



**2023**  
PROSPECTUS

**SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**

# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

On behalf of Saintfield High School's Board of Governors, members of staff, pupils and their families, thank you for your interest in our thriving learning community. We hope this prospectus gives you an informative and exciting insight into all of our educational experiences, and an understanding of our ethos which embodies personalised learning for all of our students.

Saintfield High School was founded in 1958, and we are extremely proud of our key position at the very heart of our community. It has been our absolute privilege to serve the village and wider area for over sixty years.

We are honoured to work alongside all of our outstanding feeder primary schools who we enjoy wonderfully positive relationships with, and who work closely with us to ensure your child's move from primary to post-primary education is a smooth and enjoyable transition.

Saintfield High School is committed to taking the best of new innovations to enrich each child's learning journey, while strengthening the foundations of strong values and traditions, in addition to championing all those essential skills that we know lead to educational excellence.

The learning experiences our pupils enjoy are broad and diverse and we ensure that each and every child completes an individual educational journey with us from Year 8 through to Year 12. Our reputation for exceptional pastoral care, high academic standards and our comprehensive programme of extra-curricular provision continues, and in 2023, the Saintfield High School learning community is prouder than ever of all the successes we share, inside and outside of the classroom.

We are strongly supported by all of our parents, carers and families, and we enjoy effective, authentic community partnerships. Collaboration is at the core of all that our school continues to aspire to achieve, and we actively promote pupils' voices and a vibrant curriculum that reflects real world issues and challenges.

Saintfield High School has a highly motivated, talented and professional team of teaching and non-teaching staff that is dedicated to ensuring

the holistic education of each pupil. They inspire our pupils every day to achieve their true potential, and to become fulfilled members of the workforce, their community, and society in general.

We continue to be an extremely popular choice for those pupils transitioning to post-primary school, and the level of demand for places at Saintfield High School is testament to the high quality education we provide.

While the following pages will give you a flavour of the value of our learning opportunities, and the high expectations and aspirations that we expect from ourselves and our pupils, no prospectus could ever convey the positive atmosphere that permeates through our school, or the quality of relationships that we enjoy in our day-to-day school life.

A very warm welcome will always await you at Saintfield High School.

We look forward to meeting you.

*S-L Hynds*

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For further information, please visit our website, **[www.saintfieldhighschool.com](http://www.saintfieldhighschool.com)**, where you can also access our ETI inspection reports which will provide you with a further in-depth analysis of our high quality educational provision.

Additionally, please follow us on:

-  **@SaintfieldHigh**
-  **@officialsaintfieldhighschool or on**
-  **@SHSTransfer2023**



**S-L Hynds, Principal**

# MISSION:

**Saintfield High School, together with the community we serve, celebrates personalised learning in a safe, caring and stimulating environment.**

## Aims:

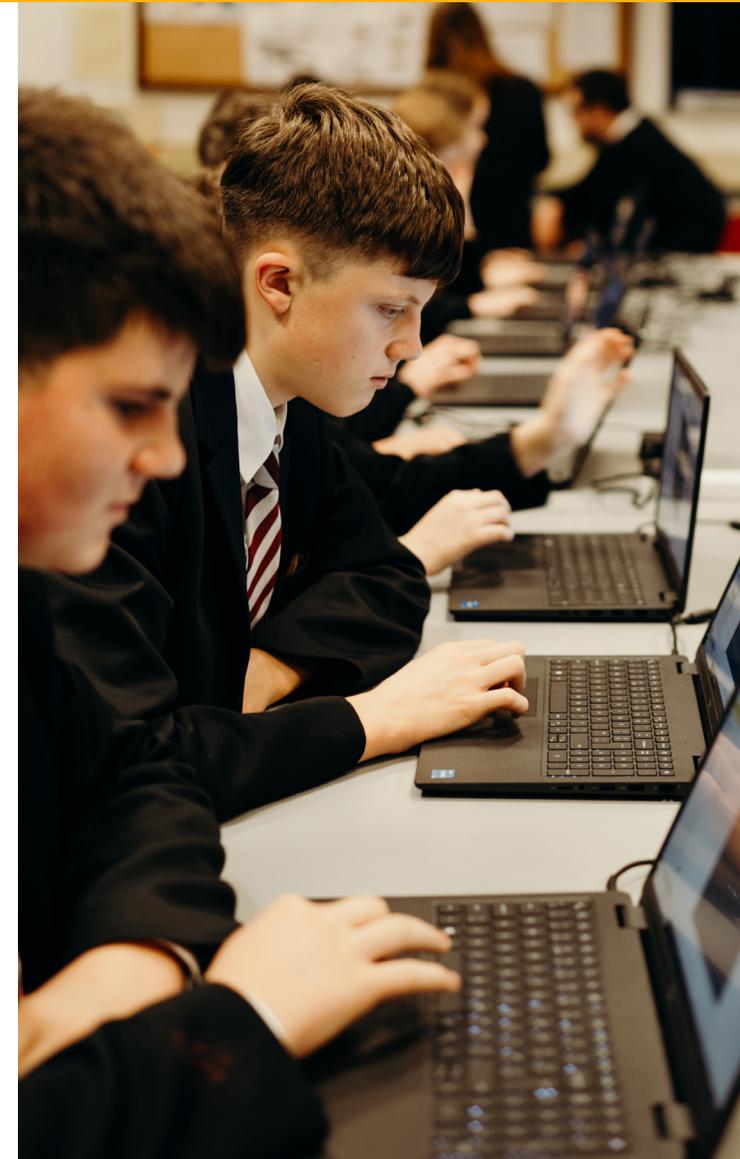
The primary aim of Saintfield High School is:

To develop a safe, harmonious and well structured school community, in which staff and pupils work together with mutual respect in the pursuit of “success for all” pupils.

To achieve this primary aim, our learning community has five subsidiary aims:

1. To promote the spiritual, moral, emotional, cultural and physical development of each pupil;
2. To provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum enabling each pupil to contribute positively to society in the 21st Century;
3. To foster a positive, caring environment and develop attitudes through which individuals may learn respect from others and become responsible members of society;
4. To establish a creative and secure educational partnership between the school, the home and the wider community;
5. To promote self-esteem, well-being, confidence and self-discipline among all pupils within an inclusive learning community.

**PLEDGE:**  
**Individual success for**  
**all pupils - learning and**  
**achieving together.**



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

**Chair** Mr W J Dick     **Secretary** Miss S-L Hynds

Mr D Beattie | Mrs E Campbell | Mr R Edwards | Mr L Fergus | Mr N Gibson | Mr J Megraw | Miss A Mullen | Mr G Murphy

## PRINCIPAL

**Miss S-L Hynds**, MA(Hons), MA, PGCE, MEd, PQH (NI), AoEA Associate

**Mrs D Artt**, BA (Hons), PGCE

**Miss S Bicker**, BTh (Hons), PGCE

**Mrs H Birt**, B Mus, PGCE

**Mr D Bolton**, BEd (Hons)

**Mrs R Bradley**, BA (Hons), PGCE  
Head of Senior School

**Mr M Carter**, BSc (Hons), PGCE, PQH

**Mrs D Cheshire**, BA (Hons), PGCE

**Mr S Chisholm**, BSc (Hons), PGCE

**Mrs S Conwill**, BA (Hons), PGCE

**Mrs J Cooper**, BEd (Hons)

**Mrs J Crowe**, BSc, PGCE

**Mrs L Cullen**, BA (Hons), PGCE

**Mrs A Dempsey**, BSc (Hons), MSc, PGCE

## VICE-PRINCIPAL

**Mrs V Derby**, BEd (Hons), MEd

**Mr M Elliott**, BA (Hons), PGCE

**Miss L Henderson**, BEd (Hons)

**Mrs K Hume**, BSc, PGCE

**Mrs L Jackson**, BSc (Hons), PGCE, MSc

**Miss M Kirk**, BA (Hons), PGCE

**Mr C McCracken**, BA (Hons), PGCE

**Miss A Mullen**, BEd

**Mr M Murphy**, BSc (Hons), PGCE, MEd,  
CCET, AAT

**Mrs S Teague**, BA (Hons), PGCE, DASE

**Miss J Smyth**, BA, MA, PGCE

## ADMINISTRATION

Mrs S Craig

Mrs B Fletcher

Mrs V McMordie

Mrs C Payne

## LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Mrs L McClurg

## I.C.T. TECHNICIAN

Mr R Cully

## BUILDING SUPERVISORS

Ms I Leckey

Mr D Mageean

## CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Miss L Beattie

Miss L Booth

Mr J Bunting

Mrs D Burrell

Mrs H Cash

Miss R Fitzsimons

Mrs C French

Mrs C Gurr

Mrs N Hobson

Miss A Johnston

Mrs B Jones

Miss R Martin

Ms C Maude

Miss C McClure

Mrs R McCulla

Mrs D McKnight

Ms H Montgomery

Mrs K Roy

Miss J Ross

Mrs A Savage

Mrs L Sloan

Miss R Smyth

Mrs D Stocking

Miss G Watters



**W J Dick**, Chair, Board of Governors



**HEAD BOY**  
**Corey Campbell**

Although you are all at the beginning of your post-primary school adventure, personally, I find it hard to believe that my time at Saintfield High School is coming to a close! It seems like it was just last week when I first walked through the doors of my new school as a shy and anxious 11-year-old.

Back then, in September 2018, I was nervous about what life at "Big School" would be like. However, I shouldn't have worried! The teachers, the support staff and my new classmates and friends were all so kind and welcoming. These people have all helped me to grow into the person I am today.

Five years later, I am proud to say that it is my absolute privilege to represent this wonderful school as Head Boy.

I have so many rich and happy memories of my years at Saintfield High School, but without doubt the highlight of my time here has been the opportunity to develop my passion for sport.

I am sport mad, and have enjoyed representing the school in football, rugby, hockey and athletics. I have even had the chance to take part in overnight hill-walking and orienteering courses in the spectacular Mourne Mountains.

I am now a keen student of GCSE PE, where my teachers help me to develop my knowledge, understanding and skills in a huge variety of sports. I am determined to seek a career in sport, and I know that my teachers at Saintfield High School have prepared me well for the future.

If you are in Primary 7 and are considering joining Saintfield High School, let me assure you that you will not regret it. I know from experience that the teachers will do everything they can to help you reach your full potential.

I know I will really miss this school when June comes and it is finally my time to leave, but I know that my years at Saintfield High School will stay with me forever.



**HEAD GIRL**  
**Lucy Langford**

I vividly remember the first few moments of my journey through Saintfield High School...

It was September 2018, and I felt my stomach churning the night before I was due to set foot into my brand new post-primary school. So many questions were chasing each other through my head. Will I make new friends? Will I like my teachers? Will I cope with how different everything will be compared to primary school?

Soon, though, my worries fell away. I felt myself become more assertive and more confident. With the constant support of my inspirational teachers, support staff and my classmates, I soon settled and, over the course of five years, grew into person that I am today.

From your first day at Saintfield High School, you are welcomed with open arms. The warm, friendly

and welcoming atmosphere of this rural, family-focused school definitely makes it much easier to settle into Year 8.

At present, I am in Year 12 and, in writing this, I have looked back on how far I have come with a smile on my face. I have so many exceptional and significant memories of my time here which I know I will forever cherish and will repeatedly look back on for the rest of my life.

When I first entered Saintfield High School as a Year 8 pupil, I don't mind telling you that I was one of the quietest in the class. It says so much about the quality of care that my teachers have given me that, now, I have the privilege of serving as Head Girl. I never thought that I would have the honour to carry out such a prestigious and important role within the school.

I won't deny that I am sad that this is my last year at Saintfield High School and I will be very disheartened when the time comes for me to leave. However, whatever the future holds for me, I know that my teachers have done all they can to ensure that I achieve my best in my exams and I am ready to face the future.

Primary 7s, I would strongly encourage you to consider choosing Saintfield High School as your post-primary option. You will thrive here and be pushed to accomplish the best grades that you are capable of throughout your time here. I wholeheartedly hope that you follow in my footsteps and become a pupil of this wonderful, joyful and, frankly, exceptional school – you won't regret it!

# PUPIL WELL-BEING

## at Saintfield High School

### PARENTS/CARERS - OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH YOU

At Saintfield High School all members of staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are partners with you, our parents and carers, in your child's education. We value a vibrant Parent Panel which provides parental/carer insight into a range of policies and processes. We believe that a pupil's education is enhanced when parents and carers, alongside teachers, share common objectives. A strong, genuine and meaningful partnership between school and home creates a sense of shared purpose and cements

a desire to ensure pupils 'thrive not just survive'. We will greatly value the part you play in guiding our Year 8 pupils along the path of success, and we also greatly appreciate our existing parents' and carers' support of all of our policies, and the way in which they nurture our children to take a real pride in attending this thriving learning community. We never take for granted the support of our parents and carers.

***Nurturing and challenging pupils to thrive***



## PUPIL WELL-BEING ORGANISATION

At Saintfield High School, Pastoral Care means every pupil is valued and well looked after. We want all of our pupils to feel happy, safe and content at school.

On enrolment at our school, all pupils are allocated to a tutor group, and our experienced Form Tutors will assist with your child's/children's pastoral induction into Year 8.

At Saintfield High School we strongly advocate that 'children should thrive not just survive'. All members of staff, both teaching and non-teaching, work tirelessly to ensure the holistic development of every single pupil within the school community.

The team of staff who provide overall pastoral care and who monitor attendance and academic progress include:

### THE FORM TUTOR

Each Form Tutor has specific responsibility for pupils in their Form Class and is the main point of contact for parents and carers. Form Tutors monitor academic progress and exercise pastoral care of the students in their Form Class. If pupils have any concerns they may talk to their Form Tutor. The role of Form Tutor is vital to the efficient running of the school, successful pastoral care, and the delivery of a range of programmes throughout the academic year.

### HEADS OF SCHOOL

The Head of Early School, Mrs Hume, has specific responsibility for all students in Year 8. Our Head of Junior School, Mrs Artt, has specific responsibility for all classes in Years 9 and 10. Our Head of Senior School, Mrs Bradley, has specific responsibility for all classes in Years 11 and 12. They liaise with Form Tutors, parents and carers, a range of external agencies, the Vice-Principal and Principal in all matters pertaining to Pupil Well-being.

### THE VICE-PRINCIPAL

Mrs Derby is our Vice-Principal, and within her role as Head of Pupil Well-Being, she provides support to all members of staff in implementing Saintfield High School's pastoral policies and procedures. Mrs Derby oversees the implementation of the Resilience Curriculum and strives to ensure all pupils are provided with a breadth of support, guidance and provision throughout their educational journey at Saintfield High School.



**EVA CROSKERY**  
Year 8



**MRS MORRISON**  
Parent Year 9

*"I'm delighted seeing how confident, happy and content my son is within Saintfield High School, and all that he has achieved in his first two years. The pastoral care has been excellent and Saintfield High School has definitely brought out the best in him."*

Moving to Saintfield High School is the best decision that I ever made! Everyone has been so kind and welcoming. As well as all the brilliant subjects we study, I take part in so many extra-curricular activities. I'm in the Choir, the Drama club, and I even take sign-language lessons after school! The highlight of my first year was signing and singing (at the same time!) for the Choir on prize day! Whatever you are in to, there will be something for you to enjoy here.

## LEARNING SUPPORT CO-ORDINATOR

Mr Murphy is our Learning Support Co-ordinator. Mr Murphy ensures those pupils on the Special Educational Needs (SEN) register receive the requirements of their statutory educational plans and are supported and guided throughout their educational journey to ensure they achieve 'personal success'.

## SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL'S ADDITIONAL AND SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROGRAMME

The progress of all pupils is monitored throughout the year through a process of formal testing, assessment, reviews and reports. Our aim is to ensure that prompt intervention strategies are put in place when deemed necessary. Specialists in English, Mathematics and Science are involved in supporting teaching and learning in the classroom. Our aim is to maximise the learning opportunities for all of our pupils. Pupils identified as having a Special Educational Need will benefit from Personalised Learning Plans drawn up according to the recommendations of their Statement of Educational Need. The School follows the requirements of the Special or Additional Educational Need Code of Practice.

## COMMUNITY CODE OF CONDUCT

Saintfield High School's Community Code of Conduct is our policy to promote positive behaviour within our learning community, and to outline all of our procedures relating to student behaviour and attitude. We want all of our pupils to be happy and feel safe in their school life, and we recognise that a harmonious environment at school and classroom level is key to effective learning and teaching. We believe that a clear, shared understanding of our school's values is a prerequisite for the effectiveness of our behaviour policy.

At Saintfield High School, we seek to encourage the development of self-discipline with mutual respect for others. Abundant opportunities are provided for children to be engaged in worthwhile activities where such development can take place, and positive discipline is always encouraged. When behaviour is unacceptable there is a need for sanctions, and our school rules and discipline procedures are included in our Community Code of Conduct Policy.

Our school code of behaviour was drawn up in consultation with members of staff and pupil representatives from our Student Voice Association, as well as the school's Parent/Carer Panel.

## STUDENT VOICE

Our Student Voice provides a clear platform for pupils from all year groups to express their opinions, beliefs and perspectives on a range of issues and topics relating to their education. We greatly value all the contributions our pupils make to the organisation and running of our learning community. It is so important that we listen carefully to pupils – their opinion truly matters.

## PASTORAL SUPPORT

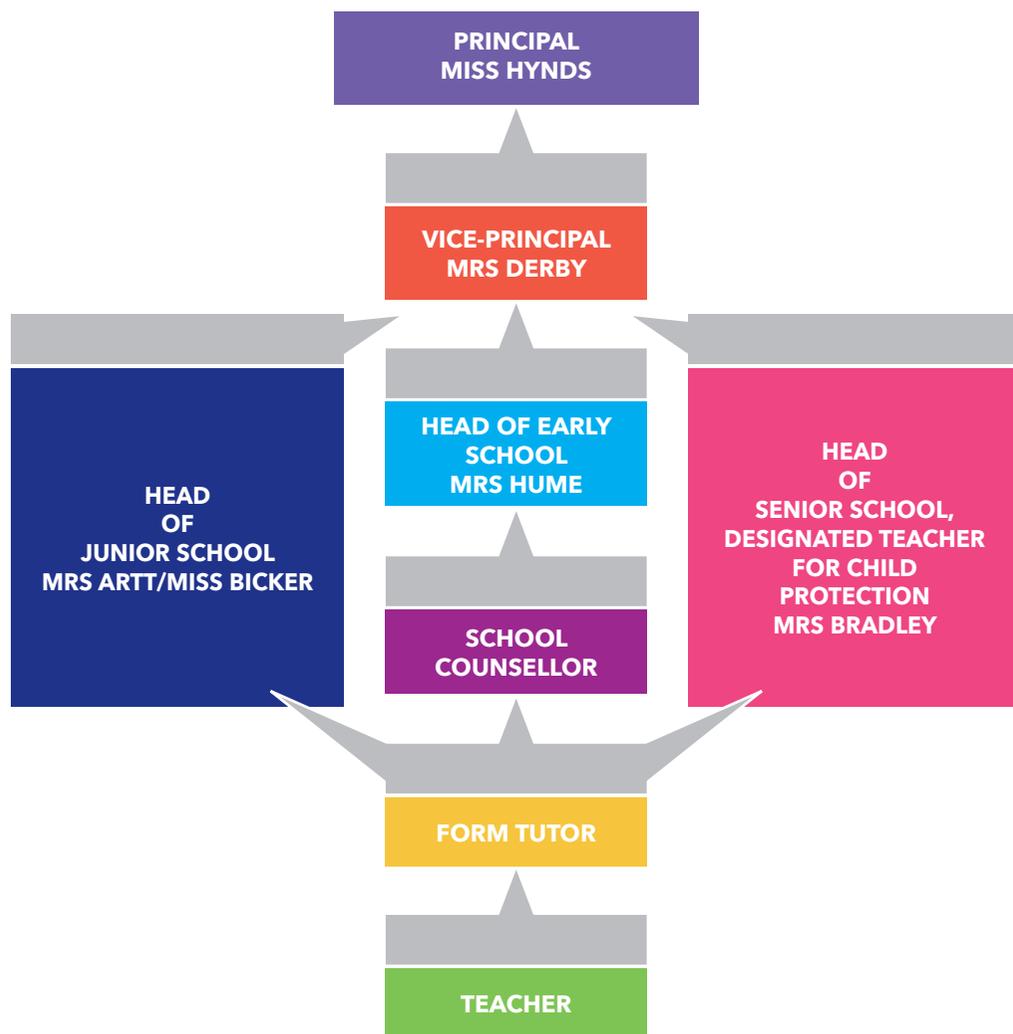
At Saintfield High School we firmly believe that every child has the right to learn, and every member of staff has the right to work in, an atmosphere free from fear and intimidation. We do not tolerate any form of bullying, and we are proactive about educating our children to always discuss anything that is worrying them. Our pupils know who to speak with and who to turn to if they ever have any concerns about school life. Our pastoral lines of communication are illustrated in the diagram opposite:

*"In recent months, we were absolutely thrilled to be awarded the Investors in Mental Health Award 2022. This is a tribute to all staff who work tirelessly to ensure the emotional and mental well-being of all pupils in this school community." - Mrs Derby*



## COUNSELLING

A key element of the pastoral provision at Saintfield High School involves our counsellor, Mrs O'Higgins. Mrs O'Higgins is in school each Wednesday and is available to speak with any pupil. The School Counsellor plays a crucial role in promoting pupil well-being by providing a listening ear and wise counsel. This service provides an opportunity for pupils, across all year groups, to discuss and reflect upon their thoughts, feelings and emotions within a safe and respectful environment.



**MRS CAMPBELL**  
Parent of Head Boy

*"I feel incredibly grateful that my son had the privilege of attending Saintfield High School.*

*There is no doubt that transitioning from primary to post-primary school is a very anxious time for all parents and carers. However, I would love to reassure you that the staff in Saintfield High School work exceptionally hard to make this transition a smooth one.*

*I strongly believe, as a mum, that children only learn when they are happy and feel safe. From the moment my son walked through the doors of Saintfield High School this has been the priority. The pastoral care in this school is outstanding! Academic success will then follow.*

*Every child is valued and treated as an individual to enable them to achieve their full potential.*

*It has been a joy, these last five years, to watch my son grow in confidence. Saintfield High School will always have a special place in our hearts.*

*You will not regret choosing this school for your child's next adventure!"*



**ELLIE TATE**  
Year 9

I have recently joined the Student Voice Association – this is a brilliant way to share all of our ideas. Recently, I also took part in anti-bullying workshops – we always treat each other with respect in this school. I think Saintfield High School is amazing!

# SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL'S RESILIENCE CURRICULUM

## THROUGHOUT YEARS 8-12

All pupils will embark upon a pastoral journey which seeks to provide preventative education through our Resilience Curriculum. We want to prepare our pupils for the exciting opportunities, as well as the challenges, which they will face in adulthood. Within our school community, we appreciate not only the importance of pupils' physical well-

being, but also acknowledge that their mental and emotional well-being is of equal value, especially for the current generation of children.

We seek to equip our pupils with resilience and the ability to manage their physical and mental health in a positive manner, especially when the

challenges of life are all too apparent. Throughout the year, we discuss, reflect upon, and consider mental well-being and the implications mental health can have upon pupils' lives and families. It is hoped such a proactive approach will assist pupils in preparation for their future.

### THE PUPIL RESILIENCE CURRICULUM INCLUDES:

- Anti-Bullying Workshops
- 'Dead Cool' Smoke/Vape Prevention Programme
- Drug Awareness Support Sessions
- 'Good Manners Matter' Programme
- Internet Safety Training
- 'Love for Life' Programme
- 'Made for More' Resilience Workshops
- Mental Health Programmes
- Self-esteem and confidence seminars
- 'Mood Matters'
- Pastoral Support Sessions
- Resilience Module
- Road Safety - Translink Safety Bus
- School Counsellor from 'Family Works'
- Suicide Prevention Programme
- Examinations support and guidance
- The Blues Programme
- Respect and tolerance for all



Mrs V Derby, Vice-Principal

# Child Protection Procedures

In line with the Department of Education Northern Ireland, Saintfield High School has a duty to refer disclosures of a child protection nature to the appropriate statutory agencies.

If any parents and carers have concerns about the safety of their (or another) child they can inform:

- Miss Hynds, the Principal;
- Mrs Bradley, who is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, or
- Mrs Convill, who is the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (in the absence of Mrs Bradley).

Reporting back on the progress and conclusion of a concern will be by the Designated Teacher dealing with the issue. Other avenues open to parents and carers if they remain dissatisfied with the outcome, is first to refer the matter to the Principal, if she has not yet been involved, or second, to refer the matter to the Chair of the Board of Governors. The chart to the right illustrates the process.

## SCHOOL PASTORAL POLICIES

Saintfield High School's pastoral policies are in place to safeguard all of our children and are regularly reviewed.

They include:

Anti-Bullying, Child Protection, Community Code of Conduct, Drug Prevention, Health and Safety, Pupil Well-Being, Diversity and Inclusion and Social Media.

Copies are available on our website, [www.saintfieldhighschool.com](http://www.saintfieldhighschool.com)

MRS DOUGLAS  
Parent Year 11

*"As the parent of a son in Year 11, I am very impressed with the excellent academic and pastoral support he receives. It is evident that the teaching staff continually strive to encourage all pupils to reach their full potential in a caring and supportive environment. I would have no hesitation in recommending Saintfield High School to other parents."*

1

I have a concern about my/a child's safety

2

I can talk to the Form Tutor

3

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mrs Bradley (or the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mrs Convill, in her absence)/School Counsellor/Vice-Principal, Mrs Derby

4

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal - Miss Hynds

5

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to the Chair of the Board of Governors

6

At any time, I can talk to Social Services or the PSNI



SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL'S  
CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

# At Saintfield High School we strive to ensure that every single pupil achieves their full potential.

There are many strands which contribute to our **'Curriculum for Excellence'**.

These include:

- Our delivery and development of a broad and balanced curriculum through effective and vibrant **learning and teaching**;
- Our tracking and **monitoring of pupil progress**;
- Our **careers support and guidance**, and of course;
- Our **strong and robust wrap around pastoral care provision**.

We have in place a dynamic and thorough assessment schedule for all year groups, which fuels our 'Pupil Progress Check' system. The progress of our pupils is monitored very carefully and parents and carers will receive two reports annually – a Progress Report at the end of Term 1, and an Annual Report at the end of Term 3 or a Mock Examinations Report in Term 2 for Years 11 and 12.



**MRS CRAWFORD**  
Parent Year 8

*"My daughter is in Year 8 and was very apprehensive about the transition to post-primary school. Saintfield High School has been extremely understanding and an amazing support to my daughter. The pastoral care support she has experienced has been invaluable. I know her well-being is of utmost importance to them. Even after a couple of months, the school's family atmosphere is evident."*



**NOAH CUNNINGHAM**  
Year 10

## The School Curriculum

### KEY STAGE THREE

The curriculum for Years 8-10 enables each pupil to realise their true potential at Key Stage Three. Children are given the opportunity to excel in a range of subject areas, and are supported fully during these important school years.

During Years 8, 9 and 10, pupils will have the opportunity to study the following subjects:

- **Art & Design • English**
- **Food Science & Nutrition • French**
- **Geography • History • ICT**
- **Learning for Life & Work**
- **Mathematics • Music**
- **Physical Education**
- **Religious Education • Science**
- **Technology & Design**

I was a little nervous before I started Saintfield High School, but I needn't have worried. Since the very first day, the teachers and classroom assistants have been so kind and welcoming, and I have made plenty of friends. I am in Mr McCracken's Form Class, and he is also my English teacher. There is a great atmosphere in his classroom, and I look forward to coming to school every day.

## KEY STAGE FOUR

The curriculum for Years 11 and 12 is determined by core subjects, which are compulsory, and a selection of subjects which are chosen by pupils at the end of Year 10. At Saintfield High School, we continually review and revise our Key Stage Four curriculum so that it fully meets the interests and aptitudes of our pupils. We offer GCSE and Level 2 programmes of study.

The following core subjects are compulsory:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Learning for Life and Work
- Religious Studies

The following subjects are currently offered to pupils in Years 11 and 12:

- Agriculture and Land Use
- Art and Design
- Creative Arts and Digital Technologies
- English Literature
- Food and Nutrition
- French
- Geography
- Health and Social care
- History
- IT Applications
- Music
- Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies
- Occupational Studies - Design and Creativity, Environment and Society
- Physical Education
- Prince's Trust
- Single Award Science
- Double Award Science
- Technology and Design



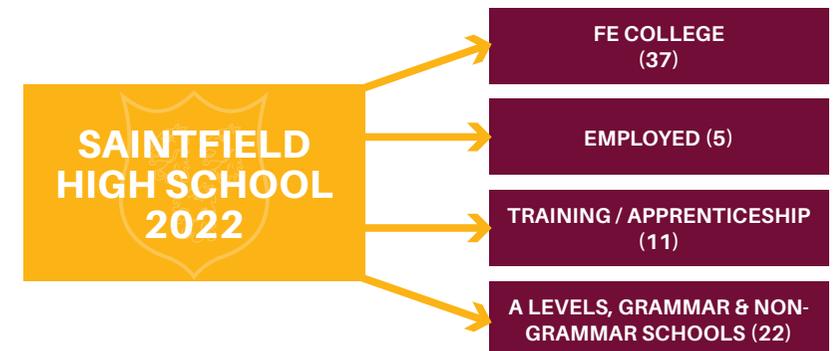
## PUPIL ACHIEVEMENTS

At Saintfield High School, we are extremely proud of all that our pupils achieve, both inside the classroom and outside the classroom. The importance of examinations for entry to higher and further education and employment cannot be overlooked. Results for external examinations have been of a consistently high standard over many years within the school. It is our policy that all pupils attempt to complete qualifications in the fullest range of subjects possible at GCSE level and other Level 2 options.

*'Our high standards of learning and teaching continue to bring rewards. Last year's Year 12, who completed their education at Saintfield High School in June 2022, achieved an impressive set of GCSE results, which reflect their individual success. We are simply delighted that 92% of our pupils in 2022 achieved five or more GCSE grades at A\*-C, with 85% of all pupils achieving five or more GCSE grades at A\*-C, including English and Mathematics. Additionally, each and every pupil left having developed a wide range of skills in sport, music and a variety of extra-curricular interests, and indeed social skills'.*

**S-L Hynds**

Principal



## HOME LEARNING

Parents and carers are encouraged to ensure that each week day evening, one to two hours is spent on uninterrupted study. This will cover specific tasks given by subject teachers, extra studies, research work, and much needed revision. This is necessary if work completed in class is to be adequately reinforced and developed. There is a relatively uniform distribution of home learning activities throughout the week. Parents and carers should always endeavour to provide a quiet space with reasonable facilities for home study. If at any point in your child's educational journey your child experiences any difficulties with home learning, please make an appointment to discuss this with the subject teacher or Form Tutor.

## INTEGRATION OF VIRTUAL LEARNING PLATFORMS

The last two academic years have seen our school community implement various platforms for our pupils to learn online, and remote learning continues to play a significant role in the educational provision we deliver to our young people. Our teachers continue to develop a wide range of strategies to support effective remote learning, whether this be for home study to support daily lessons, when pupils cannot be in school at all, or when integrated into face-to-face lessons.

## CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Careers education plays a significant role in the full development of our pupils.

The aim of the Careers Team is to provide information on, and knowledge of, a wide range of career paths, and to enhance pupils' awareness of their achievements, skills, qualities and capabilities.

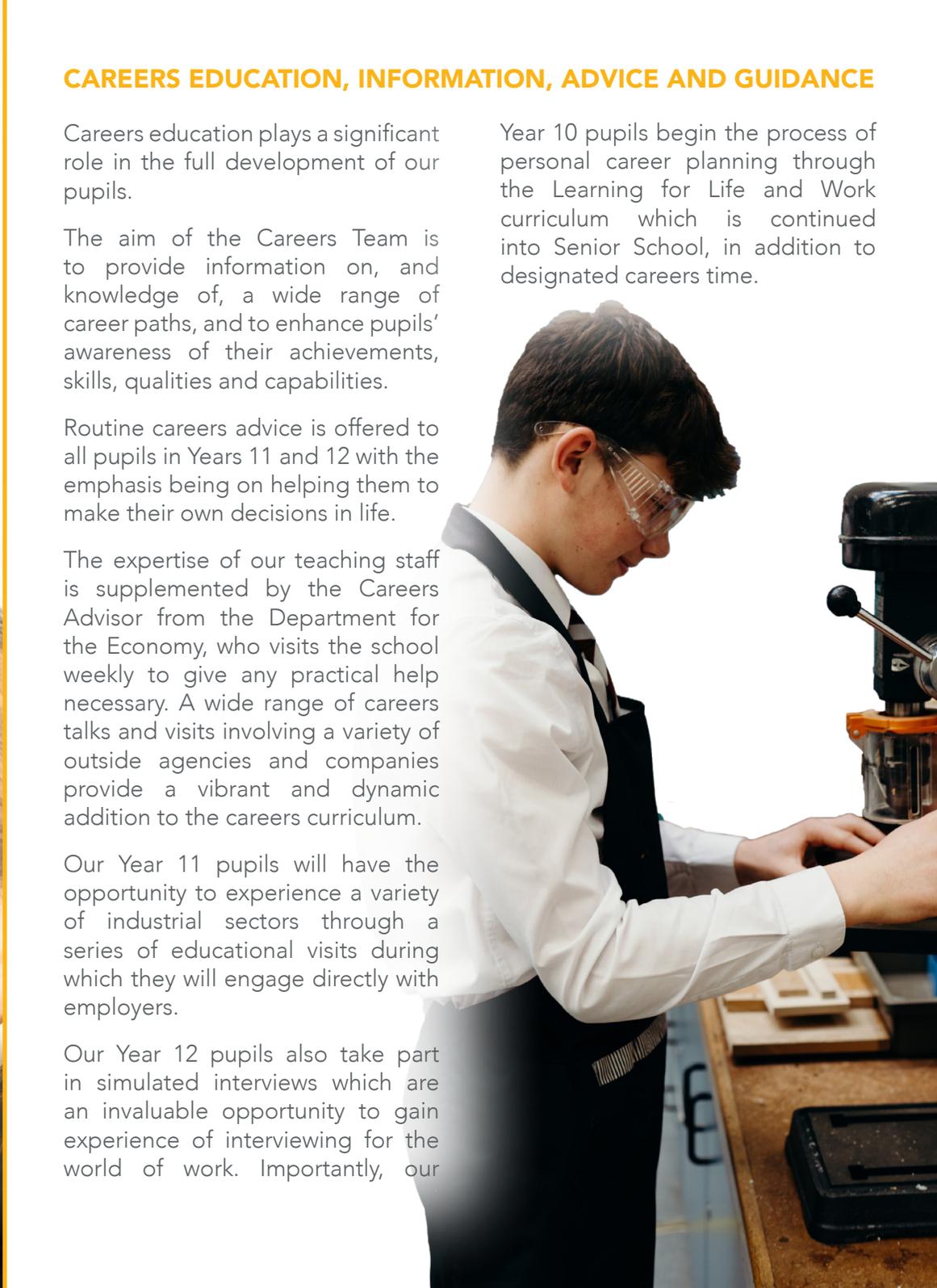
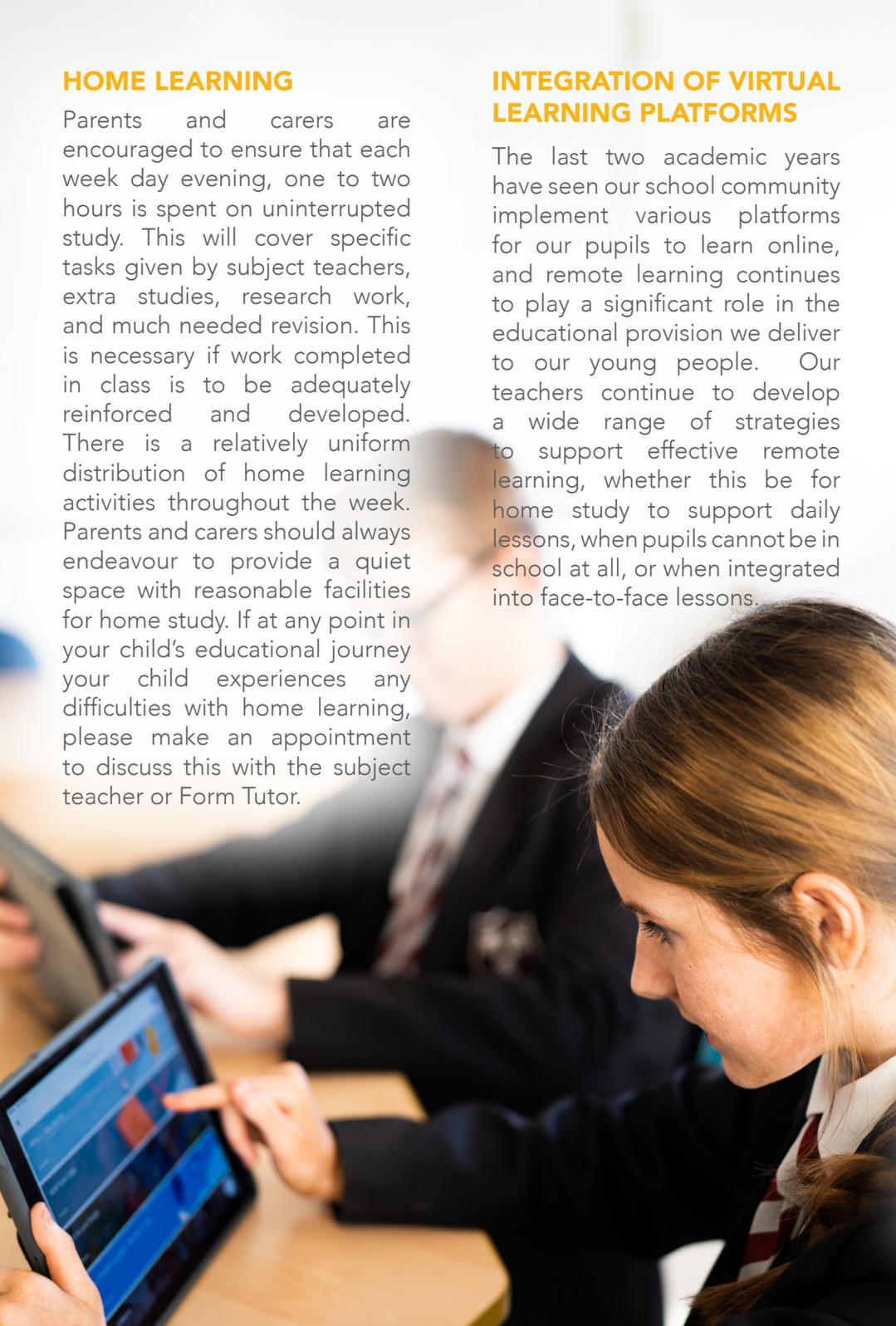
Routine careers advice is offered to all pupils in Years 11 and 12 with the emphasis being on helping them to make their own decisions in life.

The expertise of our teaching staff is supplemented by the Careers Advisor from the Department for the Economy, who visits the school weekly to give any practical help necessary. A wide range of careers talks and visits involving a variety of outside agencies and companies provide a vibrant and dynamic addition to the careers curriculum.

Our Year 11 pupils will have the opportunity to experience a variety of industrial sectors through a series of educational visits during which they will engage directly with employers.

Our Year 12 pupils also take part in simulated interviews which are an invaluable opportunity to gain experience of interviewing for the world of work. Importantly, our

Year 10 pupils begin the process of personal career planning through the Learning for Life and Work curriculum which is continued into Senior School, in addition to designated careers time.



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROVISION

We believe firmly that not everything that happens in a school can be measured by examination results. At Saintfield High School we promote and champion the development of personal and social skills, motivation and dedication, loyalty, idealism and spiritual qualities, which are developed not only through our

varied curriculum but also through our extensive extra-curricular programme.

We have a wide range of clubs, societies and extra-curricular activities on offer within the school, including:

- Basketball
- British Sign Language Certificate (BSL)
- Choir
- Cookery
- Cricket
- Dance
- DIY Club
- Drama
- Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award
- Educational Visits
- Equestrian Club
- Fishing
- Football
- Hockey
- Netball
- Rugby
- Scripture Union
- Sewing
- Subject Revision Classes



## YEAR 8 PUPILS...

# WHAT SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL MEANS TO ME...

I like Saintfield High School because there are new subjects to learn.

Thomas Fitzsimmons 8BI

I like Saintfield High School because we have after school clubs like BSL British Sign Language and netball.

Lexie Kingham 8MY

In Saintfield High School I love the way the teachers and Classroom Assistants are friendly and kind.

Izzy Robinson 8MY

I like Saintfield High School because I get to use chemicals in Science and play football in PE.

Jack Glover 8BI

I like Saintfield High School because my classes are enjoyable. The day that I joined Saintfield High School I made friends very easily.

John Leckey 8MY

I like Saintfield High School because our subjects are fun and have interaction. We have nice teachers.

Finlay Edgar 8BI

I like Saintfield High School because all the teachers are nice and kind. They all welcomed us when we joined the school and the pupils here are great.

Jack Hunter 8MY

In Saintfield High School I love the way I made new friends easily. Our teachers are kind and helpful.

Annie Scarlett 8MY

I like Saintfield High School because the cafeteria food is really tasty and the teachers are nice. I found it easy to find my way around the school when I first started.

Luca Robinson 8MY

I like Saintfield High School because you get to make new friends every day and you can learn new subjects. There are lots of clubs and activities to choose from too!

Sophia Thornton 8MY

In Saintfield High School I love the food in the cafeteria, especially on a Friday when I get chips! I have made lots of friends.

Katie Martin 8MY

I like Saintfield High School because I get to play the bagpipes at lunchtime and we always get to make yummy food in Home Economics.

Jack Moore 8BI

In Saintfield High School I love the way you can come into the library at lunchtime to finish your homework. Our school is just the right size – not too big and not too small.

Ruby Love 8MY

# SPORT

## at Saintfield High School

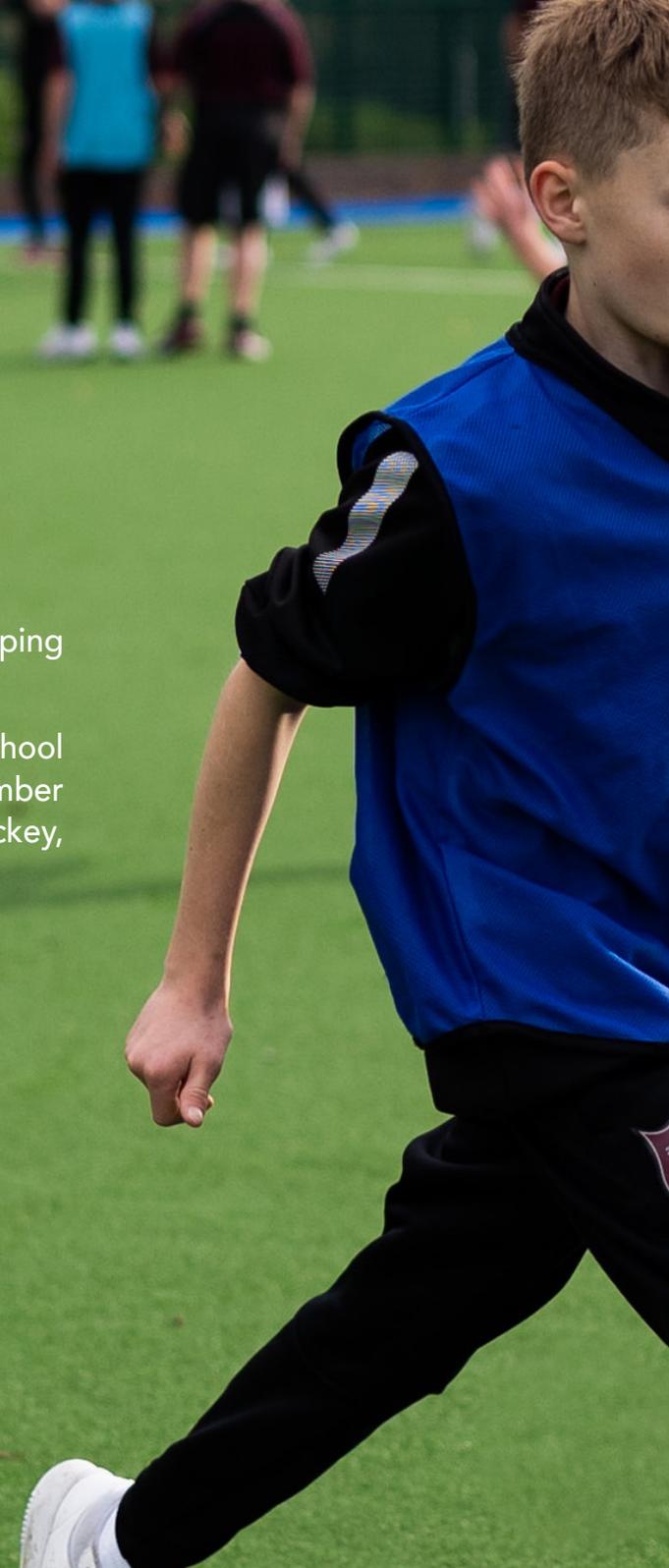
### Saintfield High School's Sporting Aims

Sport and physical activity are important parts of every pupil's week at Saintfield High School, helping to develop their physical, social and mental well-being.

Weekly dedicated Physical Education classes are supplemented by an extensive range of after-school activities, involving inter-school matches, overseas trips and weekly clubs. The School is a member of the North Down School Sports Association, competing regularly in interschool football, hockey, basketball and athletics competitions.

The school's sporting aims are: -

1. To promote a healthy lifestyle amongst all pupils;
2. To help pupils acquire new sporting skills;
3. To help pupils to maximise their sporting potential;
4. To assist pupils to make informed decisions about their health throughout the rest of their lives;
5. To improve pupils' self-esteem and confidence;
6. To promote the value of teamwork;
7. To have fun in a safe environment.





## SPORTS FACILITIES

The school has access to a wide range of sporting facilities, which include a state-of-the-art sports hall, a gymnasium, two grass football pitches, an outdoor gym, community centre and a full-size Astroturf hockey pitch. We also have strong links with local sporting clubs, including Saintfield Hockey and Cricket Clubs, Saintfield Striders Running Club, Saintfield United Football Club and Ballynahinch Rugby Club.



# MUSIC AND PERFORMING ARTS

at Saintfield High School

Saintfield High School supports a vibrant and enthusiastic Music and Performing Arts Department



This department aims to offer diverse experiences to each pupil inside and outside of the classroom. Both subjects are available to study at Key Stage Four, and the school has recently introduced delivery of the OCN NI Level 2 Creative Arts and Digital Technologies.

All pupils have the opportunity to take up a musical instrument and tuition is available in woodwind, brass and guitar, to name but a few disciplines. Pupils are prepared for grade examinations with various, appropriate examination boards.

The Music and Performing Arts Department places great emphasis on extra-curricular activities and pupils are encouraged to take part in all of these. We are extremely proud of our Saintfield High School Choir and Band, and other ensembles.

Each year, our choir and band undertake a full and challenging programme with performances at our annual day of 'Celebrating Success', our Open Evening, and various other after-school events and concerts. Our musicians also contribute regularly to many community and charity events.

Our Music and Performing Arts Department continues to flourish!



## COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

It is our vision for the future that Saintfield High School becomes even more community focused, as it continues to serve the village and wider area. Our staff and pupils are fully committed to involvement in community activity, and we continue to strengthen links with a range of outside and neighbouring agencies, businesses, organisations, and local people.

At Saintfield High School, we believe the answer to real education and school transformation is strong, authentic, community connections and actions. We take great pride in our reputation as a school at the heart of our community, with an open and welcoming atmosphere. We host annual activity days and variety concerts which are open to every open young person in the community and recognise how vitally important it is that our pupils experience and understand the rich connections between our school and society.



**JAMES BURGESS**  
Year 11

I have started my GCSEs this year, and I have to say I am really enjoying them. The work can be challenging, but my teachers do all they can to support us. My favourite subjects are Agriculture & Land Use with Mrs Jackson, and Technology & Design with Mr Bolton. These two teachers have very different styles in the classroom, but what they have in common is that they always try to make lessons interesting, and they always have our best interests at heart.

## CULTURAL AWARENESS AND FUNDRAISING

During the school year, fundraising is organised regularly during the school year, with many local and national charities receiving significant donations as a result of our pupils' hard work, and the generosity of parents and carers and of the wider community. The pastoral philosophies which underpin our school community promote, encourage, and foster the development of empathy, compassion and understanding. Our work in supporting charities exemplifies this commitment to others.

For the academic year 2021/22, a total of £6,307.85 was raised and donated to a number of worthy causes. Additionally, over 50 Christmas hampers were created and delivered to Kilmore and Inch Parish Church, who were working in collaboration with Christians Against Poverty (CAP) leading up to Christmas.

Through these activities, our learning community finds that by giving, there is a great deal to be gained.



**MRS MEGARRY**  
Parent Year 12

*"With being a past pupil of Saintfield High School myself, I know how much I enjoyed my time there and I am now delighted to have two of my children attend the school.*

*From Year 8 through to Year 12, the support that the teachers and the Classroom Assistants give to each child and their individual needs is second to none. I love how they make each child feel important by not only praising their successes but by always being there to help them through difficult times, and as a parent this gives me great peace of mind that my children are being well looked after educationally and emotionally whilst at school."*

# UNIFORM

## GIRLS

**Blazer:** A black blazer with School badge

**Skirt:** Grey - length NOT shorter than midway between end of blazer and knee

**Shirt:** White with Junior or Senior School tie

**Jumper:** Official School 'V' neck jumper (compulsory November - February inc.)

**Shoes:** Plain black, low heeled, soft soled School shoes (no fashion shoes, trainers or pumps)

**Tights:** Black tights

**Coat:** Official school outdoor coat

**Scarf:** Official School scarf

**Bag:** Plain black with reflector markings, no handbag style

### Summer Term

In the summer term a short-sleeved white shirt may be worn with tie.

## BOYS

**Blazer:** A black blazer with School badge

**Trousers:** Black

**Shirt:** White with Junior or Senior School tie

**Jumper:** Official School 'V' neck jumper (compulsory November - February inc.)

**Socks:** Grey or black

**Shoes:** Plain black, soft soled School shoes (not gym shoes or boots)

**Coat:** Official school outdoor coat

**Scarf:** Official School scarf

**Bag:** Plain black with reflector markings

### Summer Term

In the summer term a short-sleeved white shirt may be worn with tie.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION UNIFORM

## GIRLS

**Skort:** Black games skort

**Top:** Maroon polo shirt and black zipped sports top with school crest

**Socks:** Maroon long sports sock with three black bands

**Coat:** Official school outdoor coat with school crest

**Trousers:** Black tracksuit bottoms with school crest

**Gym Shoes:** White with non-marking sole. Shin pads and gum shield are recommended.



## BOYS

**Shorts:** Black two tone soccer short

**Top:** Maroon polo shirt and black zipped sports top with school crest

**Socks:** Maroon long sports sock with three black bands

**Coat:** Official school outdoor coat with school crest

**Trousers:** Black tracksuit bottoms with school crest

**Gym Shoes:** White with non-marking sole, and football boots. Shin pads and gum shield are recommended.



# CHARGING AND REMISSIONS

## CHARGING AND REMISSIONS

- The Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989 retains a general commitment to the concept of free education for all pupils throughout the period of compulsory schooling. However, Saintfield High School's Board of Governors suggest an annual voluntary contribution of £40 per pupil and/or £60 per family to a School Fund designed to support a wide variety of extra-curricular activities in Years 8 - 12.
- All teaching of subjects prescribed in the Northern Ireland Curriculum is given free of charge to parents and carers, as are all entries for public examinations offered by the school and taken by pupils for the first time. There will, however, be a full cost to parents and carers for the re-marking of external examinations.
- Music tuition is available within the school as follows:
  - Guitar tuition at a cost of £10 per lesson;
  - Piping and drums tuition delivered by Ulster Scots tutors. Tuition for 29 weeks is free of charge. Start-up cost is £33 for a book and chanter or drumpad/sticks.
  - Brass and woodwind tuition is delivered by Mrs Birt, Head of Music and Performing Arts Department, free of charge within the school. Matchetts Music, Belfast, is available for the hiring of instruments, in addition to the school.

- On occasion, there may be charges made for the transport of pupils representing the school, although not for team games, inter-school quizzes, community service or musical events.
- Additionally, charges are made when parents and carers indicate in advance a wish to own a finished product, for example, for ingredients, materials and/or components used within practical areas of the curriculum like Food Science and Nutrition or Technology and Design. Similarly, when parent/carers have agreed to their child's participation in a residential trip which takes place mainly outside school hours, charges are made to cover the costs involved. Optional activities organised by the school which require charges to be made, require the written consent of parents/carers before their children are permitted to participate in them.



SOPHIA FINLAY  
Year 12

I am in my final year at Saintfield High School, and it can be a little bit nerve-racking thinking about the future. I have many important exams to sit this year, and then I have to make a choice about my life once I leave this wonderful school. I feel supported, though, every step of the way by my teachers. The school has a really helpful Careers programme that has helped me and my classmates think about these big decisions and feel more confident about what lies ahead.

MR ANDERSON  
Parent Year 10

*"Our experience of Saintfield High School has been one of a school which provides a very supportive environment for our children, where the leadership and teaching staff are fully engaged in prioritising their learning and welfare."*



# TRANSFER PROCEDURE 2023

Admissions will be determined by a designated sub-committee of the Board of Governors, which shall include the Principal. The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on the Transfer Application.

You may be required to present verification documents after your child has been offered a place at the School, at the sole discretion of the Board of Governors. Original documents are required and not digital copies or photocopies. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide verifying documents according to the required deadline may result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of the school to offer a place.

In the event of the school being over-subscribed, a pupil will be admitted according to the following criteria, applied in the order set down:

- 1** Children who have a child of the family\* currently enrolled at the school (applicants should record on the Transfer Application the name of the child and date of enrolment at the school), or children whose parent/carer is a permanent employee of the school.
- 2** Children who have had a child of the family\* who attended the school. Applicants should record on the Transfer Application the name of the child and date he/she left Saintfield High School.
- 3** Children who are the eldest child(ren) of the family\* (where applicable, twins (or other multiples) will be treated as joint eldest), or the first child of the family to transfer to a non-selective school (verification may be required) and who attends a traditional contributory primary school (see list of feeder schools below).
- 4** Children who attend a feeder/named primary school (see list of schools above) and who list Saintfield High School as their first preference post-primary school on the Transfer Application.
- 5** All other children.

If, following the application of the above criteria in order, there comes a point where there are more children who meet a particular criterion than there are spaces available, priority will be given to children:

- a) Who list Saintfield High School as their first preference post-primary school then;
- b) For whom Saintfield High School is the nearest suitable school as measured by the Ordnance Survey web distance measurement tool.

Academy, Saintfield	Carryduff	Killyleagh
Alexander Dickson	Cedar Integrated	Knockbreda
Anahilt	Comber	Millennium Integrated
Andrews Memorial	Derryboy	Moneyrea
Ballynahinch	Downpatrick	St Mary's, Comber
Cairnshill	Drumlins Integrated	Spa
Carr	Glasswater	
Carrickmannon	Killinchy	

\*Child of the family as defined in DE Circular 2022/15 The Procedure for Transfer from Primary to Post Primary Education, Annex 2, Paragraph 3.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on, or attached to the Transfer Application, relating to the set criteria. Parents/carers should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria, is stated on the Transfer Application or attached to it.



## YEAR 8 WAITING LIST

Applicants who did not gain a place in Saintfield High School as part of the transfer procedure will automatically be placed in rank order upon the school's admissions waiting list after 1 September 2023.

Should a place become available after 1 September 2023, priority will be given to those applicants who have named Saintfield High School as their first preference post-primary school. In the event of a place becoming available, the School will contact the applicant's parent/carer to arrange an interview with the Principal or Vice-Principal. New applications for Year 8 will be added to the waiting list in rank order after applying the admissions criteria.

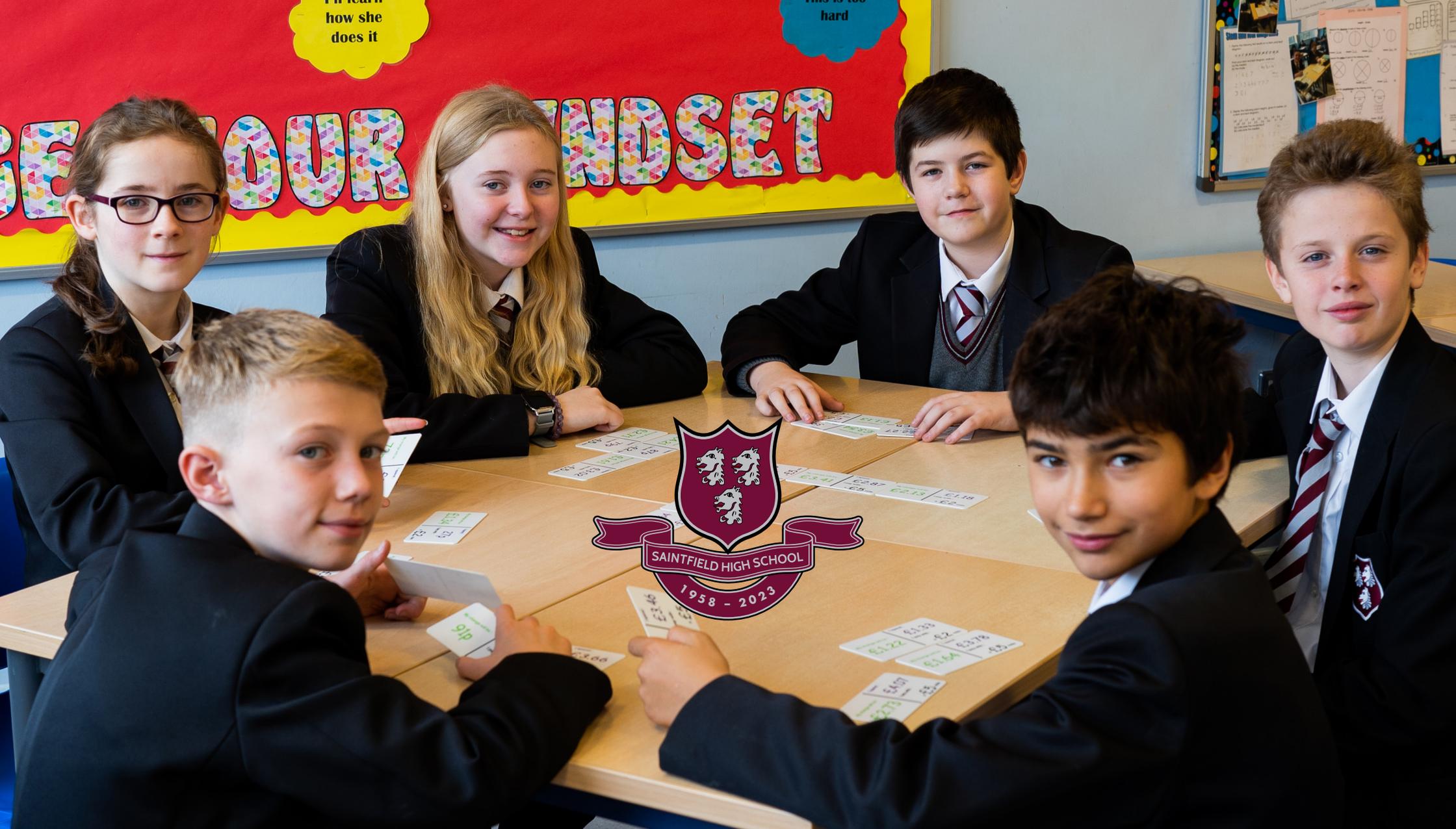
At the end of Year 8, the school will contact all applicants' parents/carers on the waiting list to determine whether they wish to remain on the waiting list. Those applicants wishing to remain on the waiting list will be dealt with according to the criteria listed in Admission to Saintfield High School other than at the Customary Transfer Stage.

### ADMISSION DETAILS

YEAR	APPLICATIONS RECEIVED	APPROVED ENROLMENT	PUPILS ADMITTED
SEPTEMBER 2019:	128 APPLICATIONS	68	72 PUPILS ADMITTED*
SEPTEMBER 2020:	112 APPLICATIONS	72**	72 PUPILS ADMITTED*
SEPTEMBER 2021:	94 APPLICATIONS	72**	72 PUPILS ADMITTED*
SEPTEMBER 2022:	114 APPLICATIONS	92**	93 PUPILS ADMITTED*

\*numbers exclude statemented children

\*\*increased temporary approved enrolments



I'll learn how she does it

This is too hard

# OUR MINDSET



# 2023

**SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**

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