



St. Patrick's High School Keady

EXCELLENCE EVERY DAY FOR EVERY CHILD

PROSPECTUS

2016

Mission Statement

As a Catholic School in partnership with parents and the community, the school seeks to provide children of all abilities with a secure, caring, stimulating and happy environment where high values of work, personal integrity and learning can be

achieved and where all pupils are encouraged to develop their talents and character and to contribute positively to home, school, church and society.



Welcome to our school

Dear Parent/Carer

We are delighted that you are interested in what we have to offer. St Patrick's provides a unique opportunity to access a 21st century education: an education aligning excellence with equity.

This approach of achieving excellence with equity was recognised in our inspection report published in January 2014

"In terms of outcomes, there is a very positive picture for both the more able pupil and the less able " (ETI).

Our unique approach has also been recognised at a national level. St Patrick's was named Times Educational Supplement Secondary School of the Year 2015 at an awards ceremony in London in June 2015.

Our pupils are educated together, but each pupil is regarded as an individual with unique gifts and talents.

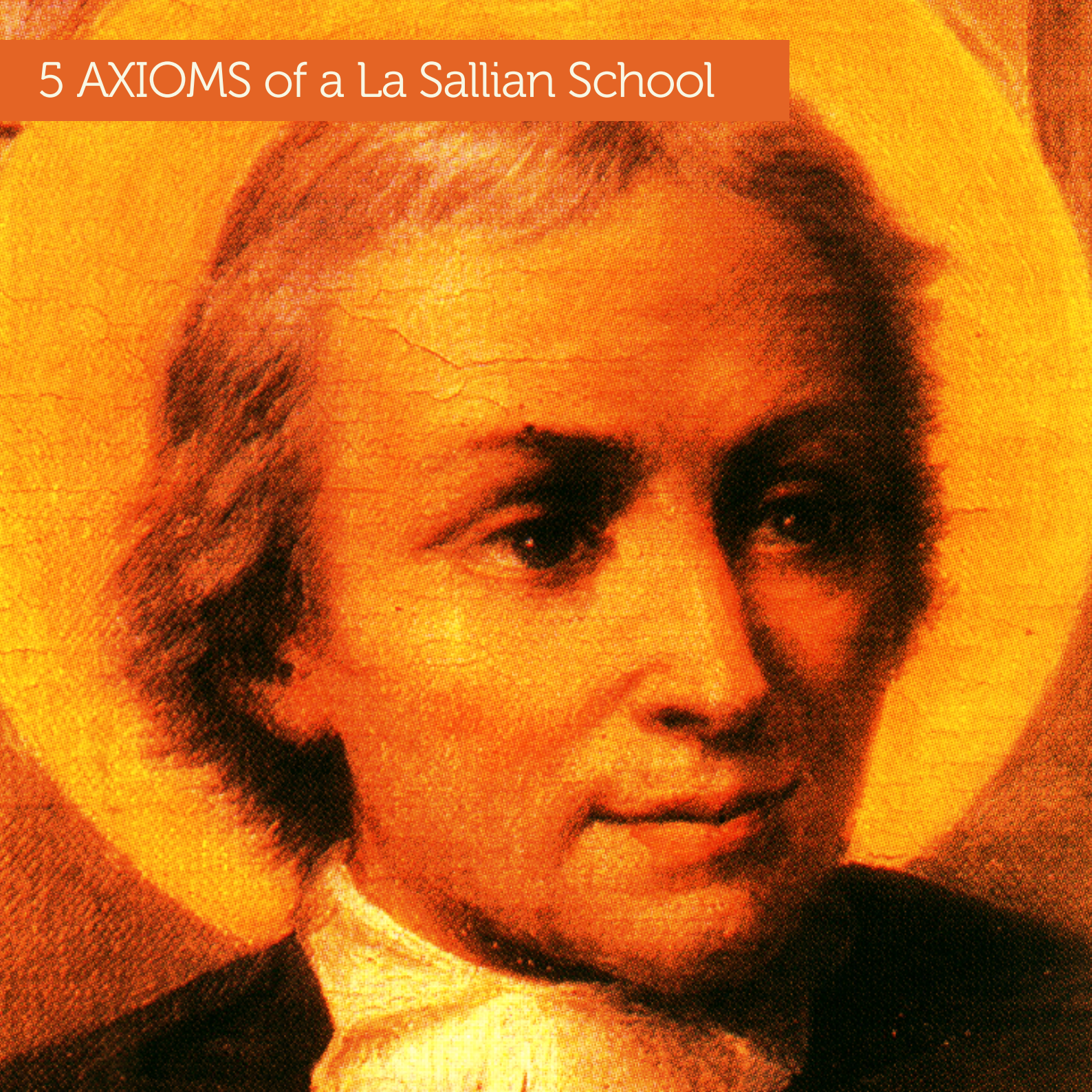
Progress is tracked monthly by Raising Standards' Teams at KS3, KS4 and Sixth Form to ensure all pupils are making progress.

We place no limits on what each child can achieve. Our mission is to ensure that every child makes exceptional progress in our school.

Ms Pat M' Guckian
Principal



5 AXIOMS of a La Sallian School





St. Patrick's is a La Sallian school and seeks to make the vision of St. John the Baptist de la Salle a lived experience

These are the five truths on which a La Salle School is founded.

- Gospel values must permeate the life of a La Sallian school in such a way that pupils internalise those values.
- Human and Christian education: We aim for excellence in the spiritual, academic and vocational spheres, and seek to integrate them. Our curriculum is adapted to the needs of the pupils as individuals and as members of society.
- Teaching as a vocation: The work of teaching is a ministry in the life of the Church, modelled on the role of Jesus the teacher and Good Shepherd. All the staff at the school have a deep pastoral concern for the pupils as individuals.
- In and by association: Everyone involved in a La Sallian school has a part to play in forming a living educational community based on mutual respect and acceptance of one another.
- The La Sallian school is outward looking: We reach out to the world which surrounds us. In particular, we show a special concern for the poor: for young people who are disadvantaged, underprivileged, excluded or marginalised in any way.

A young boy in a school uniform, featuring a striped tie and a crest on his jacket, is looking intently at a globe. A girl is partially visible behind him, also looking at the globe. The scene is set in a classroom with books and papers visible in the background. The entire image has a blue tint.

So what is the
St. Patrick's Way?

The St. Patrick's way means...

Pastoral Care / Partnership with parents / with Primary schools / with Pupils

Pastoral Care

Evaluated as "OUTSTANDING"
ETI January 2014

Evaluated as "OUTSTANDING" (ETI January 2014)
"The school is characterised by an inclusive, caring and holistic approach to meeting the needs of the pupils who benefit from very effective pastoral structures, reward systems and the very good working relationships between pupils and teachers and pupils with one another."

Partnership with Parents - PTA

"I am very happy with my son's progress and he is very happy in all areas of school life."

"The induction programme is excellent and my children's Form Teachers are fantastic, I am extremely happy with my children's education."

"Great work by all at St.Patrick's.
Keep up the good work."

"There is always a warm, friendly welcome when visiting the school."

Primary Partnership

A particular strength of the school is the highly effective partnership with the local primary schools which supports pupils' transition, learning and development.

World class Primary school partners

The excellent partnership with the primary schools has facilitated the creation of a universal transition scheme for mathematics from the beginning of Year 7 to the end of Year 8.

The strategic approach to drive forward the effective learning partnership with the primary schools has been a factor in improving teaching and learning.

Partnership with Pupils

Pupil Voice

"The thing I like most about this school is that subjects are fun and all the teachers treat us with respect."

"There is always someone to talk to if you have any problems. I also love that there are so many opportunities for people to take, like extra-curricular activities."

"We are given loads of different opportunities and we can achieve loads if we work hard enough."

"If you need help you can always turn to a teacher or a member of staff."

Reach high, for stars lie hidden in your soul.
Dream deep, for every dream
precedes the goal

Mother Teresa



GCSE

St Patrick's was the top performing non-selective school in Northern Ireland in 2015, with 82% of pupils achieving 5 GCSEs including maths and English.

The St. Patrick's way means...

Aspiration

Ambition

Achievement

We believe that every one of our pupils has God-given gifts and talents. Our job is to help them discover these so that they can fill their role in the world.

As St. Catherine of Siena said "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire."

We believe in a holistic education and offer a wide variety of extra curricular opportunities to help each child develop talents and skills. In December 2015 four of our sixth form pupils were named Camogie All-Stars, Ciara Hill, Aimee Brennan, Hannah Hughes and Leah McGoldrick.

However we also recognise the critical importance of achieving good qualifications to broaden choice and increase the life chances of our young people.

Achievement: GCSE

St Patrick's was the top performing non-selective school in Northern Ireland in 2015; 82% of pupils achieved 5 GCSEs including maths and English. The equivalent figure for non-grammar schools was 47%

96% of our pupils achieved 5 or more GCSEs grades A*-C; the NI equivalent for non-grammar schools was 72%.

Achievement: A Level

At A Level in 2015, 68% of pupils gained 3 A' Levels at Grades A*-C in 2015 – 20% above NI average for non-selective schools
98% achieved 3 A' levels at A*-E

Leavers' Destinations

The majority of our pupils progress to Higher Education – three times the NI average
One third of our pupils progress to Training - twice the NI average

◀◀ Inspire and lead others by
encouraging them. ▶▶
De La Salle



The St. Patrick's way means...

Teaching and Learning / Teamwork

"To be entrusted with the teaching of the young is a great gift and grace of God."

Our teachers have high expectations for all children, particularly those from groups that have traditionally failed to achieve their potential. They use proven, evidence-based teaching and learning practices, such as assessment for learning – using data to track, monitor and respond to individual pupil progress, and ensuring that progress informs next steps.

We are focused on assessing pupils' individual learning needs, and tailoring our teaching methods and our curriculum in response.

We have created a teaching and learning policy which identifies our key practices and strategies for securing consistently high standards of teaching. Our focus is consistently on helping teachers to become more effective practitioners, using the most up to date educational research.

9 out of 10 lessons were judged to be "Good " or better (ETI January 2014)

We strive to ensure that:
every pupil is taught in a way that meets their needs;
each pupil's progress is regularly checked ;
pupils' additional needs are identified early and addressed appropriately .

Learning Resource Team:

Our Learning Resource Team is made up of our SENCo (Mrs Rafferty), three specialist teachers (Mr McGugan, Mrs Clarke-Jones and Mrs Giffen), three learning mentors (Ms Murphy, Mrs McAree and Mr Carmichael) and a committed group of Teaching Assistants. Together we strive to make our Mission a lived reality for pupils.

"The school supports well those pupils at risk of marginalisation and has effective structures in place to ensure their inclusion and retention in school. The quality and level of skills that all pupils with special and additional needs develop to overcome barriers to learning is very good, reflecting well the effective focus placed on this by the SENCO.

Pupils' needs are identified at an early stage and they benefit from well planned support provided by the Teaching Assistants and the Learning Support Teachers."

ETI January 2014

Pupils can create their own 'Pupil Passport', signposting what they would like their teachers to know about them and explaining how their teachers can help.

“You can
perform miracles
by touching the hearts
entrusted in your care”
De La Salle



The St. Patrick's way means...

Relationships

We believe that the most important aspect to learning is an emotional one – we work on achieving harmonious relationships at all levels- our La Salle ethos must be a lived experience for all

“To deal with young people very harshly is to forego all hope of bringing about any good.”

“Never speak to anyone except with kindness.”

De La Salle

Every Christian community should be an oasis of charity and warmth in the midst of a desert of solitude and indifference.





Most great learning happens in groups.
Collaboration is the stuff of growth.

Sir Ken Robinson

The St. Patrick's way means...

Innovation/Inspiration

We believe that a child's ability is not fixed at eleven (a belief echoed across the most successful educational systems in the world). Since 2011 we have been moving towards complete mixed ability class groupings, with no need for a 'P7 test'



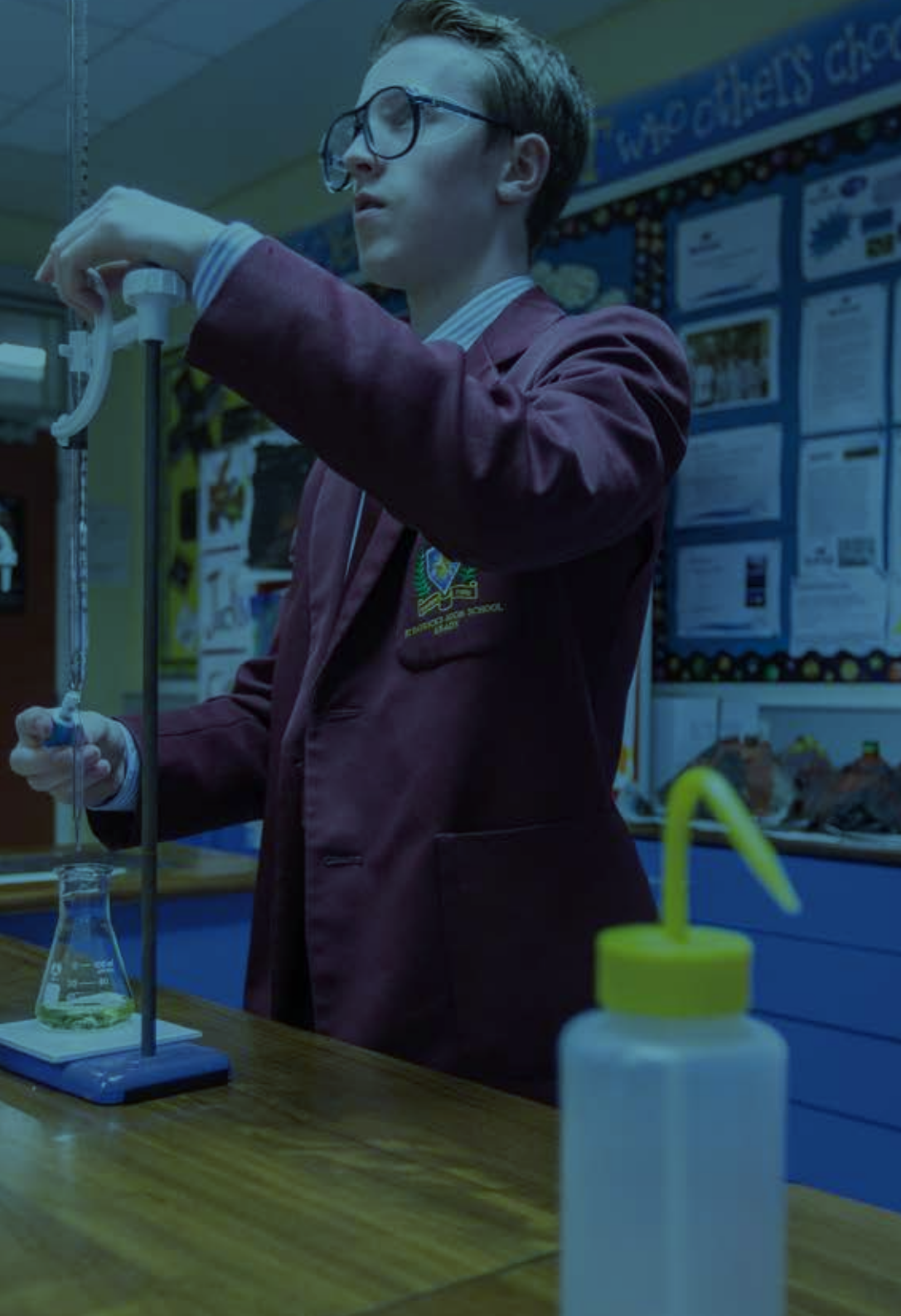
The inspection has found clear and compelling evidence (including quantitative data) of how this new arrangement has improved significantly the quality of experiences and standards achieved by **all** pupils.

ETI January 2014

ETI reported that, based on their evidence, "the more able pupils are definitely not being disadvantaged by the new arrangements while at KS4 the additional support for learning has meant that pupils who require support develop effective personal and social skills and most make very good progress attaining standards at GCSE commensurate with their peers" (ETI January 2014)

Our talents are the gift that God
gives to us...
What we make of our talents is our
gift back to God. ■ ■ ■

Leo Buscaglia



The St. Patrick's way means...

Curriculum / Careers

There is something for every child at St. Patrick's and we believe that all pupils can achieve success.

As well as a range of 'traditional' academic subjects, we have introduced a range of BTEC qualifications at levels 2 and 3. In addition, we now offer GCSE Further Maths and A' Level Software Systems Development.

CEIAG

Evaluated as "OUTSTANDING"
ETI January 2014

The pupils demonstrate excellent understanding of progression routes. There are excellent links with local employers and HE/FE providers as well as professional careers' advisers who visit the school regularly to help prepare pupils for further study and the world of work

CURRICULAR PROVISION

Evaluated as "OUTSTANDING"
ETI January 2014

Our pupils are taught a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum including skills for learning and life (Evaluated as "OUTSTANDING by ETI January 2014).

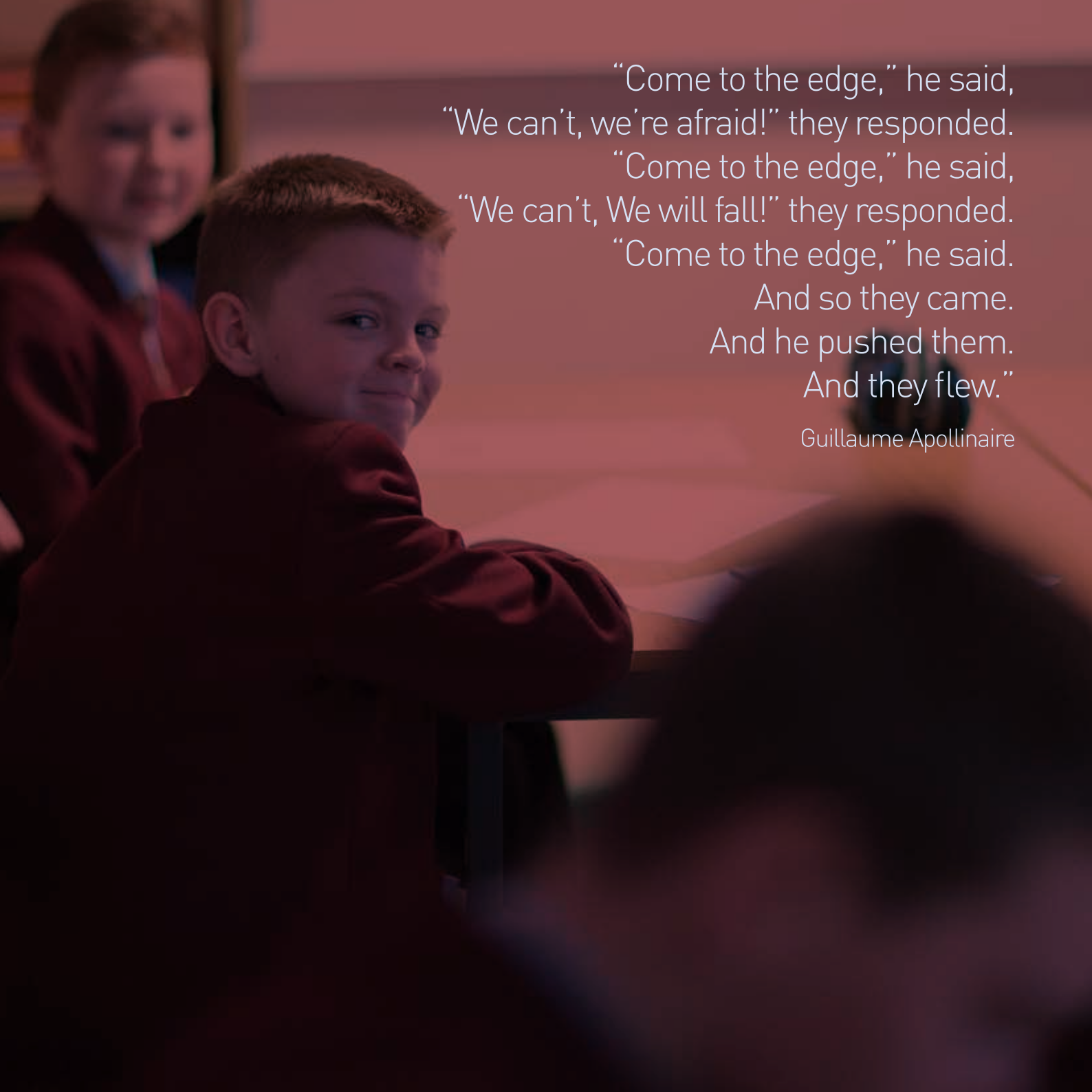
There is comprehensive curricular provision to meet pupils' abilities, interests and career aspirations. The curriculum provision is reviewed regularly to ensure the curriculum provides good progression for all pupils.

We believe firmly that the right curriculum is essential to making sure that children and young people are prepared for life.

But for every child to succeed, we know that a comprehensive curriculum must be accompanied by good teaching practice, focused on the strengths, weaknesses and needs of each.

"The school provides an appropriately challenging range of subjects at Advanced Level." (ETI)

irish
home economics
music
child development
business studies
economics
french
construction
MIA
art
PE
design
technology
history
agriculture and land use
journalism
geography
occupational studies
BTEC extended certificate
performing arts
MVRUS
ICT
use



“Come to the edge,” he said,
“We can’t, we’re afraid!” they responded.
“Come to the edge,” he said,
“We can’t, We will fall!” they responded.
“Come to the edge,” he said.
And so they came.
And he pushed them.
And they flew.”

Guillaume Apollinaire

The St. Patrick's way means...

Knowledge, Talents and Skills

We want every child and young person to be inspired to develop a lifelong love of learning; where every child and young person is progressing and achieving to 18 and beyond; and where each one is being prepared by the education and training system to make a success of their life.

Our pupils are taught a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum including skills for learning and life. It remains our absolute priority that every child achieves well in GCSE English and mathematics.



Be who God wants you to be and you will set the world on fire.



St. Catherine of Siena

SKILLS

We recognise that our pupils need to develop systematically a range of skills to achieve success in life in the 21st Century.

We are currently conducting a review of our curriculum provision at Key Stage 3 in order to build more effectively on the skills pupils develop in our partner schools. We want to avoid unnecessary repetition of mere content. Instead we want our pupils to learn deeply and apply what they have learned in unfamiliar contexts.

"Literacy/Numeracy /ICT is well managed with an appropriate emphasis on teaching and learning." (ETI)



In January 2016, pupils from Year 8 and Year 10 took part in the BT Young Scientist Competition in the RDS, Dublin. St Patrick's was named **Best Northern Ireland School**, beating off opposition from 24 other schools. The Year 8 team was highly commended and the Year 10 pupils were awarded 1st place in Northern Ireland in the Social and Behavioural junior group for their project entitled "Power Down to Power Up!"



▀▀ To be entrusted with the
teaching of the young is a great
gift and grace from God. ▀▀

De La Salle

The St. Patrick's way means...

Spiritual Development and Service to others

"CHRIST is the reason for this school, the unseen but ever present teacher in its classes, the model of its faculty and the inspiration for its students."

In St Patrick's, prayer is a very important part of school life. Each day begins with prayer, either in Form Class or Year Assembly.

Each Friday a Communion Service is held in our Oratory at 8.30am.

The weekly Year Assemblies, led by our own pupils, allow us to publicise the "Good News Stories" about the Year group which are sent by members of staff to the Head of Year; they accentuate excellent behaviour or care for others and celebrate pupils who have exceeded expectations and are named as 'Learning Champions' by subject teachers.

All pupils have one period per week dedicated to Personal Development, called Form Period. The purpose is to empower pupils and to help them become more self-aware and to develop a sense of self where they can embrace the many opportunities on offer. Positive relationships are nurtured during this time with peers and Form Teachers.





Do not have any anxiety about the future. Leave everything in God's hand for he will take care of you.

De La Salle



A Teacher's Prayer

I believe that each of my pupils is your child.

I believe that they are a reflection of your love.

I believe that each child possesses special
gifts and talents, that you are entrusting me
to help them discover their gifts and nurture
those talents.

I believe that each child is trying to find you,
And that I can be a model of how to look,
How to live, how to pray.

I believe that my job is actually a mission,
a ministry; That you have chosen me in this
time and in this place

To be there for our pupils.

I believe that there is nothing haphazard
about my day,

About my experiences with my students
or with their parents.

It is all part of your plan.

I believe that you have chosen me,

Lord. I believe



TES

"At the end of last year, St Patrick's High School in Keady, Northern Ireland, had a lot to celebrate. It is a non-selective school in a place where academic selection is the norm. Three years earlier, only 51 per cent of GCSE pupils were achieving five A*-Cs including English and maths. By 2015 it had become the highest-performing non-selective school in Northern Ireland, with 82 per cent of pupils reaching the milestone (and 93 per cent leaving with five GCSEs).

But how did St Patrick's make this impressive turnaround? It created three core school-improvement groups focused on teaching and learning, motivating and engaging boys, and Assessment for Learning. It built stronger links with its partner primary schools and embarked on ambitious staff-led development schemes, including professional learning groups. A learning resource centre now assists students who are struggling and stretches those who are achieving at the highest level.

But it's not all about the academic side: St Patrick's is prominent in the local community, sending food hampers to those in need at Christmas and organising regular visits to the elderly. As the school's entry to the TES Schools Awards pointed out, the emphasis is on education in its "fullest sense".

In a competitive category, the judges said the "innovative work and move away from banding, the amazing results achieved and rate of acceleration" made St Patrick's stand out."

(www.tesawards.co.uk)

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