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General Information

All information in this prospectus is accurate at the date of publication January 2022 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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1.1 INFORMATION ABOUT THE SCHOOL

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Voluntary | Grammar School |
| Girls | Age Range 11 – 18 |
| Principal: Mrs S Cullinan | ROLL: 895 |
| 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.

I have been in Loreto now for nearly three months and I have had the best time and have had so much fun. When I was deciding which school I wanted to go to, I didn't know if Loreto would be right for me, but I was wrong as Loreto has been fantastic.

One thing that has helped me settle into Loreto so quickly was being allocated a Year 12 friend. Every Monday at breaktime, I was able to meet her. It was nice meeting someone a couple of years older and being able to see her every week. If I had any problems or concerns or even if I didn't know where to go my Year 12 friend Shauna helped me.

There were lots of things I worried about at the start of the school year but now I have absolutely no worries at all. I was so worried about not being able to make friends because I came from a small primary school, Recarson, and moving to a bigger school was very nerve racking for me, but (unexpectedly) I found it easy to make new friends. Always remember when you are making friends to be yourself and don't be someone that you are not. You might not be able to make a friend or a best friend on the first day but over the first week you will make friends as you share new experiences in Loreto.

Another thing I was anxious about was getting lost. I was so afraid of not being able to get around the school, as it is so big! However, within a week, I was able to get to each of my classes easily without any help. If you ever get lost just ask somebody and they will make sure you get to the correct room, and all the teachers and students love to help the Year 8s. I was also nervous about getting all the classwork and homework completed. I don't know why I was scared about this. Every night I would always think to myself "Will the work be hard and what if I can't keep up". But I was so wrong. The workload in Loreto is very manageable. It doesn't even take that long to complete your homework and it is really well explained by the teachers.

We have also participated in so many fun activities this year already! We were part of the "Think Pink Day" for cancer awareness, we enjoyed the Halloween Fun Day and we have participated in Young Enterprise workshops. Loreto is a terrific school, it is so enjoyable and I recommend coming.

Orlaith

TRANSFER PROCEDURE 2021/2022

- School Intake Number - 136
- 172 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 | 2019/20 | 2020/21 | 2021/22 |
|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number on Roll | 880 | 875 | 895 |
| Number in Year 12 | 119 | 126 | 129 |
| Number in Year 13 | 118 | 119 | 129 |
| Number in Year 14 | 128 | 115 | 115 |
| Attendance | 93.5% | 94.5% | |

During the school year 2021/2022 there is one student in Year 12 and no students in Year 13 with a statement of special educational needs. There are two students in Year 14 with a statement of special educational needs.



1.2 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 2022 the school celebrates 167 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. Mrs O'Hanlon held Principalship until December 2020 and, in January 2021, Mrs Susan Cullinan became the third lay Principal of the school.

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 - 2020 |
| Mrs Gráinne T. O'Hanlon |
| 2021 - present |
| Mrs Susan Cullinan |

My time at Loreto has been brilliant so far! I have been at school in Loreto for three months and it has been the most fun I've had in a long time!

I remember walking up to the large, blue gates with my friends. We were all so nervous and, when we reached the steps into the foyer, there was a camera man recording us as we started our adventure in Loreto.

We were assigned to our Form classes and I am in the same class as two friends from primary school. However, my best friend was assigned to a different Form class, but we still talk a lot, and we both have made lots of new friends! So if you are anxious that you and your friends may not be in the same class, don't worry you can still talk to them at breaktime, lunchtime and they might even be in one of your split classes.

All the teachers are very nice and they will always help you if you need it. The classes are very fun and informative. Don't worry about the class tests, the teachers will give you plenty of time to revise and they will go back over any work that you are unsure about. If you get lost, don't be afraid to ask for directions! All the other students were once Year 8s too, so don't be scared to ask for help.

There are lots of fun extra-curricular clubs that you can go to at lunchtime, breaktime and after school, e.g. the Crafty Bugs Christmas Club, the Creative Writing Club, the Eco Club and many more.

Please don't be worried about coming to Loreto because everything will work out brilliantly!

Molly



1.3 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.

1.4 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.



1.5 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

1.6 THE SCHOOL YEAR FOR STUDENTS 2022/2023

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 2022/2023 had not been finalised. The school will inform parents/guardians of the dates for the School Year 2022/2023 as soon as this information is available from the EA.

My first three months at Loreto have been challenging but also very fulfilling. My first day at Loreto was nerve wrecking and exciting in equal measures, but as soon as I entered the school I was not scared because there were so many friendly people in the school to turn to for help such as my Form teacher, the Head Girl or our class Pastoral Monitor. The Year 12 Friends Programme really helped me because the Year 12s were once Year 8s and they have experienced all our anxieties, you can ask them questions about anything and get helpful advice and support from them.

Please do not be worried about which class you will be allocated to, I was separated from some of my friends so I was nervous going into my new Form class but all the other girls in the room were in the same position as me and we quickly made friends as our Form teacher involved us in ice-breaker activities. I was very apprehensive about making new friends, but there was no need to be worried, I now know that I have to talk to someone first instead of waiting for them to talk to me, I have lots of new friends now.

I thought my primary school was big, but Loreto is even bigger; however, the staff and students in the corridors will always help you to get to the correct room with a friendly smile. There are lots of extra-curricular activities such as language, music or homework clubs. There is always something to look forward to. There are also new, interesting subjects to study, my favourite subjects are: Home Economics, Maths and Science.

My experience at Loreto so far has been wonderful and I have many happy memories already and I am excited about making so many more happy memories. I hope you are excited for September, and I know that you will have as great a time at Loreto as I am having.

Holly



1.7 ARRANGEMENTS FOR PARENTAL CONTACT WITH THE SCHOOL

- 1 Launch of Information, video and prospectus for prospective new Year 8 students and parents in January 2022
- 2 Launch of Information and Post 16 Booklet for prospective Year 13 students and parents in February/March 2022
- 3 Registration and Induction Evening for parents of new Year 8 students – June 2022 (TBC)
- 4 Spiritual, Pastoral and Social Night for new Year 8 students and parents – October 2022 (TBC)
- 5 Parent-Teacher Meetings throughout the year provide parents with an opportunity to meet with subject Teachers / Form Teachers / Head of Year / SMT.

Electronic reports are issued:

| | |
|----------|-------------|
| January | Year 14 |
| February | Year 13 |
| March | Year 12 |
| February | Year 11 |
| February | Year 10 |
| June | Years 8 & 9 |

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 and Safeguarding Mrs C. Turbitt, or Ms SJ Fahy. They will assume responsibility for safeguarding matters.

SIMS Parent App & Pay360

Loreto Grammar School uses the SIMS Parent App which includes the following information: School Calendar and Key Dates, Information on your daughter's school profile including Timetable, Attendance, Assessment, Reports, Positive Achievements and School Activities.

Parents/guardians can also update contact details using this App. Pay360 enables the online collection of payments from parents/guardians for the canteen, school trips, PE uniform, etc. 1

1.8 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 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 finger print or

personal PIN number at tills located in the canteen. For students in receipt of free school meals, the value of a free meal - £2.80 (September 2021) 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 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.





LORETO

Grammar School, Omagh

“Do good, and do it well”

Mary Ward (1585 - 1645)