- To levy a charge for damage to the school building and/or contents or loss of school materials whether accidental or otherwise.

The restrictions on charging for school activities do not in any way prevent the Board of Governors from seeking voluntary contributions in support of any school activities whether during or outside school hours, residential or non-residential.

In some cases, parents may also be informed that an activity is dependent on voluntary contributions, i.e. cannot be funded without such contributions.

This charging policy only relates to charges which may be made by the Governors or the Education and Library Board, and does not relate to any educational activity where charges are levied by a third party.



# Assessment / Reporting To Parents

St Malachy's High School has developed a structured programme of internal assessment. This involves continuous monitoring through a tracking system and formal assessment.

This enables teachers, through a philosophy of assessment for learning, to use the data collected to inform lesson planning and to prepare relevant resources tailored to meet the needs of the students.

Regular assessment facilitates the monitoring of the progress of each individual student.

Parents and students are made aware of:

- what is expected of the students;
- how students can achieve those expectations;
- and how students can contribute to assessment procedures.

## Internal Examinations

The assessment cycle includes:

### All year groups

Continuous Assessment using a common assessment framework. Formal assessments are carried out in December and June.

## Reports

Written reports are produced annually for each student throughout the academic year. With midterm progress updates for all students. Reports are produced in November, January and June.

## External Examinations

It is school policy that all Year 11 and 12 students are prepared for GCSE examinations.

Year 13 students are entered for AS, GCE and Level 3 courses.

Year 14 students undertake GCE 'A' level/Level 3 courses. External examinations are held in May and June of each year for GCSE, AS and A2 students. There is also a series of modular examinations throughout the academic year.

## Parent Teacher Meetings

Throughout each academic year, parents are provided with the opportunity to discuss their child's progress with subject teachers. Parent/ Teacher Meetings are arranged for all year groups. Attendance at these meetings is of benefit to parents, students and staff.

## Visiting the School

Working in partnership with parents and guardians is valued at St Malachy's High School. Those who are considering sending their child to the school may visit during the annual Open Day.

Appointments can be made through the main office should a parent/guardian wish to arrange an individual interview to discuss their child's progress, at any time throughout the academic year.





# Sport

## Extra-Curricular Activities

Whatever the student's desire for sport, we aim to deliver a curriculum that will encourage an active lifestyle and participation in sport and exercise long after they leave school. Students are given opportunities to participate in a wide variety of activities in curriculum time and are actively encouraged to engage with the extensive and successful extra-curricular programme.

Students can experience a selection of the following activities: aerobics, athletics, badminton, basketball, camogie, crosscountry, dance, Gaelic football (male and female), gymnastics, handball, health and fitness, hurling, in-door hockey, netball, orienteering, soccer, softball, table-tennis and volleyball.

Castlewellan and Tollymore Forest Parks are used for an extensive range of outdoor activities.



# Art & Design

## Extra-Curricular Activities

The Art and Design department in St Malachy's High school enhances the creative and artistic experiences of students through its after schools club. Students are encouraged to participate in workshops that develop their expertise in textiles, ceramics, painting and drawing techniques.

Trips are arranged to galleries and exhibitions. The Art and Design club actively engages with local community projects in producing creative works that are displayed both in school and the wider community.



# Music

## Extra-Curricular Activities

St Malachy's High School students have access to a broad and varied extra-curricular music programme. Tuition is available on a weekly basis by highly qualified tutors on the following instruments:

Piano, Keyboard

Flute, Clarinet, Oboe, Saxophone

Fiddle, Tin Whistle

Drum Kit

Electric Guitar, Acoustic Guitar

French Horn, Trumpet

Violin

Voice

DJ

Music Theory

Students have the opportunity to take graded examinations on the instrument and are encouraged to do so. The success rate is commendable with most students obtaining either a Merit or Distinction. Success at Grade 6 practical or theory offers students UCAS points which are recognised by Universities.



The school has an Irish Traditional group, a Chamber Choir and the School Choir. These groups meet in the mornings before school, during lunchtime and after school as required. Students are involved throughout the year in composition and recording workshops.

Individual students/groups perform in school at various events, these include; Assemblies, School Masses, Junior and Senior Prize Nights, Open Days, Spring Concerts and music throughout the year for the elderly.

*I love coming to the music department. On a Friday the piano and violin teacher is in and there is always plenty of music as we are lining up for class. We got to hear the Irish Traditional Group rehearsing one day and that has made me want to go to instrument lessons. I am hoping to take piano lessons as I have really enjoyed learning 'Ode to Joy' on the keyboard in class.*

*Derbhla Higgins - 8I*



Theory of Music lessons are available during the year. They prove invaluable to students who play an instrument or students who choose to study music for GCSE or AS/A2 level.

At St Malachy's there is something to suit all musical interests. We believe that participation in music and other extra-curricular activities opens up an exciting way in which your child can develop his/ her talent and inter-personal skills in a very pleasant and happy environment. The Music Department organises various school trips to concerts and musical productions in the local area throughout the year. Music is very much alive at St. Malachy's High School and continues to grow year on year.

# Drama

## Extra-Curricular Activities

**Drama is an integral part of the fabric of St Malachy's High School and is fundamental in the development of students' self esteem and confidence.**

Over the years students have availed of various dramatic opportunities such as participation in 'The Sound of Music', 'My Fair Lady', 'Annie' and 'School of Rock'. Students need not study Drama as part of their timetable in order to enjoy the benefits as there is a weekly Drama Club where students can learn dramatic skills and develop techniques. In previous years we have entered competitions and feiseanna; we have produced and recorded our own films and won various awards.

Trips to Local Theatres are organised throughout the year as well as to the famous West - End in London. Drama facilitators

and practitioners are invited to enhance the drama students learning. Extra curricular Drama is available to every student in our school regardless of academic ability or age.

Drama is a key subject and extra-curricular activity for students to get involved with. It is encouraged at St Malachy's for students to develop their confidence, communication skills and ability to express themselves with self-assurance. Studying and taking part in Drama can help with acting and performance skills, but also key life skills such as organisation, presentation skills, leadership as well as vocal clarity and articulation.



*We got to take part in Drama as part of our induction here in St Malachy's. It was so much fun and helped our whole year group get to know one another! I can't wait to take part in our next school show to get onto the big stage!*

**AJ Clarke - Year 8**



# St. Vincent de Paul

Extra-Curricular Activities

## St Vincent de Paul Conference

St Malachy's has a very vibrant St Vincent de Paul Conference that enables students to bear witness to the love of Christ in the world. There are a variety of activities that the Conference organizes and these include:

- Youth workshops on justice
- Visitations to the local residential and nursing homes
- Fundraising
- Trócaire Lenten Campaign
- Christmas Hamper Appeal

Membership to the school's St Vincent de Paul Conference is open to all students. The work of the students is inspired by the words of Frederic Ozanam, Founder of the SVP Society, "In my life I want to become better and do a little good".



Technology & Design is my favourite subject in St Malachy's. It is really fun! The new subjects like Technology, Home Economics and Languages are all brilliant and fun to learn. I really like the food at break & lunch, it is always delicious! I also really like the way St Malachy's do lots of cool fundraising activities to help the community!

Erin Tumelty - Year 8

# Extra Curricular Timetable

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri
Bottom Pitch	U19 Boys Gaelic	U16 Camogie and Senior Camogie	U16 & U20 Ladies Gaelic	U16.5 Boys Gaelic	U14.5 Boys Gaelic
Top Pitch	U20 Ladies Gaelic	U16.5 Boys Gaelic	U14.5 Boys Gaelic	Camogie	U14.5/U16 Hurling
Sports Hall	Inters (Years 11&12)Netball S'hall		U19 Boys Fitness Suite Year 9 Netball S'hall		
Cross Country	Run after school until 4.30pm			Run after school until 4.30pm	
Drama Theatre			DRAMA CLUB (BREAK TIME)		
Music	Junior Singers (Junior Lunch) Senior Lunch - GCSE Ensemble	String Ensemble (9 - 9.45am)	Trad Group - 9.15am Junior Ensemble (9 - 9.45am) Senior Singers (Senior Lunch)	Senior Theory (Senior Lunch)	Trad Group - 9 - 9.45am
Maths	???	Yr 12 (NMF)	Mrs Malley Yr 11 (FM)		
Art	Art Exam Classes	Art Exam Classes	Art Club 3.40-5pm (All Year Groups)	Art Exam Classes	
ICT	GCSE/A Level Classes	Minecraft 3.40 - 4.30pm GCSE / A Level ICT 3.40 - 4.30pm	Nintendo Esports GCSE / A Level ICT 3.40 - 4.30pm	GCSE / A Level ICT 3.40 - 4.30pm	GCSE / A Level ICT 3.40 - 4.30pm
Irish	Cumann Gaelach 3.40 - 4.30pm		GCSE Gaeilge Yr 12 Revision	Cumman na Craice (Break Time)	
Technology & Design	Practical Workshop Activities 8.45 - 9.15am	Practical Workshop Activities 8.45 - 9.15am Practical Coursework 3.40pm - 4.45pm	Practical Workshop Activities 8.45 - 9.15am Practical Coursework 3.40pm - 4.45pm		
Library	After School Study 3.40 - 4.30pm GAMES CLUB AT BREAK TIME + JNR LUNCH	After School Study 3.40 - 4.30pm GAMES CLUB AT BREAK TIME + JNR LUNCH	After School Study 3.40 - 4.30pm GAMES CLUB AT BREAK TIME + JNR LUNCH	After School Study 3.40 - 4.30pm GAMES CLUB AT BREAK TIME + JNR LUNCH	GAMES CLUB AT BREAK TIME + JNR LUNCH

This is a sample of a typical timetable throughout the school year.



# Admissions Policy

## \*Admission Number

164 of which 25 places are in the Irish Medium Unit

## \*Enrolment Number

950 of which 125 places are in the Irish Medium Unit

In selecting children for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected before any child not so resident.

## Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to Admissions to the school

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the Admissions criteria set out herein.

*I am really happy here!  
The teachers are friendly  
and helpful. I love taking  
part in netball, Gaelic and  
Cross Country after school.  
There are always lots of fun  
activities to do!*

*Mary Ellen Milligan - Year 8*

”

## Year 8 Admissions To St Malachy's High School

In the case of pupils for whom special circumstances apply (medical, social or security) the Board of Governors will determine the merits of individual cases and may offer a place without regard for the admissions criteria. Written evidence will be required to support any such request and must be given on or attached/uploaded to the transfer application.

### Criteria

If places are available, the school will admit all pupils whose parents wish them to attend. In the event of oversubscription, the following criteria will be applied in the given order:

1. Pupils that attend a primary school within a contributory parish listed as (in no particular order), Castlewellan (Kilmegan); Clonduff (the Cabra area only); Drumaroad and Clanvaraghan; Dromara and Drumgooland; Dundrum and Tyrella; Kilcoo; Newcastle (Maghera).

Priority will be given to children who have a child of the family currently enrolled in the school.

2. Pupils that live within a contributory parish listed as (in no particular order), Castlewellan (Kilmegan); Clonduff (the Cabra area only); Drumaroad and Clanvaraghan; Dromara and Drumgooland; Dundrum and Tyrella; Kilcoo; Newcastle (Maghera).

Priority will be given to children who have a child of the family currently enrolled in the school.

3. Pupils from other parishes, but attend a contributory primary school (in no particular order) with which the school has had a special relationship for many years, priority will be given to children who have a child of the family currently enrolled in the school.

St Mary's - Rathfriland  
St Patrick's - Legamaddy  
St Brigid's - Downpatrick  
St Columban's - Kilkeel  
Holy Family - Teconnaught  
St Nicholas - Ardglass

St Patrick's - Saul  
Christ the King - Drumaness  
St Macartan's - Loughinisland  
OLSP - Downpatrick (Non IME)  
St Patrick's - Ballynahinch  
St Malachy's - Kildief

4. Pupils from other parishes where a child of the family is enrolled in the school.

5. Pupils from other parishes.

## Admissions Criteria in the event of a Tie Breaker

If necessary, where over-subscription still exists, final selection will be on the basis of random selection, using the methods listed below, in the order which they are given:

- (i) For admission to the school in September 2022, pupils will be selected for admission on the basis of the initial letter of surname (as entered on the original Birth Certificate) in the order set out below:

**Y J E C O G F S T U Q P N D X H M I  
V Z B K A L W R**



# Admissions Policy

This order was determined by a randomised selection of the letters, as selected by ballot by the admissions subcommittee at its meeting on 24th November 2021. In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of the forename will be used.

(ii) Random Selection: If applicants are still tied, then priority will be determined amongst them by a method of random selection. Computerised random selection will be used to determine rank order.

## Notes: Important

- 1 Full responsibility rests with parents/guardians to provide sufficient and full details on the transfer application to allow the admissions criteria to be fairly administered.
2. Inaccurate or misleading information provided on or attached/uploaded to an application may prejudice an offer of a place and may lead to the withdrawal of a place awarded to an applicant who has thereby gained an improper advantage.

## Duty To Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application.

All applicants for places in Saint Malachy's should note that the provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post-primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated in the application.



## Applications And Admissions

Year	Admissions No	Total Applications ie. All preferences	Total Admissions
2019/20	164	212	164
2020/21	164	205	*183
2021/22	164	164	*181

\*Includes SEN students



## ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR YEARS 9–12 (and Year 8 post 31 August each year)

A pupil may be accepted into the school provided that the school will not exceed its enrolment number as determined by the department of education; class sizes including practical class sizes as determined by the department of education would not be exceeded.

A pupil may be accepted into the school provided this would not prejudice, in the opinion of the Governors, the efficient use of the school's resources and that the school is in a position to provide a curriculum appropriate to the applicant's needs.

The pupil's previous school report, attendance, work record and behaviour will be considered and admission will be dependent on a favourable report.

If at the time of the consideration of the application, there are more eligible applicants than places in a particular year group available, then the admission criteria to Year 8 will be applied to select pupils to fill available places.

Saint Malachy's does not operate a waiting list for pupils who apply for a place to any year group and are unsuccessful. Each application is decided upon at the time of receipt.



# Irish Medium Education

St Malachy's High school is thriving and continues to grow at a rapid rate. There has been a huge growth from the 5 students who started the IME stream in 2011, to 150. Students have transferred from four local feeder bunscoileanna; Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phádraig, Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche and Bunscoil an Lúir.

As the IME stream grows in number, so too does our curriculum provision through the medium of Irish. Students study up to 50% of their Key Stage 3 subjects through Irish and we now have developed into Key Stage 4 (GCSE).

This rapidly growing IME stream is bringing with it tremendous success with students achieving outstanding GCSE and A level results. These students are a credit to their parents, bunscoileanna and St. Malachy's High School.

The IME vision in St Malachy's High School is one where students receive a well-rounded, high-quality education in a bilingual setting where their learning needs are supported and challenged so that they can reach their full potential. Our students are given the educational opportunity to become skilful individuals, making a positive and effective contribution to the local and wider community.

We actively enter a vast range of extra-curricular activities and competitions from Feis an Dúin, 'Gael Linn Abair' to attending the Irish social media day hosted in the Facebook offices in Dublin. Indeed, a number of IME students, along with 30 other IME students from the other 5 IME secondary schools in the North, were recently afforded the opportunity to travel to Brussels and explore the opportunities for Irish speakers abroad.

This fantastic opportunity enabled our IME students to visit the European Parliament and indeed to take part in a discussion in a European conference room as Gaeilge. Listening to these students interact with others in Irish on the streets of Leuven was uplifting and a testament to these gifted and confident students.

A large number of Irish Medium Students take a lead role in music, drama and sport in St. Malachy's High School, underpinning the versatility of students in bilingual education settings.

We have strong links with the other IME Second level providers and are actively part of various initiatives to further enhance and ensure the highest level of educational opportunities for our Irish Medium Students.

”

*Is breá liom mo scoil úr. Tá a lán cairde nua agam anseo. Is é an rud is fearr liom faoin scoil ná na hábhair nua. Is aoibhinn liom corpoideachas ach is fearr liom an rang Spáinnise mar tá dúil mhillteanach agam sna teangacha.*

***I love my new school. I have a lot of new friends here. I love my new subjects. I really love PE but I prefer Spanish because I have a huge interest in languages.***

**Ollie McAlinden - 8G**



# Critéir iontrála d'Ardscoil Naomh Maolmhaodhóg

**\*Admission Number**

164 of which 25 places are in the Irish Medium Unit

**\*Enrolment Number**

950 of which 125 places are in the Irish Medium Unit.

In selecting children for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected before any child not so resident.

**Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to Admissions to the school**

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the Admissions criteria set out herein.



Tá a lán áiseanna maithe anseo in Ardscoil Naomh Maolmhaodhóg. Caithim mo chuid ama sa leabharlann agus i gcumann na craice ag am sosa. Is breá liom an Ghaeilge agus an Stair mar is breá liom bheith ag foghlaim faoin tír seo. Is maith liom an éide scoile fosta!

Caolán Stuart - 8G

**Year 8 Admissions To St Malachy's High School**

In the case of pupils for whom special circumstances apply (medical, social or security) the Board of Governors will determine the merits of individual cases and may offer a place without regard for the admissions criteria. Written evidence will be required to support any such request and must be given on or attached/uploaded to the transfer application.

**Criteria**

If places are available, the school will admit all pupils whose parents wish them to attend. In the event of oversubscription, the following criteria will be applied in the given order:

1. Pupils who have had all of their primary education through the medium of Irish

2. A child of the family of pupils currently enrolled in St Malachy's High School
3. Pupils who attend an Irish Medium Primary School in the Parish of Kilmegan, namely Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche
4. Pupils from the following bunscoileanna (not in any order of priority)
  - Bunscoil Mhuire agus Phadraig
  - Bunscoil an Iúir
  - Gaelscoil na mBeann
5. Pupils from other bunscoileanna

**Admissions Criteria in the event of a Tie Breaker**

- (i) Alphabetical: For admission to the school in September 2022, pupils will be selected for admission on

the basis of the initial letter of surname (as entered on the original Birth Certificate) in the order set out below:

**Y J E C O G F S T U Q P N D X H M I V  
Z B K A L W R**

This order was determined by a randomised selection of the letters of the alphabet, as selected by ballot by the admissions subcommittee at its meeting on 24th November 2021.

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of the forename will be used.



# Admissions Criteria for Irish Medium Education at St Malachy's High School

(ii) Random Selection: In the event that the school cannot distinguish between pupils with exactly the same full name, computerised random selection will be used to determine rank order.

### Notes: Important

1 Full responsibility rests with parents/guardians to provide sufficient and full details on the transfer application to allow the admissions criteria to be fairly administered.

2. Inaccurate or misleading information provided on or attached/uploaded to an application may prejudice an offer of a place and may lead to the withdrawal of a place awarded to an applicant who has thereby gained an improper advantage.

### Duty To Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to

support or verify information on any application. All applicants for places in Saint Malachy's should note that the provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post-primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated in the application.



### Admission Criteria For Years 9-12 (and Year 8 post 31 August each year)

A pupil may be accepted into the school provided that the school will not exceed its enrolment number as determined by the department of education; class sizes including practical class sizes as determined by the department of education would not be exceeded.

A pupil may be accepted into the school provided this would not prejudice, in the opinion of the Governors, the efficient use of the school's resources and that the school is in a position to provide a curriculum appropriate to the applicant's needs.

The pupil's previous school report, attendance, work record and behaviour will be considered and admission will be dependent on a favourable report.

If at the time of the consideration of the application, there are more eligible applicants than places in a particular year group available, then the admission criteria to Year 8 will be applied to select pupils to fill available places.

**Saint Malachy's does not operate a waiting list for pupils who apply for a place to any year group and are unsuccessful. Each application is decided upon at the time of receipt.**



### Iarratais Agus Iontrálacha

blain	líon Iontrála	lomlán na nIarratas	lomlán Iontrálacha
2019/20	164 (25 IME)	212(23IME)	164 (23 IME)
2020/21	164 (25 IME)	205 (20 IME)	183* (20 IME)
2021/22	164 (25 IME)	164 (28 IME)	181* (20 IME)

\*Includes SEN students

# Digital Schoolhouse

St Malachy's High School's Digital Schoolhouse, uses play-based learning to engage the next generation of pupils with the Computing curriculum. The Digital Schoolhouse in St Malachys uniquely combines computing, fun, creativity, innovation, and industry expertise and brings them into our classroom

The computing workshops are aimed at our local primary schools around the Castlewella area. The P6 and P7 pupils can experience our unique approach to play-based learning through innovative, fun activities. With groundbreaking careers education, the programme also successfully bridges the gap between education and industry

Each week one of our local primary schools will visit the school, having made a booking through our Digital Schoolhouse website. The students learn about problem solving strategies through computational thinking. They learn about the importance of algorithms which not only are valuable in the study of computer science, but also in other curriculum areas. Students are also taught about various pieces of hardware used to make a computer system.

## Quotes from the primary school pupils

**Lucy said,** "I liked learning about the input and output devices in ICT. I really enjoyed Scottie-Go and scanning with the i-pad, because if you were correct you progressed to the next level."

**Lana commented,** "We enjoy coding in school, so we found Scottie-Go easy and fun to use."

**Lana also reported,** "I tried the card game with everyone in my house and they loved it."

**Siobhan said,** "I liked the Instruction Quiz sheet because I was the only pupil who read all the instructions before beginning the exercise. I won Lego cards."

**Beibhin said,** "I now realise the importance of reading instructions before commencing any activity. I learned that ICT work is all about programming the device with clear instructions."

*As a school we use Scratch, Minecraft and micro-bit to enhance the children's computational thinking skills. Our staff have benefitted from training with Nerve Belfast (P1-P7) using unplugged and computer activities. The Digital Schoolhouse initiative enhances and supports our work in ICT. The children enjoyed visiting St. Malachy's High School as many of them hope to make the transition next year.'*

*D Mahon. St Mary's Newcastle PS*



*A fun and interactive way to look at computational thinking and algorithms. Our school has been visiting St Malachys H.S. and Mr. O'Hare for the Digital Schoolhouse experience for ten years. Pupils and teacher really look forward to this day out.*

*L.Grant. St Mary's Aghlasnafin PS*



## What The Inspectorate Thought Of Us



An enthusiastic CEIAG (careers education, information, advice and guidance) team has been established to support the whole school CEIAG priorities.

Effective links have been established with the community and local industry; this is resulting in better work placement experiences for the pupils.

Effective strategies have been implemented which are impacting positively on the outcomes that the pupils attain. These include the introduction of personalised learning, robust tracking of pupil progress, a whole school focus on high quality learning and teaching and the consistent monitoring of attendance.

St Malachy's High School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all learners.

The curriculum is changing appropriately to reflect a broader range of courses to meet more effectively the needs and aspirations of all pupils.

The outcomes attained by the pupils have improved since the last inspection.

There is a growing focus on the curriculum pathways around science, technology, engineering and mathematics education.

The pupils take pride in their school and express this through the manner in which they conduct and present themselves and through their achievements. They show respect for, and sensitivity towards, the needs of others, engaging in learning with enthusiasm, resilience and maturity.







ASPIRE  
INSPIRE  
ACHIEVE

*A School*

**THRIVING  
ON SUCCESS**



Omnis Gloria Ab Intus  
'All Glory From Within'

## Ready to take the next step?

We love meeting prospective students and their families who are considering their education at St Malachy's High School, so please do get in touch.

### Follow us

You can also follow us on social media and see what it's like to study here. From the latest news and events to updates from pupils, it's a great way to get to know us better.

[twitter.co.uk/StMalachysHS](https://twitter.com/StMalachysHS)  
[facebook.com/StMalachysHighSchool](https://facebook.com/StMalachysHighSchool)

**Find out more on our website**  
[www.stmalachys.org.uk](http://www.stmalachys.org.uk)

### Contact us

If you have questions or would like to organise a personal tour, please do contact us

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3 Dublin Road  
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[info@stmalachys.castlewellan.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmalachys.castlewellan.ni.sch.uk)



School app now available to download  
for iPhone and Android devices

