



Prospectus 2024

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De La Salle College

Growing to Excellence





PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

OUR VISION



We are delighted to warmly welcome you to De La Salle College and to thank you for taking the time to get to know our school.

De La Salle College is a Catholic all ability 11 – 18 school, established by the De La Salle Brothers along with the assistance of the local parishes, welcoming its first students on 5th September 1966.

In its 5 decades of history, the school has continued to grow and flourish, reflecting the rich heritage of the West Belfast community and our Lasallian core principles of Faith, Respect, Concern for Others, Quality Education and Inclusive Community.

As a Lasallian school, we have a special mission to nurture and support all our pupils particularly our most vulnerable.

We believe that all students can learn and achieve, regardless of their starting point, as represented in our motto 'Growing to Excellence'.

We recognise the challenges that face our youth in faith, life and in work and we see it as our mission to prepare our students to face and overcome all the challenges presented by our rapidly changing society.

Our students are nurtured right from Year 8 to develop their full potential academically, socially, physically, artistically, morally and spiritually.

All staff work together to ensure that the pupil learning experience in classrooms develops the concept of lifelong learning and equips our students with the knowledge, skills and understanding to learn effectively, enabling them to make informed choices to help them lead a happy, healthy and rewarding life.

Beyond the classroom, pupils are constantly encouraged to develop all aspects of themselves and we have a vast array of extra-curricular opportunities to capture almost every interest.

Sport has always been a central feature of the life of De La Salle and continues to provide an avenue to showcase and develop the many talented young people who come through our doors across a range of multi sporting activities.

We also provide countless opportunities and experiences for our pupils to become involved in charity work, both locally and globally.

The hidden ingredient to our success is the care and support we give to every single pupil and the strong partnership that exists between the school and the parents which ensures the best outcome for their son's education.



We maintain positive links with our partner primary schools and schools within the Area Learning Community, operating a Sixth Form Partnership with St. Genevieve's High School, all of which further enriches our curriculum, extra-curricular activities and career opportunities for the pupils.

A key component of our School Development Plan is our drive towards the establishment of De La Salle as a Digital Learning School Community.

The school has invested significantly in Digital Technologies, working in partnership with C2K and other digital providers to further update our facilities and develop specialist staff and resources.

De La Salle sees Information Technology as a core aspect of our pupils' development and we have extended the spectrum of choices for our pupils, introducing additional digital and online learning forums to enhance their acquisition of advanced technological skills.

We have been collaborating with industry and business to introduce higher level apprenticeships and secure recognised awards that provide career enhancement in new and emergent technologies and future workplaces.

De La Salle College is an integral part of the wider local community. We serve that community not only through the education of the pupils of the area, but by sharing our resources with the local community, in particular, our Sports Complex and facilities. The College benefits greatly from the support that the community gives and we look forward to this relationship continuing and growing.

We trust our prospectus and our virtual tour will give you a glimpse of the very rich and varied life of our school and will inform and assist you in making the important decision about the next stage of your son's education.

You will be able to get further information through our website www.delasallecollege.org.uk.

If you have any further questions you can make contact through the school office or info@delasallecollege.org.uk.

Mrs Claire White
Principal

Faith

Respect

**Quality
Education**



**Inclusive
Community**

**Social
Justice**

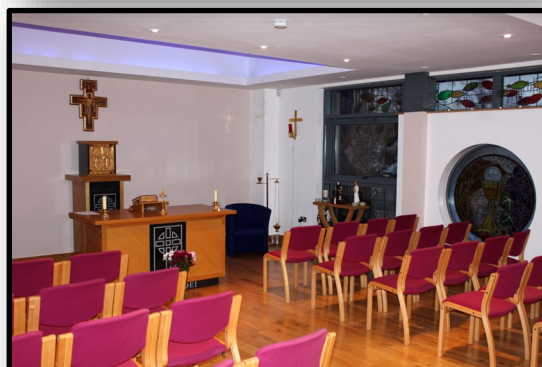
"Let us remember that we are in the Holy presence of God. Live Jesus in our hearts forever." St. Jean Baptiste de La Salle



SCHOOL



In September 2008, after twenty years of operating on two sites, the brand new purpose built De La Salle College was opened. It remains one of the most up to date schools in the north of Ireland with modern fully equipped classrooms, laboratories and workshops. Additional funding was secured at that time to allow a double sized sports hall to be built alongside the gymnasium and the weights and fitness rooms. Outdoor pitches at St Genevieve's are also currently used for PE classes and extra-curricular activities on our brand new 3G pitch and pavilion beside the school.



BUILDING

The school also includes the beautiful chapel of St Jean Baptiste de la Salle and modern facilities for the Home Economics, Technology, Music and Drama departments. Recently, we were able to invest over £200,000 in a complete refresh of all our C2K networked PCs. De La Salle College is now in the enviable position where we can boast ten suites of networked PCs and four Apple Mac suites, in addition to portable devices such as laptops, chrome books and iPads. We have a Bring Your Own Device policy for Key Stage 5 students. We believe we have an infrastructure capable of meeting the needs of 21st century education.



HISTORY OF DE LA

As the population in the Andersonstown area in the early 1960s surged, Fr. Cunningham decided that a new boys' Secondary School was required in the area. To achieve his objective, he approached the De La Salle Brothers, asking them to establish a Secondary Intermediate School for the local parishes. However, finance was the main problem with only 65% of the Capital cost being funded by the state, leaving £90,000 to be funded by the parishes themselves. The local community ensured the funds were raised and gave the community parishes a financial and emotional stake in the school. In naming the school the Brothers ensured that the school would possess the qualities which mark the Lasallian educational ethos. The new La Salle Boys' Secondary School and its sister school, St. Genevieve's, opened their doors to its first pupils in September 1966.

The first Principal was Brother Cornelius who was to pioneer the school through the difficult early years of the Troubles with unparalleled success. These early years coincided with the breakdown of order in the North and the school was to serve as a refugee centre for those fleeing the violence in the Lower Falls. The new school year in September 1969 was delayed by seven weeks as a result and these circumstances were repeated in 1972 when part of the school was occupied by the British Army; in the same year the school gymnasium was destroyed in an explosion. Despite such obstacles, the resilience and abilities of both staff and pupils alike was demonstrated by

the outstanding 'O Level' results of 1971. This success led to the ground-breaking decision to create 'A Level' classes in La Salle and ultimately to establish the treasured consortium with St. Genevieve's. The following years saw this academic success consolidated and with strong provision being made for those with other talents, La Salle was now visibly "a place of opportunity" for all.

The primary challenge confronting the new Principal, Brother Dominic, in 1977 was how to manage the increasing number of students seeking admission to the school. The building was originally designed for 450-500 students but by the early 1980s it was approaching 1,200. In the main this was achieved by the use of mobile classrooms which encroached on the running track and tennis courts further reducing the sports facilities available to our students.

In 1989 the Junior students moved to the vacant Cross and Passion College building on the Glen Road. While this relieved some of the pressures on the Edenmore Drive site it presented new logistical and financial challenges associated with a split site. This supposedly short term arrangement was to last almost two decades as a constant battle to achieve a new school was waged. Brother Francis who succeeded Brother Dominic in 1987 provided steady leadership consistent with the Lasallian tradition throughout this era as we moved towards the new millennium.



SALLE COLLEGE



1999 saw the first lay Principal appointed. Dr Aidan Hamill presided over a number of key changes in the school. Our SEN provision was extended significantly and became increasingly specialised. 2006 witnessed the culmination of the long pursuit of the McLarnon Cup in Gaelic Football at Senior level while many of the same cohort of players were central to annexing an unprecedented U18 treble in the Soccer competitions. Dr. Hamill also championed the delivery of the long awaited new school building.

The new school was officially opened in 2008 with Mr Paul Barry as Principal and he continued the traditions that were well established by his predecessors. Examination outcomes continued to rise as the benefits of our new facilities were seized upon by teachers determined to achieve the best for the students in their care.

Mrs Claire White took over as Principal in 2014. Working with the staff, Mrs White preserved the best and distinctiveness of what already existed in De La Salle College and continues to make educational improvements for the benefit of the College.

Education outside the classroom is one of the great La Salle traditions and our extra-curricular focus was in evidence from the beginning. Student horizons were (and continue to be) lifted beyond West Belfast as students experienced educational visits to Kilkenny, Barcelona, Rome, London, Berlin, Krakow, Paris, Boston, Ethiopia and Dublin as well as skiing and water sports trips

to France, Bulgaria, Austria and the USA.

The La Salle show, with its first production in 1969, is renowned throughout the community. It is a significant source of pride that many famous actors first trod the boards in our school show. The nurturing of special talents like the actors above is a priority as well as an area of expertise.

Three past pupils, twins Paul and Eamon McCrory along with Ryan Magee, won coveted places at Oxford University with Ryan becoming President of the Oxford Law Society. In sport past pupils have gained international honours in athletics, basketball, boxing and soccer. One of these, Philip Mulryne has recently added to our cherished record as the school with the highest number of ordinations to the priesthood in the North.

There is one other unique aspect of the history of La Salle that says more about the school than any other. The Lasallian desire to serve our local community has resulted in over twenty past pupils returning to full time teaching posts in the school. That fact stands as a testament to the impact La Salle has on its students. If you ask them the reason for this ambition they will all emphasise the same thing – ethos. The Lasallian commitment to excellence for all in a school that is a 'place of opportunity' resonates with every single one of us. It is the glue that binds every member of the school community.

Our history is unique but it is only important with regard to how it informs and shapes our future.





YEAR 8 TRANSITION

In De La Salle College we understand the transition from Primary 7 to Year 8 can be daunting for our new pupils and parents. We make significant efforts to make the transition as smooth and successful as possible. We begin our journey to get to know each individual pupil before they arrive in the school through successful and established links with our feeder primary schools. We complete baseline testing before arrival and try to effectively ensure that all classes have an equal mix of ability.

Key personnel will support your son as he completes the Year 8 Transition Programme including his Form Teacher, the Classroom Assistant, a Sixth Form Mentor and the Year Head who has overall pastoral responsibility for your son and will stay with him throughout the early years of his life in De La Salle.

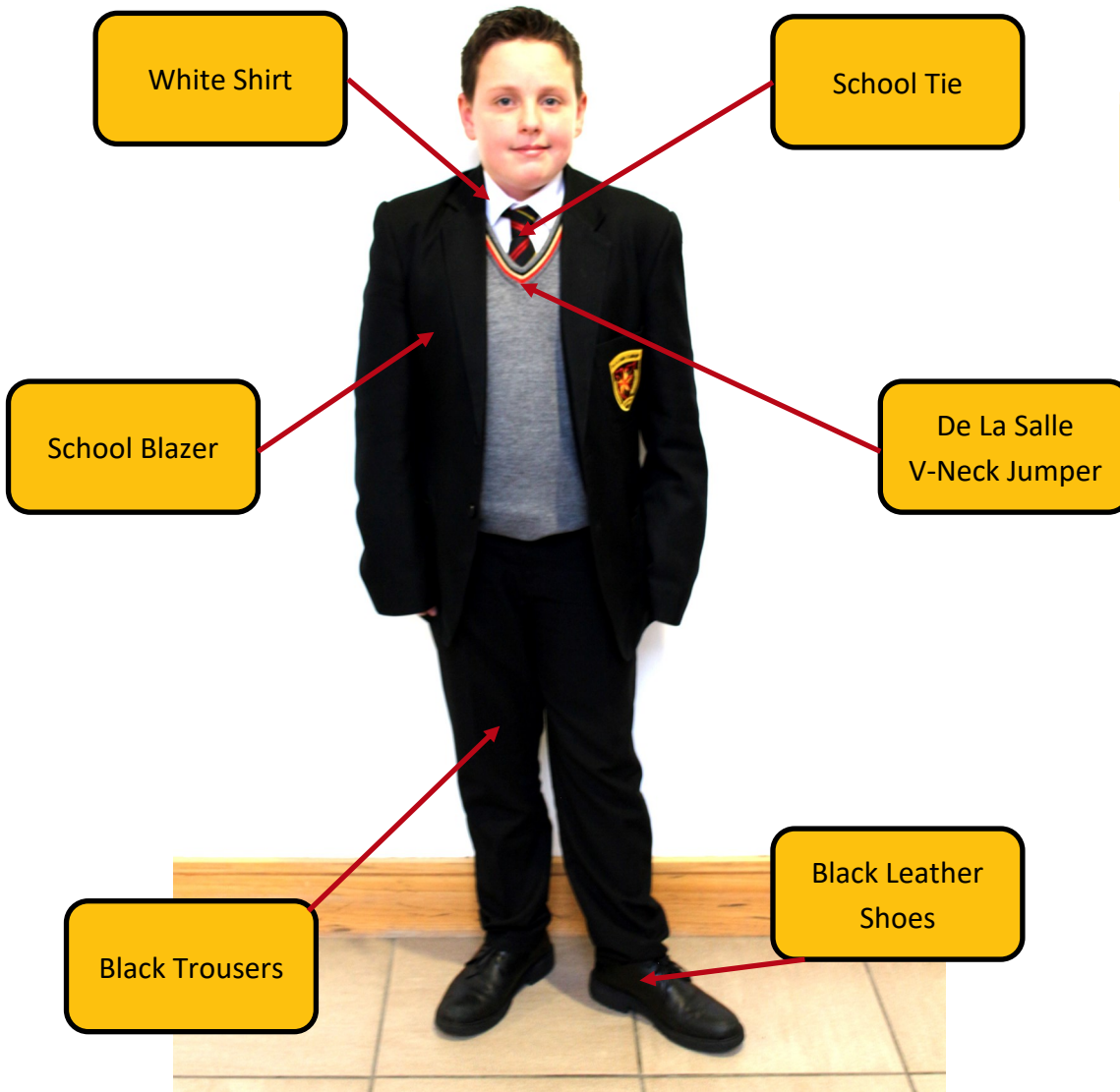
You will attend a meeting with your son's Form Teacher at the beginning of the school year and they will endeavour to nurture and support your son during his induction period and throughout his first year in De La Salle.

"Do not have any anxiety about the future. Leave everything in God's hands for he will take care of you." St. Jean Baptiste de La Salle



UNIFORM

De La Salle College pupils wear their uniform with pride. It identifies pupils as belonging to our school community and fosters a sense of belonging. We expect the pupils to wear the uniform during school hours, while travelling to and from school, and when engaged in school activities. Each morning form teachers will check that pupils are in full school uniform, have the correct equipment and are prepared for the day ahead.



"Take even more care of the education of the young people entrusted to you than if they were the children of a king." St. Jean Baptiste de La Salle



PASTORAL CARE

De La Salle College is a Catholic School deriving its educational philosophy from Saint Jean Baptiste de La Salle. As a Lasallian school, we have a special mission to nurture and support our most vulnerable students. In keeping with this philosophy we welcome boys of all abilities. De La Salle is a place of opportunity where we believe that the hidden ingredient to our success is the care and support we give to every single boy. Your son is an individual with unique talents and abilities and, likewise, unique needs, and so we work in partnership with our parents and a range of other support agencies (including our Student Chaplaincy Team and counsellors) in providing for the spiritual, moral, social, emotional and cultural development of your son to ensure his academic achievement and personal development.

Our Pastoral system is integrated into school life and underpins the academic progress of your son. Each Form Class from Year 8 – 14 has a designated Form Teacher. Each Year Group has a Head of Year who leads the team of Form Teachers from Year 8 – Year 14. Each Head of Year is supported by a Key Stage Manager and Pastoral Vice Principal who, in turn, is supported by the Principal. The Form Teacher is a pivotal role in our Pastoral Structure as these teachers develop a special relationship in supporting your son as he progresses through the school year.





LEARNING SUPPORT DEPARTMENT

De La Salle College's Special Educational Needs (SEN) Policy reflects the Lasallian ethos of welcome and inclusion and it provides the framework that ensures that children with SEN experience opportunities for success in order to achieve their full potential whilst allowing pupils to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed in adult life. Our Learning Support Department, comprising of the SENCO, Deputy SENCO, Specialist Teachers and a team of highly committed classroom assistant staff, work in collaboration with our supportive parents/carers and the expert services provided by a variety of external agency staff such as St Gerard's, PPBSP, Autism Advisory Intervention Services, Belfast Education Authority's Hearing and Vision Sensory Support, Careers, Education Psychology, Family Works, EA Transition Officer, YEHA, and Intercultural Education Service.

SPECIALIST RESOURCE CLASSES AT KS3 & KS4

Eight specialist resource classes have been developed within the College. The pupils hold Statements of Educational Need. Pupils enjoy high quality small group teaching, with fulltime classroom assistant support, in a specially equipped nurturing space. This space has access to dimmed lighting, black out curtains, interactive whiteboard, ICT facilities, sensory bubble lighting, sensory equipment and a social space.



CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

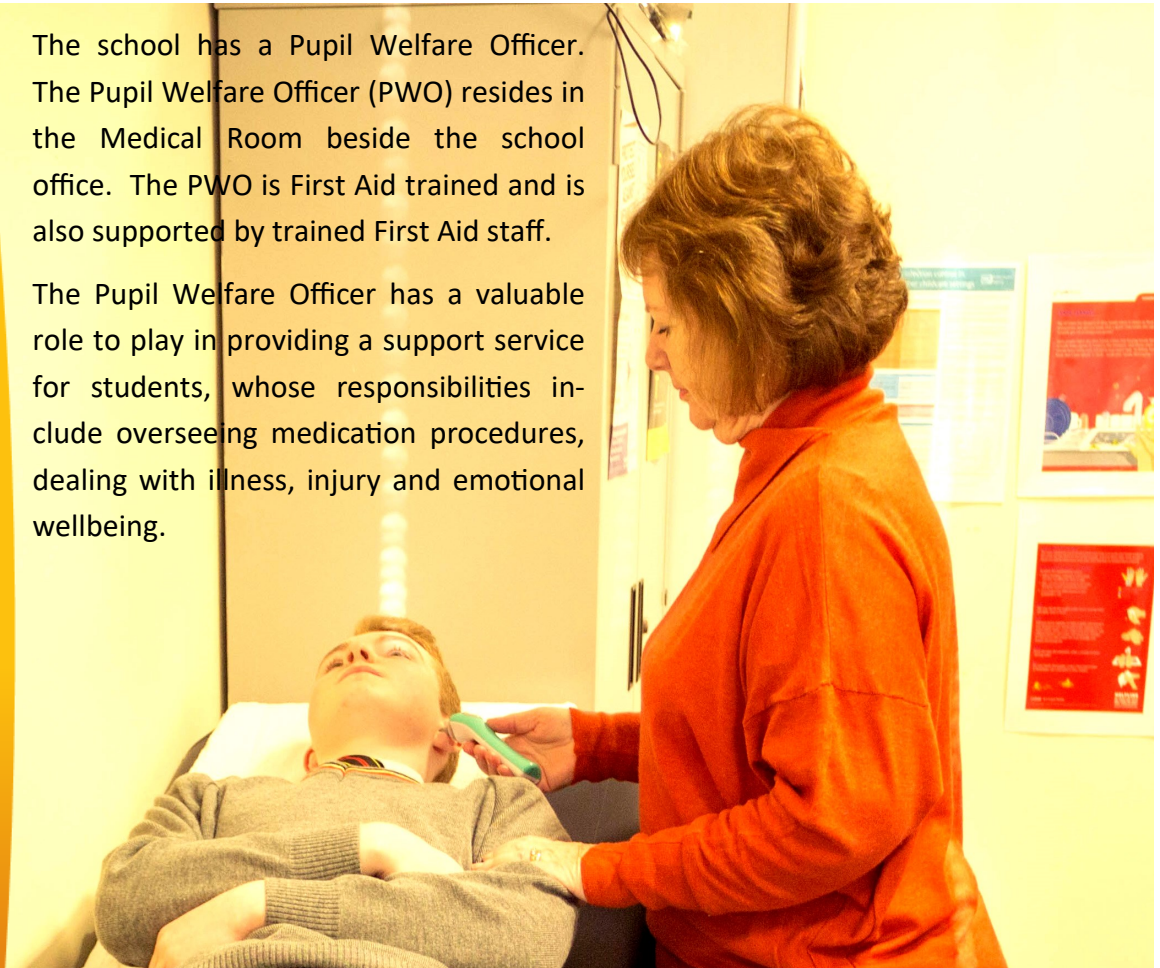
De La Salle College is committed to taking all possible measures to ensure the safety and the physical, emotional, and moral wellbeing of the pupils. We seek to establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are encouraged to talk, and are listened to. We ensure children know that there are adults in the school who they can approach if they are worried. We include opportunities within the taught curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse and through a pastorally led preventative curriculum. Safer children make more successful learners.

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Ms Marian O'Neill. She is supported by a Designated Child Protection Team.



The school has a Pupil Welfare Officer. The Pupil Welfare Officer (PWO) resides in the Medical Room beside the school office. The PWO is First Aid trained and is also supported by trained First Aid staff.

The Pupil Welfare Officer has a valuable role to play in providing a support service for students, whose responsibilities include overseeing medication procedures, dealing with illness, injury and emotional wellbeing.



PUPIL WELFARE

COUNSELLING SUPPORT

A Counselling support service is available in the College throughout the week.

Pupils can be referred by their parent/carer, a member of staff, an external agency or through self-referral. Counselling provides a specialist support where a pupil has the chance to be listened to in a welcoming and friendly environment.

Counselling gives pupils the opportunity to talk through social, emotional, behavioural difficulties and their personal journey in a safe, caring and supportive space.

Confidentiality is crucial to empower pupils to be able to tell their story. The counsellors are aware of the need to sometimes step outside confidentiality and will only do so if there is a concern of a safeguarding nature. This will be discerned carefully and in consultation with the designated teacher for Child Protection.

Counselling helps our pupils to make positive and transformative changes in their lives.

"Look upon those whom God has entrusted to you as his own Children."

St. Jean Baptiste de La Salle



PREVENTATIVE CURRICULUM

The 'Preventative Curriculum' denotes the proactive promotion of the positive emotional health and wellbeing of pupils. Personal Development classes encourage the pupils to develop their social, physical, emotional and cognitive health in a safe and respectful environment.

An extensive programme of speakers and workshops for pupils in all year groups is organised to help promote the positive emotional health and wellbeing of pupils.



ANTI-BULLYING

We recognise the importance of providing an educational environment that is safe, secure and free from bullying in order to maximise the full potential of the pupils who attend De La Salle College. We are completely opposed to bullying and will not tolerate it. We aim to promote an anti-bullying culture among all members of our school community. If there is a concern of a bullying nature, it will be dealt with promptly and sensitively by the Head of Year and Pastoral Team.



MERIT SYSTEM

An important part of the pastoral programme is our system of awards, whereby effort and achievement in any facet of College life are rewarded. Your son is left in no doubt that we consider him to be an important person in his own right. 'The 5 Core Principles of Lasallian Education' underpins our Merit System whereby pupils can obtain a merit for various achievements from 'Excellent homework', 'Excellent classwork' or 'Excellent Attendance' to 'Helping Others' and 'Caring for Peers'. Various reward activities and trips are organised at subject teacher, form teacher and Head of Year level.



STUDENT COUNCIL

The School Council represents the student voice in De La Salle College. Pupils from each year group work together to ensure there is a truly inclusive community where everyone feels valued and supported. The council have regular meetings where everyone's opinion is listened to and taken on board. Important issues impacting on pupil wellbeing, experience and provision are discussed to inform our way of life within the college.





DE LA SALLE COLLEGE: A WELLBEING SCHOOL

In De La Salle College, children and young people's mental health and emotional wellbeing is a central focus of our pastoral care programme.

Our Transitional Action Plan sets out our vision for a Wellbeing School; educating pupils, staff and parents about how they can maintain positive wellbeing across the whole school community.

By promoting positive mental health, pupils develop skills and resilience techniques to cope with everyday challenges throughout their school years and beyond into adulthood based on the 8 key principles of wellbeing.

THE 8 KEY PRINCIPLES OF WELLBEING.



"To touch the hearts of your students is the greatest miracle you can perform." St Jean Baptiste de La Salle



1. Leadership & management that supports and champions efforts to promote emotional health and wellbeing

Governors, Principal and Senior Leaders have a shared strategic vision and commitment to promoting the social and emotional wellbeing of our children and young people and across the school community.

2. An ethos and environment that is safe and secure which supports, respects and values diversity

Positive behaviour management as reflected in the implementation of the 'La Salle Way' encompassing a restorative model in promoting the development of social and emotional skills.

3. Curriculum, Teaching & Learning to promote resilience and emotional and social learning

Delivery of a preventative curriculum via weekly tutorials based on TAKE5 Programme for positive mental health and resilience complemented by an extensive Enrichment and Extracurricular programmes to encourage participation and development of Leadership, Sporting, Cultural, Creative, entrepreneurial skills

4. Enabling student voice to influence decision-making

Students have regular opportunities to influence decisions, to express their views and to develop strong social networks, participation in pupil surveys, focus groups, Student Council and Rights Respecting Schools Initiatives.

5. Investment in staff development; building expertise and capacity to support their own wellbeing and that of pupils

All staff benefit from a wellbeing programme of training and development to increase their knowledge of emotional wellbeing and to equip them to be able to identify mental health difficulties in their students.

6. Identifying need and monitoring impact of interventions

Use of Pupil Attitudes to School Survey (PASS) as a whole school screening tool to measure emotional wellbeing. Access to range of Tiered Assessment and Intervention Programmes to address individual, identified groups, cohorts and specialist needs within the school.

7. Working in partnership with Parents and Carers -to promote emotional health and wellbeing through

Parent education programme incorporating parenting classes delivered by range of multi-disciplinary teams.
Emotional Resilience and Wellbeing Workshops helping parents to be a role model for their children regarding how they deal with setbacks and develop resilient thinking.

8. Targeted support & appropriate referral to ensure timely and effective identification of students who would benefit from access range of additional support and appropriate referral to support services.

Extensive range of links with external agencies particularly youth and community services to build and develop high-quality services to improve the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children and young people directly, supporting their families and caregivers



SPIRITUALITY

The development of Spirituality is at the heart of De La Salle College and is an important aspect of our day to day living and learning. Prayer is an integral part of the school day and, as a Lasallian school, we promote an ethos which is Gospel inspired. We are a worshipping, reflecting community that provides regular opportunities for prayer, meditation and the celebration of the sacraments.

Outlined below are some examples of how we seek to promote the spiritual life within the college;

- * A vibrant Religion Department which educates the mind and develops the spirit
- * Retreat days for Year 8 pupils in the De La Salle Pastoral Centre, Glenaulin
- * Projects to aid marginalised groups within Ireland
- * Year 8 Mass
- * Year 14 Leavers' Mass
- * Founder's Day Mass on Feast Day of St Jean Baptiste De La Salle
- * Christmas Services for all Year Groups
- * A School Chaplaincy Team that animates the faith life of a Catholic school
- * A College Animation Team whose aim is to animate the charism of the Lasallian Faith
- * Frequent liturgical celebrations and prayer assemblies
- * John Paul II Award
- * Lenten Services
- * Faith Friends Programme
- * SEARCH

"Enkindle the love of Jesus in the hearts of the young."

St. Jean Baptiste de La Salle



EXTRA-CURRICULAR

De La Salle College is 'A Place of Opportunity'. Beyond the classroom, pupils are encouraged to develop all aspects of themselves and we have a vast array of extra-curricular opportunities and enrichment activities to capture almost every interest enabling students to develop their skills and abilities outside of the formal curriculum.



Athletics
 Basketball
 Celtic Trip
 Charity Work
 Chess Club
 Choir
 Cookery Club
 Cross Country Running
 Drama Productions
 Fitness and Exercise
 Flute Lessons
 Futsal
 Gaelic Football
 Guitar Club
 Habitat for Humanity
 Handball
 History Club
 Homework Club
 Hurling
 Irish Club
 Merit Trips
 Peer Mentoring
 School Trips
 School Council
 Search Programme
 Soccer
 Spanish Club
 Tin Whistle Lessons
 Traditional Group
 Young Enterprise



"You have received many talents and graces from God."

St. Jean Baptiste de La Salle



CURRICULUM

Key Stage 3

In years 8 to 10, all students follow the same curriculum. In year 8, all subjects are taught in mixed ability form groups. In years 8, 9 and 10, pupils follow a Maths Mastery curriculum and will also study:

Art	Careers (CEIAG)
English	Home Economics
Irish	LLW
Wellbeing	Physical Education
Spanish	Technology
Digital Technology	Drama
Geography	History
Mathematics	Music
Religious Education	Science

Key Stage 4

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is designed to allow the individual interests and abilities of each of our pupils to be met. Where possible, each department will offer at least one GCSE subject and at least one equivalent qualification. Pupils will study up to five core subjects and choose four or five optional subjects.

Core Curriculum

English Language	Enrichment
English Literature	LLW/PAL
Mathematics	Physical Education
Religious Studies	Careers

Optional Curriculum

Applied Science	Motor Vehicle Studies
Art & Design	Media Studies
Business Studies	Geography
Digital Technology	History
Drama	Hospitality
English Literature	ICT
Further Mathematics/	Irish
Statistics	Spanish/Arabic
Moving Image Arts	Music
Physical Education	Single Award Science
Technology	Skills for Business
Sport	Double Award Science
Travel and Tourism	Health and Social Care

Occupational Studies in Design & Creativity, Personal Development and Employability, Occupational Studies in Construction and Engineering & Engineering Services (in collaboration with Workforce).

Post-16

In partnership with St Genevieve's High School, we currently offer over 30 A Level or equivalent qualifications including:

Art & Design	Hospitality
Arabic	ICT (various courses)
Biology	Irish
Business Studies	Life and Health Science
Chemistry	Mathematics
Child Care	Media Studies
Construction	Moving Image Arts
Digital Technology	Music
Drama	Nutrition & Food
Engineering	Science
English Language	Photography
English Literature	Physical Education
Geography	Religious Studies
Government & Politics	Sociology
Health & Social Care	Spanish
History	Sport
	Technology
	Travel and Tourism

Enrichment: All pupils will also have discrete Careers, Life Skills, Peer Mentoring, Coaching and Referring Qualifications and non-exam Religious Education provision.



LEARNING AND TEACHING

In De La Salle College, we believe in the concept of lifelong learning. Teachers are at the cutting edge of professional development and continue striving to improve our practice. This means coming to a better understanding of the learning and teaching process and being committed to continuous professional development.

We believe that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone. Through our teaching we equip our students with the knowledge, skills and understanding that will enable them to make informed choices about the important things in their lives, developing a motivated and positive disposition towards their learning. Our students demonstrate excellent critical and creative thinking skills, display high levels of self-confidence, independence and maturity and are well prepared to contribute responsibly and positively to the local and wider community.

CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

De La Salle College gives full recognition to the values of Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG). In line with established best practice, Careers Education is delivered to Year 10-14 in discrete timetabled classes throughout the school year by a fully trained CEIAG team. In addition to the compulsory content of Education for Employability, the programmes delivered have been tailored to meet the requirements of our pupils.

Commencing in Year 10, all pupils undertake a coordinated sequence of activity-based lessons to prepare for GCSE subject choices. Pupils will learn the basic concepts of Personal Career Planning (PCP) and will explore several possible careers choices within their individual PCP. In the latter part of the year, all pupils work on basic skills for employability which compliments the Learning for Life and Work curriculum. Careers software (Xello) is used to help with career ideas and allows students to work through a programme of study. Guidance is very important at this transition point-every pupil is interviewed by a member teaching staff when it comes to making their subject choices for GCSE.

All pupils in Year 12 update their Personal Career Plan and some will plan to make applications to institutes of Further Education (FE). Pupils also receive lessons on a range of important topics such as the Qualifications Framework, Interview Skills and Labour Market Information. Pupils undertake lessons on Xello, for example the Labour Market Information and the lessons on how to effectively make the transition to Further Education. Careers Advisors from the Careers Service within the Department of the Economy interview all students in Year 12 to prepare for A-Level subject choice or FE courses. During the year, all students visit the West Belfast Area Careers Fair which is attended by employers and FE and HE providers. All students will undertake Work Experience in Year 12. This is such an important part of the year whereby pupils make links with industry.

In Sixth form, students study a diverse curriculum whereby students explore their options in FE, HE and the Higher Apprenticeship world. Students investigate their options and are encouraged to apply for their 'Plan A' and 'Plan B'. Careers advisors from the Careers Service within the Department of the Economy interview all students in Year 14 to prepare them for their post-18 choices. Students can refer themselves for guidance when they feel it is required. All Year 13 students go on Work Experience to assist them in their post-18 decision making.



DIGITAL LEARNING

KS3 IT:

De La Salle pupils continue their Information Technology development by learning a wide range of technical skills and capabilities. They will focus on desktop publishing, presentation skills, graphics design and creation, moving image production, website development, games design and creation and coding skills using Python. These transferable skills are an excellent foundation for GCSE IT and a valuable asset as a basis for all subjects at KS4 and KS5.

GCSE IT:

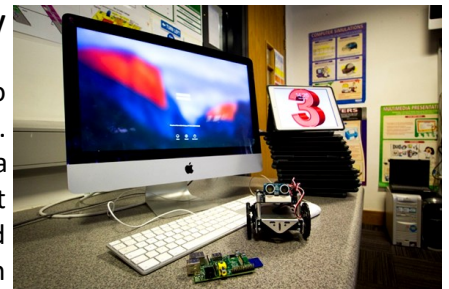
IT can lead to a wide range of careers and as such we provide a range of GCSE/Level 2 courses with the intention of meeting all needs.

CCEA GCSE in Digital Technology

Students acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of digital technology in a variety of contexts. They choose either Route A: Multimedia or Route B: Programming; based on this, the qualification they achieve is either GCSE Digital Technology (Multimedia) or GCSE Digital Technology (Programming). Digital technology incorporates aspects of computer science and information technology. It explores how we can use technology to create, store, process, analyse and present information in a digital context. This includes computer architecture, networks, web technology, digital media, programming tools and software applications.

OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Applications

Designed to provide learners with the IT skills required to function successfully in the work and wider environment. Today's work environment depends increasingly on a range of technologies and this course provides that necessary foundation for further education and employment. This course is assessed 100% through coursework with no external exam.



Post 16 IT:

CCEA A Level in Digital Technology

Our GCE in Digital Technology is for students interested in current and emerging technologies, the impact they have and how to use them effectively. This qualification is likely to appeal to all, but it might particularly interest those who enjoyed studying digital technology, mathematics, sciences or technology & design at GCSE level or equivalent.

Cambridge Technicals in IT

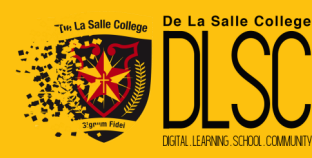
The Cambridge Technicals are vocational qualifications at A level for students aged 16+. They're designed with the workplace in mind.

De La Salle has been a leading partner with OCR in delivering the Cambridge Technicals to our post 16 pupils with great success. For the past three years 100% of our A level pupils gained an A grade in their Level 3 IT.



Year 11 Trip to Microsoft





ONLINE LEARNING:

De La Salle prides itself on having a state of the art online learning infrastructure. We have strived to innovate in the use of digital learning tools for over a decade now. Our staff are experts in the use of digital tools such as:



- Virtual learning environments such as Google Classroom.
- Cloud Applications such as Office 365 and G Suite
- Video Conferencing applications such Microsoft Teams and Google Meet



De La Salle sees Information Technology as a core aspect of our pupils’ development. We have a vision for our pupils’ technological progress that tracks them from their primary schools right through to A level and beyond.



De La Salle is one of only three schools in Northern Ireland that are members of the Digital Schoolhouse initiative. The programme uniquely combines computing, fun, creativity, innovation, and industry expertise and brings them into classrooms across the country. Digital Schoolhouse is a bridge between industry and education; combining the best of both worlds to inspire students and educators to engage with computing and STEM subjects.

Members of the IT department receive special annual training at the Ukie head office in London. We act as a training hub for local primary schools, promoting coding through initiative interactive workshops.



P6 Pupils at the Digital School House

ESPORTS TOURNAMENT

TOGETHER WITH



De La Salle takes part in a UK wide eSports tournament. Nintendo have donated two Switch consoles in order to take part in a Smash Bros tournament. Over 6000 pupils will go head-to-head in the immersive careers event, which aims to educate pupils in roles within eSports and the wider games industry, as well as providing a pro experience for team players.



Our Esports Team at the London Final.

Previously De La Salle has reached regional finals twice and recently reached the finals in London for an all day event that was live streamed on Twitch.



SPORT IN DLSC

Sport has always been a central feature of life at De La Salle and continues to provide an avenue to showcase the many talented young people who come through our doors. We currently compete at all age groups in soccer, handball, Gaelic football and hurling as well as having many top class athletes in cross-country, athletics, boxing, trampolining and judo, to name but a few.

De La Salle is widely recognised for success on the soccer field, having won the Belfast Senior Cup on a record TEN occasions. Our most recent success was winning the Belfast Cup with our Year 11's and on the Hurling front Year 12's won the Maguire Cup. Among our past pupils, Mal Donaghy, Anton Rogan, Philip Mulryne, Brian Close and Dan Devine have all enjoyed successful professional careers in England and Scotland, whilst several Irish League clubs can count at least one former Lasallian in their squads.

Since winning the Markey Cup in 1971, De La Salle has been a formidable force in both Gaelic football and hurling. Whilst the 2006 McLarnon Cup win is obviously the highlight, we continue to compete strongly in both codes. We are placed 10th on the all-time list of Ulster College All-Star wins with 33 awards. Many past pupils have represented Antrim at

senior level in both codes and the current football squad includes six past pupils. Given the close historical links between the club and the school, it is a source of great pride that St Gall's All-Ireland winning squad contained ten Lasallians.

We also recognise that, for many pupils, participation is as important as winning. Through our Youth Sport programme, pupils have the opportunity to participate in inter-class leagues and to attend coaching courses in soccer, rugby and basketball, as well as holiday coaching schemes in Gaelic at Halloween and February mid-term.

De La Salle has a long-standing relationship with St Kieran's College in Kilkenny, allowing students from both schools to participate in bi-annual sporting and cultural exchange trips. Sport and sporting success will continue to play a key role in the development of the young people at De La Salle, and it is no surprise that many of these students go on to achieve continued sporting and academic success long after they leave the college.

The school recently completed the construction of our new 3G pitch and pavilion which will ensure continued sporting excellence in De La Salle for years to come.







RIGHTS RESPEC

De La Salle College strives to be a school where every aspect of a child is focused on and developed, including the area of wellbeing. As part of De La Salle College's Ethos Action Plan to promote a happy and successful learning community they began working towards recognition as a 'Rights Respecting School' in 2017.

The Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) supports schools across the UK to embed children's rights in their ethos and culture. The award is based on principles of equality, dignity, respect, non-discrimination and participation. It recognises achievement in putting the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's practice to improve wellbeing and help all children realise their full potential. This is an award which is given to schools on behalf of UNICEF. Schools involved in the award process have reported a positive impact on behaviour, relationships and wellbeing, leading to better learning, improved academic standards and a reduction in bullying behaviour.

De La Salle College were visited in May 2019 by UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Assessor Mr Martin Russell who awarded the school with the prestigious Silver Award saying; *"The voices of young people are clearly heard and acted upon throughout the school"*.

Mr Russell, who spent an entire day in De La Salle, met with pupils from the Student Council, Parents, Teachers, Senior Leaders and Governors and included the following in his official Accreditation Report;

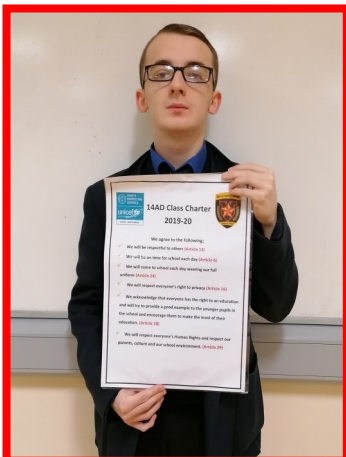
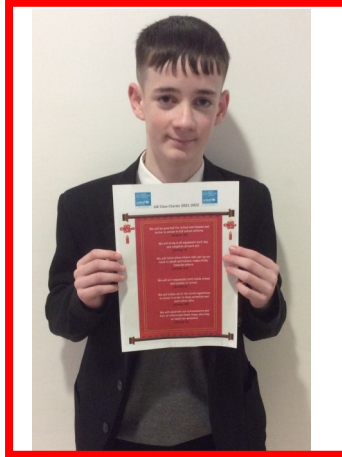
'The Principal, Chair of Governors and Senior Leaders demonstrated a passionate commitment to children's rights and explained their school mission and values is founded on their strong Lasallian culture but that this is complemented by the adoption of a rights based approach, "It's integral to our vision for the school... We want our students to focus on the person you leave here being." RRSA is seen as providing a scaffold and consistent language to enhance the school's existing vision and outlook.' Mr Martin Russell - UNICEF

All classes in the school create their own Rights Respecting Schools Class Charter in September and these charters guide the rights respecting journey of every pupil in the school.

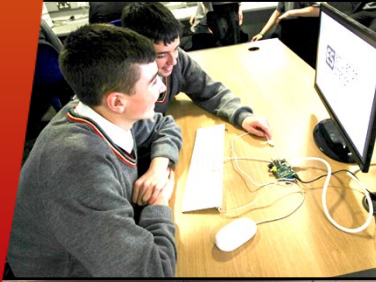
Our college Student Council act as steering group for our Rights Respecting Schools Programme.

**'Children's Rights are Learned, Understood and Lived in De La Salle College Belfast'
– UNICEF**

TING SCHOOLS



SNAPSHOT OF



DE LA SALLE





De La Salle College
Growing to Excellence

