

Dundonald High School

Prospectus



Our Vision

To encourage all to be the best that they can be.



DUNDONALD
HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome to Dundonald High School

I am delighted that you are thinking of sending your child to Dundonald High School. Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make as a parent. We hope that the information in this prospectus will tell you about the school and help you to make your choice.

Our aim is to give every pupil the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible. We have a highly motivated staff who value the support and co-operation of parents. Together we can make your child's time at secondary school a happy and rewarding experience.

If you would like further information please contact the school office to arrange a visit.

MH Woods
Principal



"Our school provides a warm and safe environment that welcomes students and makes them feel part of Dundonald High.

Dundonald High was my first and only choice of school; I love this school so much that I don't want to leave. The staff are great and put a lot of effort into organising events and trips.

We love the events and trips and they promote good behaviour and attendance. Our school cares for the students and wants them to enjoy their school years."

Lauren Wilson
Head Girl 2009-2010



"I am currently in my 5th year at Dundonald High School. I am really glad that I came here.

The classes are great and the teachers are really understanding. I didn't want to come here from primary school but I'm glad I did, following on the family tradition as my dad is a past pupil.

I have loved my time at this school. I can't believe that I'm Head Boy. If any one had told me that I would be, I wouldn't have believed them.

I would recommend our school to everybody. I wish I didn't have to leave."

Stuart Armour
Head Boy 2009-2010

Vision and Aims

Dundonald High School is a co-educational, all ability 11-16 school providing a wide range of general and applied courses including Occupational Studies. Our priority is to enable each of our pupils to achieve their full potential in a caring, supportive environment and to prepare them for lifelong learning.

Dundonald High School welcomes students of all traditions and abilities to learn together in a caring environment, where self-worth and mutual respect are highly valued.

Our vision is to encourage all to be the best that they can be.

Our aims are to encourage all to:

- **Develop abilities for success in life and work.**
- **Develop positive attitudes and caring behaviour.**
- **Develop good relationships.**
- **Enrich their lives.**



“A caring school at the heart of the community.”



We value people, learning, knowledge, wisdom and enrichment.

Special Educational Needs

Dundonald High School has the only post-primary Moderate Learning Difficulties Unit in the North Down area.

The specialist teachers enable pupils to improve their performance and reach their full potential.

It is recognised that with success comes renewed self-confidence and raised self-esteem.

Pastoral Care

At Dundonald High we have a well deserved reputation for excellent Pastoral Care.

We realise the value that guidance and support has in nurturing the success and development of our children.

Each pupil is assigned a form teacher who monitors progress, attendance, behaviour and welfare.

A school counsellor visits the school each week. The school has pupil welfare staff available throughout the day to deal with minor ailments.

Facilities

Good quality accommodation is provided for all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

This includes specialist facilities for Drama, ICT, Music, Science, Special Needs, Technology and a well equipped Library. The Home Economics and Art suites were extensively refurbished in 2008 and are now state of the art. Our Physical Education facilities include both indoor and outdoor areas.



Positive Behaviour and Rewards



We expect and achieve high standards of behaviour from our pupils.

Teachers recognise the importance of encouragement, praise and rewarding good work and behaviour.

The Positive Behaviour Programme runs in conjunction with the Rewards Scheme. Pupils can earn points through good behaviour and a positive attitude to work.

Pupils who achieve the target number of points qualify for the rewards.

Dundonald High School - Promoting positive attitudes and caring behaviour.

Northern Ireland Curriculum Key Stage 3



The curriculum is regularly reviewed and developed so that it can meet the needs of our pupils. We feel that it is important that all pupils have access to externally accredited courses suited to their ability.

At Key Stage 3, all pupils follow a broad and balanced curriculum enhanced by ICT, singing and instrumental tuition, Personal, Social and Health Education, Employability and Careers Guidance.

Great emphasis is placed on improving numeracy and literacy skills.



General Learning Areas:

Including:

The Arts

Art and Design
Music
Drama

English

Media Education

Environment and Society

History
Geography
Business Studies

Modern Language

French
Spanish

Mathematics Science and Technology Physical Education Religious Education

Financial Capability

Learning for Life and Work

Education for Employability
Local and Global Citizenship
Personal Development
PSHE
Home Economics



"I have sincerely enjoyed my time at Dundonald High School.

I have learnt many new things and gained many new skills. I started playing guitar in first year and I am going to pursue a career in music when I leave school. My time here has been brilliant, I do not want to leave."

Michael Kitchen
Year 12

Northern Ireland Curriculum Key Stage 4

At Key Stage 4 all pupils study for recognised national qualifications, consisting of GCSEs and other National Qualification Framework accredited courses.

All Key Stage 4 pupils follow a core curriculum with the following subjects being offered:

General Subjects:

Art and Design

Business Studies

English Language

English Literature

Essential Skills

French

Geography

History

Home Economics

Mathematics

Music

Physical Education

Religious Education

Single/Double Award Science

Applied Subjects:

Business and Communication Systems

Hospitality

ICT

Learning for Life and Work

Occupational Studies

Technology and Design



"Everything in my life that has come in useful I learnt at Dundonald High.

I can honestly say that, without the help of the teachers, I would not have made it to where I am today.

I loved my time at the school and am always in touch with my old teachers. Mr Mawhinney was an inspiration.

My GCSE results, which I gained at the school, helped me get into Queen's University, Belfast, where I achieved a 2:1 in my degree.

I am hopefully going to become a teacher and will soon be studying for a Post-Graduate Qualification in Education."

Alex Kane

Head Girl 2003-2004

Dundonald High School - Developing abilities for success in life and work.

Parental Involvement

Parents are encouraged to keep the school informed of information that is relevant to their child.

Parents receive two reports per year (January and June). Each year group has an annual Parents' Consultation meeting. The School Newsletter keeps parents and pupils up to date with what's going on in school life.

Year 11 and 12 pupils also receive individual mentoring sessions with the Senior Leadership Team.

The PTA plays a vital role in the Dundonald High School community and donates equipment to the school regularly. The PTA has a very strong commitment to raising funds by organising events. This additional funding further enhances each child's learning experience.

Homework

All pupils are supplied with a Student Planner. This is used to record homework set, but also contains useful information for pupils and parents. It is an important vehicle for communication between parents and staff.

A homework timetable is drawn up to ensure a spread of homework over the week. Pupils can use the school's computer and library facilities and the Homework Club provided by the Extended Schools Programme. At Key Stage 4 our committed staff also provide coursework classes and additional tuition after school hours in many subject areas.

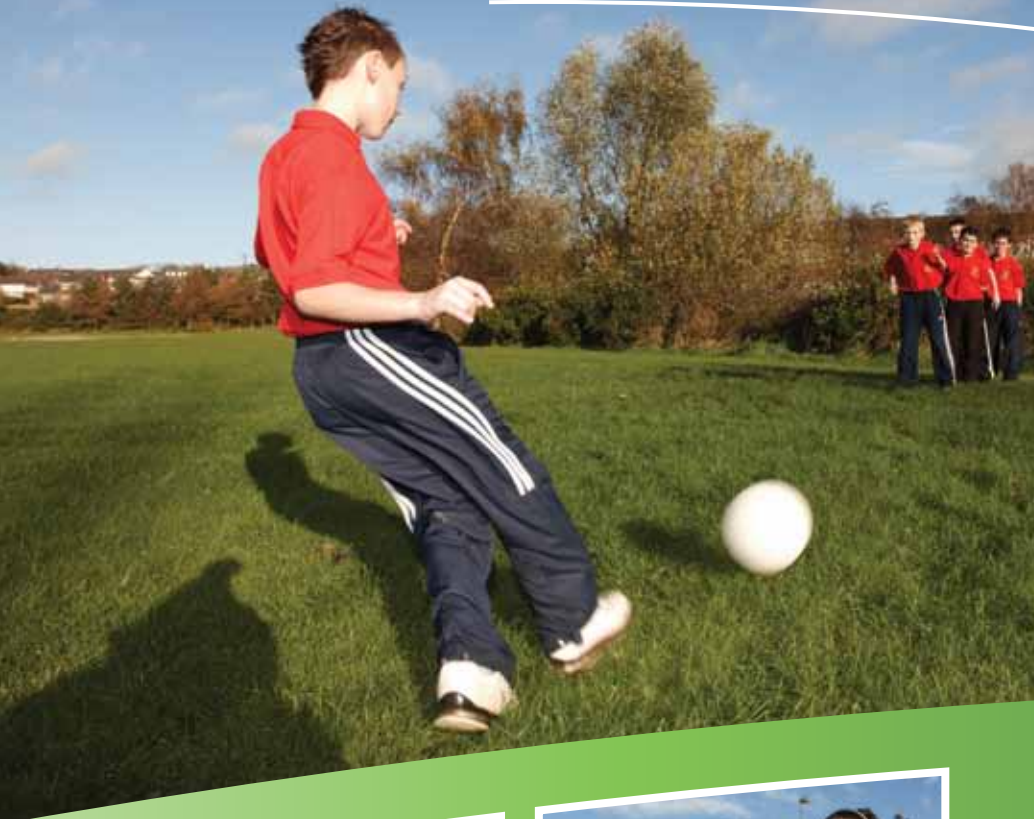
School Uniform

All children who attend our school are expected to wear their uniform with pride.

This is in conjunction with the other high standards that we expect from our pupils.



Sport and Extra-Curricular Activities



The school offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities and lunchtime clubs

- Fully equipped games rooms (including pool tables, air hockey and table football)
- Beginner Guitar
- Beginner Keyboard
- Drum Lessons
- Tin Whistle
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Table Tennis
- Choir
- Boys' Football
- Girls' Football
- ICT Club
- Homework Club
- Board Games
- Fitness
- Dance
- Netball
- Craft Club
- Science Club
- Rock Challenge

The school operates lunchtime clubs to ensure that our children have the opportunity to spend their lunchtime in a constructive and rewarding manner.

There are many opportunities for travel through local, national and international trips. Opportunities are also available for pupils to become involved in Young Enterprise Schemes, including the LET and KEY Residential Programmes, which encourage personal development through training and outdoor activities.



Our Mission - To encourage all to care and to succeed.

Student Council Work Experience

The Student Council is made up of representatives from each year group who are elected by their peers.

The council gives our students a forum to play an active part in the decision making process at Dundonald High School.

Home School Links

The School Newsletter is designed to keep our parents, pupils and community informed of the many activities that take place in school.

Interviews can be arranged with appropriate members of staff by appointment.

The Parent Teacher Association meets on a regular basis. We encourage new parents to consider joining this very active group. Parents can also visit our website at

www.dundonaldhigh.co.uk.

Year 12 pupils have the opportunity to complete a work placement with local businesses. This experience is very rewarding and often very insightful for pupils who are considering a career in a particular area.

Policies

The school policies are available from the office on request.

Occupational Studies

Pupils wishing to pursue a vocational career are given the opportunity of choosing the CCEA Occupational Studies Course, which is offered in partnership with the South East Regional College on the Bangor and Newtownards campuses.



"I attended Dundonald from 1982 to 1987.

I pursued a number of careers before deciding on one in teaching. I realise how influential we are in our position and remember with great fondness many of my past teachers who were of great inspiration to me.

Due to my history and close link with the school, it pleases me to see our staff working so hard to ensure that our pupils achieve their full potential.

I have benefited from my education at Dundonald High School and it gives me great job satisfaction to be able to give something back in return to our pupils."

Mr Perry
Teacher



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We will encourage all our pupils to -

- **Help in the community.**
- **Be involved in the arts.**
- **Be involved in sport and physical activity.**
- **Travel and experience other cultures.**
- **Value the truth.**

Dundonald High School

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Controlled Secondary School

Admissions No: 120
Enrolment No: 600

Principal:

Mrs M H Woods | MED CERT ED PGCCSE



Promoting self-worth, dignity and integrity.



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www.dundonaldhigh.co.uk