

ST. LOUIS SECONDARY SCHOOL



UT SINT UNUM



Prospectus

Why *Choose our school?*



- We have an excellent record of results in State Examinations.
- We are proactive in our progression to Third Level for our students. We have been awarded the Trinity Schools of Distinction Award in both 2018 and 2019 as a result of our high levels of success.
- We are an inclusive school and we foster each child to develop to their full potential regardless of background or ability.
- We offer a broad and comprehensive curriculum, including Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate, Transition Year and Leaving Cert Applied.
- We have a professional and dedicated staff that works with our students to enable all to achieve their potential.

Our *School Ethos*

As a Catholic school, St. Louis Secondary School, Dundalk, aims to educate the whole person and to encourage the qualities of respect, truth, responsibility, happiness and excellence in a caring inclusive atmosphere.

We aim to:

- To provide a social and academic environment that fosters learning.

- We are committed to educational innovation and progressive methods of Teaching and Learning.
- We are one of only nine schools in the country involved in a Step Up initiative promoting highly effective use of digital technology, supported by the School Excellence Fund.
- We offer interesting programmes through the Junior Cycle to encourage critical thinking.
- We have a committed team of Year Heads and Class Teachers that meets with the Care team on a regular basis so we can fully support every student in our school.
- We provide a wide range of extracurricular activities suitable for all students.
- We promote participation and excellence in all areas of the Arts.
- We offer a wide range of sporting activities at local, county and national level.
- We have a healthy canteen which provides free breakfast for all, and a comprehensive lunch menu at a very reasonable cost.
- We are situated in safe, beautiful grounds on the outskirts of the town.

- To strive to ensure that Christian attitudes and values are knit into the fabric of school life.
- To provide through the curriculum, teaching methods and allocation of resources, teaching and learning situations which enable all pupils to:
 - Develop their intellectual capacity to the full.
 - Stimulate their curiosity and imagination.

Our School's *Pastoral Care System*

The personal development of students is a core value of St Louis. Teachers in our school care for their students and education takes place in an atmosphere of care, inclusion and excellence.

In our school:

- Students aim to develop a critical appreciation of the world they live in, and are given opportunities to develop a strong sense of their own personal worth.
- Students reflect on key moral issues which heighten their awareness of their responsibility to themselves, society and the earth we all call home.
- The Christian values of inclusion, truth, forgiveness, spirituality and service to others are encouraged and nurtured.
- Personal achievement and academic success are promoted through our broad and balanced curriculum.
- Responsibility, resilience and self-motivation are encouraged.
- Our students leave us as well-rounded responsible, caring and aspirational young adults who will make a difference in their communities.
- Year Heads collaborate with Class Teachers on a weekly basis and time is

given for them to meet with students on an individual and collective basis to ensure students feel valued and nurtured.

- Care Team meetings are held to monitor the intellectual and developmental progress of all students.

Pastoral Goals for our school:

- Acknowledgement of, and support for, each person's role in the school community.
- Recognition of the talents, abilities and cultures of all students.
- Strong collaborative leadership.
- Priority given to the nurturing of teaching and learning relationships.
- Support for an engaging curriculum – content and methodologies.
- On-going monitoring of progress and differentiated teaching to cater for every student.
- Promoting an environment that meets students' needs.
- That every girl in St Louis feels cherished and flourishes in a happy, caring atmosphere.

- Develop their aesthetic awareness; assist in their physical and moral development, and acquire an appetite for further knowledge and skills in later life.
- To prepare each pupil to be a responsible member of our democratic society, equipped to play an active part in its development.

- To be a caring community in which the individual is given a sense of significance and importance and a consciousness of the needs of others.
- To be a participating partner in the wider community, welcoming parents and other friends of the school to share in our work.

Our School's *Curriculum*

St. Louis offers a five or six year post primary education, three years at Junior Cycle, an optional Transition Year which most of our students complete, and a two year Senior Cycle.

Junior Cycle Subjects:

- Gaelige
- English
- Maths
- History
- Geography
- Science
- French
- Spanish
- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Technology
- Home Economics
- Art, Craft and Design
- Music
- Business Studies
- C.S.P.E.
- S.P.H.E.
- Digital Media Literacy

Transition Year:

The Transition Year programme offers a wealth of educational activities including traditional subjects, careers education, work experience and personal development.

Students also get to experience Enterprise, Coding, Entrepreneurship, Safe Driving, First Aid, TY Musical, and the TY School Tour. The girls get the opportunity to get involved in Gaisce, YSI, educational trips, tour guiding in Glasnevin, and enjoy a wide variety of carefully chosen guest speakers.

Leaving Cert Subjects:

- Gaelige
- English
- Maths
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- Business Studies
- Economics
- Accountancy
- French
- Spanish
- History
- Geography
- Technology
- Home Economics
- Art, Craft and Design
- Music
- Religious Education
- Physical Education

The Leaving Cert Applied

The LCA caters for students who do not wish to take the traditional Leaving Certificate. The programme puts an emphasis on forms of achievement which the established Leaving Certificate has not recognised in the past.

Trinity School of Distinction



St Louis is delighted to have secured the Trinity College Dublin 21st Century School of Distinction Award which recognises and rewards innovative approaches to Teaching and Learning. St Louis has always provided a climate for growth of the individual in every sense. Our thriving annual Careers Fair has forged links with a wide range of Universities offering opportunities for application to both CAO and UCAS and more recently EUNICAS and other international institutes.

Our School's *Extra Curricular Activities*

Here at St Louis we believe that our students' academic achievements are only enhanced by involvement in extra-curricular activities. Those who achieve the highest academic results every year are those who are all-rounders; combining their studies with other activities in sport or the Arts.

As the holder of an Active Schools Flag we have a wide range of sports on offer. We are also home to the Louis Golf Academy.

Music is woven into the very fabric of the school, thanks to the diligence of the Sisters, and also to Fr Mc Nally, most of whose string students attended the school. There is also a wide range of co-curricular activities which enhance Teaching and Learning for our students.

Sports

- Basketball
- Gaelic
- Rugby
- Camogie
- Soccer
- Athletics
- Golf Academy
- Fitness Training
- Badminton
- Volleyball



The Arts

- Art Club
- Junk Kouture
- St Louis Choir
- St Louis Instrumental Group
- St Louis Strings
- Ty Musical
- Search for a Star
- Public Speaking
- UCD Debating
- Immrama Travel Writers
- Bord Gais Evenings



Co-Curricular Activities

- Young Scientist
- Gaisce - the President's Award
- Peer Education - students teaching students
- Youth Leadership Rotary Club
- Soroptimist Public Speaking

Each year the school celebrates the successes of our students at our annual Awards Night. The evening acknowledges the academic prowess of our pupils, but also their endeavour in class. We also celebrate all the extra-curricular involvement of our students, and their achievements locally and nationally.

Our School's *Facilities*

St Louis boasts a beautiful blend of traditional and modern facilities for our students including:

- Brand new Technology Lab.
- 2 fully equipped bright and spacious Art Rooms.
- 2 Home Economics Kitchens and a Needlework Room.
- 3 Science labs.
- Geography Room.
- 2 Music Rooms.
- 100+ Chrome Books.
- Guidance Library.
- Fully equipped gym.
- Ample outdoor space for sporting activities.
- Canteen with free Breakfast Club every morning.
- Evening Study.
- Large Chapel Hall with stage.
- CAT 6 cabling, wifi.
- Newly fitted wiring, plumbing & heat systems.



School Partnership

Partnership is central to our school's philosophy. Parents, staff, students and our Le Chéile Trust all have a role to play in the life of our school.

The Parents' Association

The school has a small but active Parent's Association that supports all aspects of school life and development. It meets on a monthly basis and consults with the principal on many aspects of school life. Two parents are nominated to serve on the Board of Management.

The Student Council

The Student Council is the voice of the student body in St Louis. They are led by the Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl and a small group of sixth year students. They meet regularly with the Principal and play a key role in the development of school policies. These senior Council members then meet with the rest of the Student Council and matters of concern are raised which can be brought to the principal at the next meeting. These girls are the representatives of the whole student body at all formal school occasions.

Board of Management

The school is managed on behalf of the Le Chéile Schools Trust and the Department of Education and Skills by a Board of Management.

The Board is comprised of two parent nominees, two staff nominees, and four members nominated by the Le Cheile Trust, one of whom represents the St Louis Sisters.





THE SCHOOL CREST

The school crest strongly reflects the French heritage and core values of the Sisters of St Louis, our founding congregation. The congregation was founded in the aftermath of the French revolution, a time of deep civil division and mis-trust in Europe. The founders looked to Saint Louis, a famously devout Catholic King of France from 1226-1270. The blue colour is the French blue of St Louis. The red hand of Ulster and the tower of the town of Monaghan represent the first sisters who travelled from Paris to Monaghan in the 19th Century and who were later invited to open a similar school for girls in Dundalk. The Fleur-de-Lys is another strong symbol of France while the sword and crown of thorns represent the crucifixion of Christ and later crusades by St Louis.

The Latin motto "Ut Sint Unum" means "That they may be one" a vision of hope for an end to division. While the old French motto "Dieu le Veult" is a prayer that God will hear the prayer for peace and understanding and make it happen, if he wills it. These traditional beliefs and aspirations still have an inherent value in a very divided modern world.

ST. LOUIS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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