



ST MARY'S LIMAVADY

Scoil Mhuire Léim an Mhadaidh

Limavady Shared Education Campus
2024 PROSPECTUS





IN ST MARY'S WE UNDERSTAND THAT CHOOSING THE RIGHT SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD IS AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

We are a school at the heart of the community and have worked in partnership with parents since opening our doors in 1959. The partnership between home and school is central to everything we do in St Mary's, and we firmly believe that children learn best when parents, guardians and staff work together.

All staff are committed to ensuring that every child is provided with high quality, stimulating and challenging learning experiences, which help them achieve excellent examination results, develop skills for life and leave school as young adults who value both themselves and others.

As partners in the educational process, we appreciate your support in all aspects of school life. As you read through our prospectus, you will get a flavour of the academic and vocational curriculum we offer, allowing every child the opportunity to achieve excellent GCSE and A Level results.

Open Day will provide you and your child with the opportunity to tour the school, speak to teachers, Learning Support Assistants and Technicians. You will also be able to speak to the most important people of all, our students, who will take you on the tour and answer any questions you may have about being a student in St Mary's.

This is a very exciting time for St Mary's as we are now part of the Limavady Shared Education Campus. We are the first Shared Campus in Northern Ireland, with a shared STEM Centre, Sixth Form Centre, Performing Arts and Media Departments, in addition to a well-resourced Careers Hub.

The Limavady Shared Education Campus is not Integrated Education, it is Shared Education. This means that St Mary's and Limavady High School continue to maintain their own unique religious and cultural identities, while at the same time working and learning together.

Shared Education allows us to celebrate our differences and to respect other points of view and beliefs. Every student in year 8-10, has shared lessons each week with Limavady High School. Our GCSE and A Level students, are able to select subjects delivered across the campus, offering a wider choice of options.

In St Mary's, we are very proud of our partnership with Limavady High School, and we look forward to seeing Limavady Shared Education Campus continue to develop and grow over the coming years.

Mrs Rita Moore Principal



School Ethos

The students, parents, governors and staff of St. Mary's Limavady strive to work in partnership to create a living and vibrant Catholic community in which each member is valued. At the core of every aspect of school life is the belief that we can have no better inspiration than the example and teaching of Jesus Christ.

Our community seeks to set an example of service, as Jesus did, and in so doing fulfil the high aspirations we have for each of our members and foster the fullest spiritual, academic and personal development of our students.

The clear yet profound justification for a Catholic education, and for a Catholic school as a separate entity, is to be found in the Catholic faith.

LIVING



St Mary's school aspires to:

- Promote a sense of inclusion, which recognises and celebrates the dignity of all, nurturing both the spiritual and moral development of every student.
- Provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum, meeting the needs of every individual
- Strengthen partnerships between the school, home and parish, to embrace the diversity of our extended school community.
- Develop attitudes and life skills that promote a sense of balance and respect for self and others.
- Prepare students to become effective contributors to the local, national and global community to meet the challenges of an ever changing world.





Behaviour for Learning

Our Behaviour for Learning framework exists to achieve and maintain the highest standards of learning and behaviour within St Mary's.

Our behaviour motto is 'Ready, Respectful & Safe' which is based on supporting and rewarding good behaviour and in raising the self-esteem of students, so that each student can achieve their full potential.

'Ready, Respectful & Safe'

The 'Positive Behaviour for Learning' policy supports the school aim that all students have access to high quality Teaching and Learning, in a calm and caring environment.

We foster mutual respect and support the development of self-regulation necessary for adult life.

We are proud of the atmosphere in our school where mutual respect exists between all members of the school community.



Pastoral Care

WHAT PASTORAL CARE MEANS TO YOU



Learning and Teaching at Key Stage 3

In St Mary's Limavady, we strive to unlock the potential within every individual. At Key Stage 3 all students experience a broad range of subjects as outlined by the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Key Stage 3 students will work closely with students from Limavady High School through our shared, Learning for Life and Work lessons and will experience their Technology lessons in the shared STEM centre on the Limavady High School site of our shared campus.

Students enjoy Student-centred Learning lessons weekly, exploring well-being and resilience strategies in a supportive and nurturing environment.

During weekly form lessons and numerous workshops throughout the year, Key Stage 3 students are encouraged to explore and develop their unique strengths and talents, preparing them for the next stage of their journey in St Mary's.

Key Stage 3 Subjects

RE	Irish
English	History
Maths	Home Economics
Science	Music
Art & Design	Technology & Design
Drama	Physical Education
French	Learning for Life and Work
Geography	Student-centred Learning



Learning Support in St Mary's

Saint Mary's is committed to the provision of abroad and balanced curriculum, which offers equal access for all our students.

As a school we recognise that some students may have additional educational needs at some point during their time in St Mary's.

We will make every possible arrangement to meet those individual needs, working in partnership with parents and external agencies so that each individual student has the most positive experience of school.

We endeavour to match our school curriculum to take into account the range of student aptitudes and interests.

Our dedicated team of Learning Support Assistants work with specific students to enable them to access all aspects of the curriculum.

2023 also saw the opening of our dedicated Social Communication Unit which caters for a small number of students who have specific and individual learning needs.

We also have a Learning Mentor who works with individual students and small groups to meet their emotional needs.





Learning and Teaching at Key Stage 4

In St Mary's Limavady we encourage ambition and provide opportunities for students to experience a broad curriculum at Key Stage 4, offering courses which enable each individual to experience success as a result of hard work and commitment to learning.

Academic and vocational choices ensure a curriculum which offers challenge and opportunity for our students, preparing them for future career pathways.

Our shared curriculum with Limavady High School gives our students further opportunity to collaborate with students and staff from Limavady High School. At Key Stage 4, our students continue to enjoy Physical Education and Careers guidance lessons, alongside a varied range of workshops and fieldtrips designed to build students' capacity to self-motivate, have the confidence to succeed and be prepared for future challenges.

GCSE / L2 Subjects

English	English Literature	Drama	Leisure & Tourism
Maths	Engineering	Metalwork & CAD	
Science (S/Award)	Science (D/Award)	Environment & Society	Moving Image
Religious Education	French	Music	
Art & Design	Geography	Office Applications	
Business	Health & Social Care	Personal Development & Employability Skills	
Carpentry & Joinery	History	Preparation for Adult Life	
Child Development	Home Economics	Sports Studies	
Contemporary Cuisine	ICT	Statistics	
Creative Arts & Digital Technologies	Irish	Technology & Design	



Chancellor of Queen's University, Belfast and Former US Secretary of State, Hilary Clinton, visited Limavady to see the work of the Limavady Shared Education Campus.

As part of the visit former and current Principals of St. Mary's and Limavady High were awarded Honorary Doctorates for their work in shared and collaborative education.



Mrs Celine McKenna (Past Principal), Mr Sean Bradley (Past Principal), Mr Michael Keenan (CCMS), Bishop of Derry Most Reverend Donal McKeown DD (Chairperson of CCMS), Mrs Mary McCloskey (Past Principal), Mrs Rita Moore (Principal)



Year 8 Voices



I was very nervous on my first day walking through the front door, but then I met my friends and I felt better. My form teacher is very nice and I'm enjoying St Mary's very much now and I don't know why I was scared at the start!

Ella Downey (Ballykelly PS)



I came to Limavady in September from Kerala in India. I arrived with my sister, Anu. I had to ask people to show me about at the start. I like St Mary's because the people are so friendly and lovely and it is so easy to study here.

Angel Maria John (Kerala, India)



I have really enjoyed St Mary's. I like music because I play the piano. we have attended Mass in RE and we have done Science experiments together and finished our key rings in Technology. I got 'Super Scholar' in RE and I feel good here.

Matthew Mulhern (Roe Valley Integrated PS)



St Mary's is a lovely school and has lovely staff who help you when you need it, especially my form and English teacher Mrs O'Neill - she helped me settle in well. You will be amazed how nice everyone is in this school, staff and teacher-wise. Also Mr Mullan and Mrs Moore do everything they can to help. St Mary's is amazing. We hope to see you all settle in next year too.

Riley McLean (Termoncanice PS)

Year 8 Voices



So far St Marys has been amazing, I have met so many new people. I can't lie, I was really nervous about moving from primary school to secondary school, but those nerves were all for nothing. I am learning so many new subjects and so far I have enjoyed them all, the teachers are so helpful. I love it and I'm sure you will too.

Lauren McShane (Broadbridge PS)



When I first came to St Mary's I was nervous, soooo nervous! But whenever my first day was over all of my worries had melted away. It's a big change whenever you go from primary school to secondary school, but once you have done it you won't want to go back. I think and maybe you'll think too that secondary and primary school aren't really all that different.

Niamh Doherty (St Aidan's PS)



Switching from a primary school to St Mary's was very nerve-wracking, but all the teachers made me feel very welcome. All our teachers have unique ways of teaching and I have learned so much already. To anybody switching from primary school to secondary school don't be stressed, always ask for help and have fun!

Courtney Marley (Faughanvale PS)



At the start, the change from primary school was big, scary and nerve-wracking! The last couple of months have been good and I found that I liked subjects such as drama and art. In form class we've been doing refugee poems and talking about bullying. Overall St Mary's is great and I love it.

Lucy Peoples (St Finlough's PS)



Learning and Teaching at Post 16

In St Mary's Limavady we strive to fully prepare our students for life after school, whether that be further or higher education or employment.

We offer an extensive curriculum which meets and also exceeds the requirements of the Northern Ireland Entitlement Framework.

As part of the Roe Valley Learning Community, St Mary's offers a range of post-16 courses, both academic A Levels and vocational Level 3 qualifications, all of which are Ofqual accredited.

Weekly enrichment sessions, as well as Physical Education and Careers lessons are

offered to students at post-16 as the personal development and well-being of our students is paramount.

We continue to support our students in their faith journeys with opportunities to become involved in the Pope John Paul II Award and be part of the many liturgical celebrations throughout the school year.

We endeavour to support our students by

'Living Faith, Inspiring Learning, Shaping Futures.'



A Level / L3 Subjects

Applied Science	French	Physics
Art & Design	Geography	Performing Arts
Biology	Health & Social Care	Politics
Business Administration	History	Physical Education
Chemistry	ICT	Religious Education
Construction	Irish	Software Systems Development
Child Development	Mathematics	Sports Studies
Engineering	Life & Health Science	Technology & Design
English Literature	Moving Image Arts	Travel & Tourism
Food & Nutrition	Music	



My St Mary's Experience

When I first began my journey at St Mary's, I started in year 8 after coming from a local primary school. Walking into the school that first morning, I was quiet, shy, and felt out of place in this new environment. However, the teachers soon made me feel welcome and at home and I gained lots of friends.

St Mary's has helped me to accomplish many different achievements within my education and personal development. I was afforded the opportunity to contribute to my community and parish through the Pope John Paul II Award scheme, in Year 11 I was a Year 8 mentor, supporting new students who were quiet and shy, much as I had been when I started.

My proudest achievement was being made Head Boy in my final year. St Mary's also gave me lots of different opportunities - from going on the school ski trip to coaching football in local primary schools. This experience provided me with the skills to spend the summer months in 2022 in the USA, coaching football (or should that be soccer!) to children of all ages.

All of the teachers were very supportive throughout my time at St Marys, in particular in the period coming up to GCSEs and A-levels. Even though there were many inconveniences that occurred due to COVID and society being in lockdown a number of times, the teachers maintained a high level of education for every student with interactive lessons for each student.

In my view, the commitment of the teachers at St Mary goes beyond the classroom, creating an environment where students felt supported and encouraged to explore their interests.

The extracurricular activities, leadership opportunities, and mentorship programs offered at the school were vital in helping me to discover my strengths and interests.

In the last couple of years within St Marys, I decided I wanted to pursue a career in teaching Technology and Design at St Marys University.

There are many different factors as to why I wanted to become a teacher and many of these are rooted in my experience at St Mary's and in the way that the teachers and classroom assistants treat students as they go above and beyond for everyone.

Adam Connolly



Careers Education to Help Shape Your Future

Through our Careers Curriculum we help students to learn about:

- Personal Career Planning – helping students in assessing important decisions you need to make
- Transition planning at Years 10, 12 and 14 – helping students make informed decisions
- Work Experience – a practical way to give you insights into the world of work
- Subject choice considerations – discussing with students about vocational versus academic options and career pathways
- Interview preparation – learning about what to do and what to avoid for interviews
- Business contacts – we have many visitors to school including young enterprise / sentence / other external speakers
- Character building – advising students on the skills and qualities employers are looking for
- Further Education – guiding in the research of courses / attendance at Open Days
- Higher Education – assisting students in UCAS preparation / attending Open Days
- Labour Market Information (LMI) – giving students up-to-date job information
- Apprenticeships – offering guidance on opportunities, contacts and the application process



Transition to St Mary's

Linking Learning Programme

The Linking Learning programme is an innovative approach to ensure a smoother transition to St. Mary's for Primary 7 students.

Not only does it form part of our overall Induction Process but it also offers a curricular-based learning experience between St Mary's and our partner primary schools, created to address the issue of how St. Mary's can best ensure the continuity of learning as students move from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3.

Curriculum Challenge

Each year Primary 6 students visit for a 'taster day' of life in St. Mary's. They follow a timetable as any of our pupils would and take part in lessons taught by St. Mary's teachers. The day concludes with Sports activities led by the PE Department where Primary 6 skills are put to the test!



Induction Days

Our induction days, held in June, allow those pupils transferring to St. Mary's the chance to experience the school as it runs on an 'average day'. Students follow timetabled classes, use the canteen, meet their teachers and prepare themselves for September.



PE in St Mary's

PE within St Mary's is a core subject studied by both boys and girls in Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4. Our aim is to develop positive attitudes towards physical activity by delivering fun, challenging, and inclusive PE lessons. In addition to our practical PE lessons, we also offer academic options: BTEC Sport, at KS4 and Level 3 Sport at KS5.

We endeavour to deliver a broad range of activities to suit as many interests and ability levels as possible. The students experience: swimming, Gaelic, dance, gymnastics, Pilates, netball, basketball, camogie, athletics, circuits, badminton, volleyball, judo, step aerobics and boxercise. We are always keen to introduce new activities to challenge our students and increase interest in PE and fitness in general.

We take care to include PE programmes that are inclusive and encourage student participation in activities suited to their needs. This year we delivered: wheelchair basketball, boccia, blind football and curling. To develop this inclusive atmosphere we also have an "Inclusion in Sport" event for Primary 7 children from some of our feeder schools.

Extra-curricular sport is a vital part of life in St Mary's. This involvement in afterschool sports benefits students in so many ways: offering our students the chance to work with others as part of a team, improving their self-esteem and developing their social and interpersonal skills.

Students are given the opportunity to perform competitively in a range of sports such as Gaelic, camogie, netball, athletics, and cross-county events. There has been tremendous success on the sporting field last year with numerous individuals winning medals at the Mary Peters Athletics event. We also saw a successful year 10 netball team winning the Coleraine and District Netball League. The Year 10 and 11 boys Gaelic team were victorious in winning the Ulster Colleges Plate.

We also value the importance of fostering cross-community links through sport, through shared netball sessions with Limavady High school for Year 8 girls.

Year 11 students also get the opportunity to take part in the Ulster Colleges Cuchulainn Initiative. This initiative is funded by TBUC and involves schools in the local area creating a combined Gaelic football team that train together and compete in an inter-school competition.



Limavady Shared Education Campus

This is a very exciting time for St Mary's as we are now part of the first ever Shared Education Campus in the North of Ireland. Collaboration between St. Mary's and Limavady High School continues to strategically develop with the completion of Campus. We have been fully operational since September 2023, with our new STEM Centre on the Limavady High School site and Sixth Form Centre, Performing Arts and Media Departments, in addition to a well-resourced Careers Hub on the St. Mary's site.

The Limavady Shared Education Campus is not Integrated Education, it is Shared Education. This means that St Mary's and Limavady High School will continue to maintain their own unique religious and cultural identities while, at the same time, working and learning together.

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Our collaborative work includes:

- Shared curriculum choices from Year 8 to 14
- Joint staff development
- A shared parent group
- Shared student ambassadors

These new facilities will undoubtedly enrich the opportunities afforded to all students in the Roe Valley area and continue to bring communities together.

In St Mary's, we are very proud of our partnership with Limavady High School, and we look forward to seeing Limavady Shared Education Campus continue to develop and grow over the coming years.





Experiences Beyond the Classroom

St Mary's offers students a wide range of extracurricular experiences to develop our pupils' skills, talents and capabilities in other ways.

There are so many other events taking place in school that it would be impossible to list them all, but some of the many activities pupils have participated in recently include:

Extracurricular activities

- Pope John Paul II Award
- St Vincent DePaul (School conference)
- INTERACT
- Rotary Young Leadership competition
- Public Speaking competitions
- World Book Day doors
- 'The Crocus Project'
- The History Club
- Maths Pi Day
- Maths Trail at Roe Valley Country Park
- Numeracy Day
- The Big Maths Quiz
- Maths Week Ireland
- UU Geographical Information Systems Project
- Shared field trip to Titanic Shipyard & Peace Wall
- Giant's Causeway field trip
- Roe Valley Country Park Walk
- River Study Field Work
- Seagate Real World Science Conference
- The Open STEM Event
- Pheasant Cookery Masterclass
- Study Skills
- 'Ask the Expert'
- Mock Interviews
- Ceannairí fundraisers
- Ceannairí assemblies
- St Patrick's Day celebrations
- Annual Book Fair
- World Book Day doors
- Springboard Young Chef Competition
- Ready Steady Cook (with Ulster University)
- Silver fainne competition (Irish)
- School Show
- Peace Proms
- SERV Choir / Chamber Choir / Trad Group / Instrumental Ensemble
- Instrumental Music Tuition (individual)
- Foyle Hospice Coffee Morning
- Annual Talent Contest
- First Aid
- Zoolab Workshop
- Rotary Technology tournament
- 'Build a Plane' Project
- Woodvale Experience Day 'Build a Bridge'
- Year 8 Computer Club
- Sensata Technology STEM Day
- Year 8 Pantomime
- Annual Ski Trip
- Music Department Paris Trip
- Educational and sporting trips
- A wide range of sporting activities and competitions





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LIVING FAITH, INSPIRING LEARNING, SHAPING FUTURES