



LORETO

Grammar School, Omagh

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General Information

All information in this prospectus is accurate at the date of publication January 2019 but information is subject to change.

The policies in this leaflet are abbreviated.

Full policies are available from the school office on request.

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Loreto Grammar School

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1.2 INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

Voluntary	Grammar School
Girls	Age Range 11 – 18
Principal: Mrs Gráinne T. O'Hanlon	ROLL: 889
ADMISSIONS NO. 125	ENROLMENT NO. 890
Chairperson of the Board of Governors Ms Mary Murnaghan	

Copies of information on admissions to schools in this area are available from the EA, 1 Hospital Road, Omagh.

"Secondary Education and Changing Schools at Eleven"
– A Guide for Parents.

1.1 PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to Loreto Grammar School Omagh, a Catholic Voluntary Grammar School for girls in the 11-18 age group. This Prospectus gives you a snapshot of the wonderful energy and enthusiasm of the students and staff in our school community as well as providing you with a summary of the policies and procedures necessary to ensure a safe, caring and supportive atmosphere.

In December 2016 Loreto achieved the highest designation with the ETI inspectorate affirming that "the school continues its high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interests of all learners." This followed previous ETI reports published in 2006 and 2013, when the school's Overall Performance, Achievements and Standards, Provision, Leadership and Management were all regarded as "Outstanding".

A Loreto education is rooted, responsive and relevant. In school our greatest challenge is to listen, to hear all the voices and to respond to the needs of our school community. At the heart of our work is the firm belief that we can give girls from all denominations a truly wonderful educational experience based on strong and solid Loreto values and principles. Our success lies in the quality of the relationships between the pupils, staff and parents and our belief in our children, in a faith based education, and in transforming lives ...making young dreams possible.

If you are coming to view our school, focus on the people, especially the pupils, ask all the questions you wish to be answered and witness the broad range of curriculum subjects, after schools and outreach programmes we encourage the girls to enjoy.

Mrs Grainne T O'Hanlon
Principal

"During the last few weeks of the summer, I experienced a mixture of emotions as the new school year approached. At times I was excited and happy but at other times I was uneasy and agitated. Now, I only feel happiness and enthusiasm after three months in Loreto. My favourite things about Loreto are moving class every 35 minutes and I love the freedom we have at lunch time and break time. We can go to the canteen or the library. We can stay in our Form room or go and visit friends in their Form room. We can go to the ICT rooms or we can go to a club or extra-curricular activity. I love all these choices and this is so different from primary school. I feel more grown up. Loreto is such a great school and there is a fantastic community spirit.

Caitlin



TRANSFER PROCEDURE 2017/2018

- School Intake Number - 129
- 146 Applications were received.

Loreto Grammar School is a Catholic Voluntary Grammar School for girls. The school caters for day students in the age range 11-18.

School Year	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Number on Roll	895	888	889
Number in Year 12	123	127	121
Number in Year 13	141	135	139
Number in Year 14	127	125	126
Attendance	93.5%	93.0%	

During the school year 2018/2019 there are seven students in Year 13/14 with a statement of special educational needs.

"On my first day at Loreto, I was very nervous as were many of the other Year 8 girls. However, we very quickly forgot to be nervous because all the pupils and teachers we met were exceptionally friendly.

During my first week I was very anxious about getting lost because I wasn't totally sure where my various classrooms were located. My friends and I actually did get lost one day but we had the courage to ask an older pupil to show us the way. The pupil helped us and when we arrived at the classroom, the teacher was very understanding.

I was concerned that I wouldn't make any new friends but I shouldn't have worried as I have made many new, loyal friends. If I was a time traveller, I would go back to my first day and say to myself that everything will be fine, just relax and enjoy this great experience.

Right now in P.E. we are practising for our upcoming 'Loreto's Got Talent' performance. It is super fun and a great way to interact with all the pupils in the class. Overall, Loreto Grammar School is wonderful and believe me, you don't need to be nervous on your first day. I assure you everything will work out perfectly!

Mia



1.3 HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL

The Loreto Order

The Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary was founded by Mary Ward (1585-1645). It introduced a new type of religious life for women.

With remarkable foresight, Mary Ward realised the apostolic influence of women in families, in public life and in the Church. She chose as her particular apostolate the education of girls. Her words "I hope in God it will be seen, that women in time to come will do much" give us a glimpse of her vision for the future. The 18th Century saw the spread and the development of the Institute on the Continent and in England.

It was introduced into Ireland by Frances Teresa Ball, who, having made her Novitiate in the Bar Convent, York, returned to Dublin in 1821 to establish the First House of the Irish Branch at Rathfarnham. She called it Loreto, the name by which all later foundations made from Rathfarnham are still known.

The Development of the School Building

In 1855 when Father O'Kane, Parish Priest of Omagh, asked Mother Teresa Ball for a community, Mother Felicitas Murray was appointed Superior and travelled up by stagecoach with five sisters. A house was rented in George's Street and a small school opened. Three years later a convent and free school were built on a site donated by a friend.

A link classroom block known as the 'Med-Way' was later built and served the needs of the school for many years.

An Assembly Hall, Science Room, Home Economics Room and Library were added in 1953.

The present Art Block (which was originally a Dormitory Wing) was built in 1960. From 1975 onwards it was used as classrooms and in 1986 it became the Art Department.

The 'Med-Way' was replaced by the present main school block in 1968-1970.

The major part of the present school building was officially opened in September 1970 and after the phasing out of the Boarding School in 1975, the conversion of the boarders' accommodation provided further classrooms.

By 1990 further plans were underway for another extension – more classrooms and Laboratory Block, All Weather Games Pitch, Refurbishment of Art & Design, Careers and Library Accommodation, Administration Block.

After the Omagh bomb in 1998, the Loreto Order wanted to make a gesture to the children of Omagh through the improvement of facilities for the disabled in the school. They negotiated with DENI part funding of the installation of an access lift to all floors of the main building. This was officially opened on the 7th November 2001 by Sister Rionach Donlon, the Provincial Head of the Loreto Order in Ireland.

On the 5th April 2001 Loreto Grammar School and Drumragh parish celebrated the contribution made by the Loreto Sisters to education and the wider community. The occasion marked the closure of the Convent House in Brook Street as the Loreto Sisters moved to smaller premises on the Dublin Road in Omagh.

In 2005 the school was very proud to celebrate 150 years in education in Omagh.

In 2018/19 the school celebrates 163 years in existence, influencing the holistic development of generations of young people. In December 2015, 1 new modular suite of classrooms was opened and some classrooms in the main building were refurbished. The access route into the school was also re-designed providing a new traffic circulation area which increases safety. Funding was secured as part of the Department of Education's School Enhancement Programme.

Loreto Order change to Lay Leadership in Omagh

The first lay Principal Mr Colm O'Neill held Principalship from 1994-2000, after Sr. Anne Mc Daid retired to run Loreto House, a retreat centre in Linsfort in Co Donegal. The last teaching Loreto Sister, Sister Genevieve Mullarkey retired from the staff in June 2000. The last Loreto Sister, working in the school in the area of Office Administration, Sr. Geraldine Mc Aleer, was transferred to Dublin in August 2003.

Mrs Gráinne T. O'Hanlon was Acting Principal from August - December 2000 and was formally appointed as Principal in January 2001.

Principals of the School:

1936 - 1938

Sister Assumption Halpenny

1938 - 1940

Sister Emmanuel Mc Dermott

1940 - 1959

Sister Teresa O'Neill

1959 - 1962

Sister Lurach Walsh

1962 - 1963

Sister Francis Jerome Sharkey

1963 - 1969

Sister Marguerite Sleator

1969 - 1971

Sister Berna Fahy

1971 - 1975

Sister Eileen Mc Erlean

1975 - 1980

Sister Barbara Falls

1980 - 1994

Sister Anne Mc Daid

1994 - 2000

Mr Colm O'Neill

2000 - present

Mrs Gráinne T. O'Hanlon

My name is Zara and I am the youngest in my family. My sister is currently in Year 14 in Loreto. I was worried about transferring into Year 8 because I loved my primary school so much. I hoped that Loreto would be as good as my old school and I was not disappointed. The Taster Day in June was very helpful as I got to meet the lovely girls that would be in my class and this helped to reduce my anxiety about changing school.

On the first day in September, we were introduced to our kind and helpful Year 12 friends. The Year 12 Friends are always there for you and will help you with any problems that you have.

There are lots of fun events throughout the year in Loreto. Before the Halloween break, there was a Halloween pageant and disco where we able to dress-up and prizes were awarded for the best costume. We are now excitedly preparing for "Loreto's Got Talent" which will be held before Christmas.

I know I have only been in Loreto for a few months, but it feels a lot longer. I am very happy.
Zara

1.4 AIMS OF LORETO GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Recognising the inherent dignity and spirituality of every human person,

We aim:-

to provide a Christian environment where the student can experience and develop her Catholic faith.

to maximise the academic and creative potential of each student through provision of a broad and balanced curriculum.

to nurture and develop in each student a positive self-image.

to provide opportunities for experiencing enjoyment and a sense of achievement.

to equip each student with necessary skills and advice relevant to her life-style and future career.

to help each student to mature as an understanding, tolerant and responsible person.

to develop an appreciation in each student of her cultural heritage and an awareness of and respect for other cultural traditions.

to promote in each student a sense of belonging to and having an appreciation of and respect for the natural environment and the community,
- immediate, local, national and world-wide.

1.5 THE LORETO ETHOS

Rooted, Responsive, Relevant

Care of faith and education remain central to the Loreto tradition.

Sharing in the education mission of the Catholic Church, Loreto schools are called on to model and promote a philosophy of life based on belief in God, finding God in all things, striving to live out Gospel values, convinced of the dignity and destiny of each individual.

The Loreto school seeks the formation of the students in the Catholic faith, providing enriching experiences of prayer, liturgy, celebration of the Sacraments, reflection, social justice and leadership which nourish the integration of faith and life, the synthesis of faith and culture, and the link between faith and justice. The school provides Religious Education for the students in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Catholic Church. The rhythm of the Church's liturgical year is marked and celebrated in the school.

The creation of a dynamic community where every student is valued equally and has a real sense of belonging is a priority in a Loreto school. Respectful relations between all members of the wider school community are nurtured. The Loreto school establishes contacts with parents and seeks to link with the local parish and with the local community.

While maintaining a Catholic ethos, Loreto schools welcome students of different faiths and of none. Multi-cultural and multi-faith dialogue is fostered. Inclusivity and the celebrations of diversity are hallmarks of a Loreto school.

A Loreto school in the Catholic tradition is called to respect the autonomy of academic subjects. In addition, the school must be outstanding with regard to the solid human, moral, scholastic and cultural formation of its students. The up to date preparation of young people for active and responsible participation in every area of social, economic and civic life is part of the essential mission of all Loreto schools.

“Hello, my name is Ciara and I attended St. Patrick's Primary School, Castlederg. My first few months at Loreto have been the most brilliant experience. My first day at Loreto was a little scary but Mrs O'Hanlon, our Principal, made us feel so welcome, as did our Head of Year, Form teachers, subject teachers, pastoral monitors and Year 12 friends. I very quickly realised there was nothing to be scared about.

One of the best things at Loreto is meeting new people and making new friends. I have made so many new friends. There are so many opportunities to make new friends whether it's in your Form class, split class or maybe in the choir, a football team or an after school activity.

Another amazing event that happens here at Loreto is the HALLOWEEN PAGEANT! This is where all the pupils in Year 8 dress up and the entire Assembly Hall is full of spooky creatures, laughter and fun.
Ciara”

1.6 SCHOOL UNIFORM

While wearing the school uniform a student represents this school. It is important that a student is dressed neatly in the FULL uniform. This is strictly monitored. It is advisable to have all items of uniform clearly marked with the student's name. Full uniform must be worn at all times and is a condition of each student's daily admission to this school. Parents/Guardians are asked for full support, ensuring their daughter adheres strictly to the uniform regulations.

The student must wear:

- blazer – this is compulsory. (In winter a DARK BROWN overcoat may be worn OVER the blazer)
- brown **knee length** skirt with double inverted pleats front and back
- primrose school shirt
- school clip-on tie - this is the only tie available from school suppliers
- V necked school jumper with a primrose strip
- school scarf
- cream socks
- dark brown opaque tights
- plain, dark brown shoes – canvas shoes are not allowed
- jewellery must be discreet. (One small pair of earrings is allowed in the lower lobe of ears only)
- not allowed:
 - facial studs
 - nail varnish and makeup
 - rainbow coloured hair
 - canvas shoes

Monitoring of uniform will continue throughout the year.

Compulsory P. E Uniform

- Loreto P.E. shorts
- Loreto P.E. top
- Sport trainers/Gym shoes – no plimsolls
- Sport socks

The following items are also available to purchase but are not essential to the school PE uniform

- Loreto Hoodie
- Loreto Squad Top
- Loreto Pants

• **NB Track suit bottoms, sweat tops and trainers are to be worn ONLY for PE class.**

• **In contact sports, a gum shield must be worn.**

IN THE EVENT OF SPECIFIC MEDICAL CIRCUMSTANCES, PERMISSION FOR A STUDENT TO HAVE EXEMPTION FROM WEARING ANY ITEM OF THE SCHOOL UNIFORM MUST BE SOUGHT BY PARENTS, IN WRITING TO THE PRINCIPAL

1.7 THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR STUDENTS 2019/2020

The school day is 9:05am – 3:25pm.

At the time of this prospectus going to publication, the dates for holidays and staff training days for the School Year 2019/2020 had not been finalised. The school will inform parents/guardians of the dates for the School Year 2019/2020 as soon as this information is available from the EA.

Hello everyone, my name is Sarah-Jane and I am in 8a3. I have absolutely loved my first 3 months at Loreto. On our first day in Loreto, we were put into class groups and allowed to talk and encouraged to form new friendships. We did lots of entertaining ice-breaker games; they were really enjoyable.

The Form teachers, the Senior Prefect, the Pastoral Monitors, the Head of Year and the Year 12 friends have all made a positive difference to my time in Loreto. There are so many opportunities to get involved in school life. Already, I have been selected for the Student Council. I really enjoy the Student Council as we get to make decisions to help make the school a better place. I also play the cello and have tuition on a Monday during school which I look forward to immensely.

So much has happened in my first three months such as Loreto to Lusaka, the Halloween Pageant, the St. Vincent de Paul Sale and the Year 8 Mass. Now I am looking forward to all the school celebrations for Christmas. Sarah-Jane

When I look back at my first day at Loreto I was really excited but also filled with nerves. My cousin and I were on the bus by ourselves for the first time and had to walk all the way up to the school. As soon as we arrived Ms Fahy, the English/Drama teacher, filmed us as we walked up the main steps to the entrance door beside the canteen. We were then directed into the Assembly Hall which was full of enthusiastic and noisy Year 8s. We were welcomed by the Head of Year 8, Mrs Shields, and then we were brought to our Form room to meet our Form teacher, Mrs Connolly.

I am now in my third month at Loreto and have been appointed class prefect for the 2nd term which I am really excited about. Since my amazing first day at Loreto, I have made so many new friends and have been introduced to so many new subjects, all of which I enjoy thoroughly. I have no doubt that you, the Year 7 pupils of 2018/2019 will fit into Loreto life easily and I wish you all the very best of luck. Catherine

Hello Everyone, my name is Ellie and, less than a year ago, I was also a Year 7 pupil. I just want to let you know that my first few months in Loreto have been "a blast" thanks to my Form teacher, my Year 12 Friend and all my new friends. To-date, I have joined the Junior Choir and I attend the Wellbeing Club with my friend on a Wednesday at lunchtime. I have also entered the Art Christmas Card competition. There are so many extra activities and clubs to get involved in and I know I will be joining more. They are also a great way to get to know even more pupils and teachers. Ellie

1.8 ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARENTAL CONTACT WITH THE SCHOOL

- 1 Year 8 Open Night for prospective new students and parents – January 2019
- 2 Post 16 Open Night – February 2019
- 3 Registration and Induction Evening for parents of new Year 8 students – June 2019
- 4 Spiritual, Pastoral and Social Night for new Year 8 students and parents – October 2019
- 5 Parent-Teacher Meetings throughout the year provide parents with an opportunity to meet with subjects Teachers / Form Teachers / Head of Year / SMT.

Electronic reports are issued:

February	Year 14
February	Year 13
March	Year 12
March	Year 11
June	Years 8, 9 and 10

Consultations between parents and teachers/Form teachers may be made, when necessary, by telephoning the school office for an appointment.

Concerns Parents / Guardians may make known to the school any concerns that they have about their child's safety by telephoning the school office and asking to speak to the designated teachers for Child Protection Mrs C. Turbitt or Mrs M. Gavin. They will assume responsibility for safeguarding matters.

1.9 CANTEEN ARRANGEMENTS

The school operates a cashless cafeteria system for the provision of school meals. A unique digital number is generated from a scan of the individual student's fingerprint. This number is stored on a secure server and when students want to add money to the system or purchase food from the cafeteria their finger is scanned and matched to the stored unique digital number which is linked to their account. Students, whose parents have opted not to participate in this system, will be issued with a PIN number. This PIN will be used by the student and the school takes no responsibility for misuse of the PIN.

The objectives of the cashless cafeteria are to:

- Provide a range of nutritionally balanced food for students;
- Widen the choice of food available to the students; and
- Enable students only to pay for the items selected.

At lunchtime each student can choose from:

- Three home-cooked meals – one rice or pasta dish, a vegetarian dish and another dish;
- A selection of vegetables, potatoes and side salads;
- A range of snack food, for example, sandwiches, soup and sausage rolls;
- A selection of fresh fruit, scones and tray bakes; and
- Hot and cold drinks.

Dinner break begins officially at 12.20 – 1.00 p.m. The canteen opens at 12.00 to allow Year 13 and Year 14 students to leave the library and study before 12.20pm. This ensures a more even flow of traffic throughout the lunch period. Students queue at the door in an orderly manner. Students pay for the items selected using their swipe cards at tills located in the canteen. For students in receipt of free school meals, the value of a free meal - £2.80 (September 2018) is automatically credited to their account and the student can select food up to this value. If the value of the items exceeds £2.80, the student will have the difference deducted from their account at the till. Refunds are not available if the student does not spend the full value of the meal, the value of a meal or the surplus are not transferable to other students.

The school also operates a breakfast service between 8.35 – 8.55 each morning.

A range of sandwiches, tray bakes, fresh fruit and hot and cold drinks are also available during the mid-morning break. A teacher and 3 Lunchtime Supervisors supervise the canteen on a rota basis. They ensure that all students adhere to a high standard of behaviour. Food and drinks are not to be removed from the Canteen. In the case of accidental spillage and/or breakage students should inform the canteen supervisor or teacher on duty. Students are expected to leave the floor and tables tidy at all times.

The canteen in Loreto is brilliant. The canteen ladies are lovely and the food is really tasty. Everyday there is a large selection of hot meals, paninis, sandwiches, salads and fruit to choose from. There are also "Theme Days" when we can sample foods from China and other exotic locations. The canteen is always bustling and full of laughter and excited chatter. The canteen will also provide meals for pupils who suffer from allergies or gluten intolerance, if requested.

On the first day in Loreto, the Office staff take your finger print in order to add your finger print to the school system and when you add money to your account you are able to pay for food in the canteen without having to bring cash. When you pay for your food at break time or lunch time, you place your finger on a scanner and it reads your finger print so that you can pay for your food without actually handing money over. The amount is simply deducted from your cashless school account. The money comes from the money you have put on your finger. Putting money on your finger couldn't be more simple, you just lay your finger down on the blue scanner and your name and your balance will pop up on the screen then you insert your money into the machine and it is automatically added to your account.

Caitlin

The school emphasises the importance of a balanced diet and a healthy lifestyle. The Food in School Policy is widely promoted to staff, pupils and parents.