



Belfast Model School for Girls

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

Prospectus



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School for Girls
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Welcome



Ms P Stuart *Principal*

On behalf of the Governors, staff and students of the Belfast Model School for Girls, I would like to thank you for taking the time to read this prospectus.

We are very proud of our school. Our aim is to provide the highest quality of educational opportunities for our students within a friendly, supportive and caring environment.



*“Where every child matters,
and every moment counts.”*



A recent report from ETI written in January 2017 noted:

....the parent survey

“The parent survey indicated **high levels of satisfaction** with the life of the school affirming ‘the positive and supportive learning environment provided for the students and the excellent range of extra-curricular facilities available’.”

...the pupils

“The students are courteous, **well-mannered and display a positive disposition to school life**. At all key stages, the student leaders are confident, articulate and motivated role models for their peers. The senior students have a range of opportunities to take on leadership and mentoring roles, which they do maturely and confidently; they attain important accreditation for these roles.”

...care, welfare and support

“A key strength for the care, welfare and support provision is the **highly effective** use made of student consultation, feedback from which, supports the planning for improvement.”

...extra-curricular activities

“The students have excellent opportunities to engage in an extensive range of extra-curricular activities. This rich and diverse programme **develops the students’ interest, raises their aspirations and contributes significantly** to their overall experience of education.”

This prospectus will only give you a glimpse of what is special about the Belfast Model School for Girls and our £30 million facility and state of the art resources. For more information, please visit our website, Facebook and Twitter pages.



OUR VISION - What we want to do

To help give our young people the best start in life

OUR MISSION - Why we exist

To provide a high quality education for every child so that each child realises their full potential – **Achievement for All**

OUR VALUES - Guide how we work

A culture of **OPENNESS** | **RESPECT** for all
REFLECTION on our practices | **RESPONSIBILITY** for our actions
EXCELLENCE in all we do | A commitment to **EQUALITY**

School Aims

Quality Learning and Teaching

- To provide a relevant, stimulating learning experience that develops an enquiring mind in all students and motivation to learn.
- To develop each student's academic abilities and other gifts and talents to the fullest extent.
- To employ strategies to ensure that each student, regardless of their starting point, attains the highest possible outcomes required to secure their future economic and personal well-being.
- To utilise methodologies and research which enhance learning and teaching in order to develop the potential of students and our wider community.
- To encourage each student to develop a positive attitude to continuing education and training.

Culture, Character and Care for Learning

- To promote the spiritual, moral, intellectual, cultural and physical development and growth of each student.
- To provide a safe, caring and stable environment where each student is encouraged to make a positive contribution to the school and wider community.
- To ensure that all students and their families promote and know the value and impact of excellent attendance and punctuality.
- To ensure the highest standards of personal presentation and behaviour.
- To foster the highest possible levels of parental engagement and support.

Skills for Life and Employability

- To equip all students with the transferable skills required in a changing job market;
- To encourage and develop independence, self-confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline, resilience and motivation for learning.
- To develop students' awareness and understanding of, and respect for; themselves, others within the school and people in our local, national and international community;
- Students make a positive contribution to the community.

Student Admission

Our school draws most of its students from partner primary schools in North Belfast. We also serve West and South Belfast and Newtownabbey.

We have always sought to draw students from a wide catchment area and will continue to respond to parental choice. Details of special transport arrangements are available on our school website. In recent years, Year 8 has been oversubscribed, but not at first preference. Prospective parents are advised to read the admissions criteria carefully, adding as much relevant information to the transfer form as possible.

Organisation of Students

In the Junior School (Years 8-10), students are placed in mixed ability Form classes.

For subject groupings, students are placed in a class which best meets their needs, where they will receive the appropriate level of support to enable them to succeed.

In the Senior School (Years 11 and 12) we operate a mixture of streamed and mixed ability groupings to ensure your daughter can realise her full potential.



Provision

- An all-ability, inclusive, 11-19 post primary school for girls, under the control of the Education Authority
- 950 students are drawn from a wide catchment area
- Long tradition of academic excellence
- Learning pathways and courses for students of all abilities - GCE A/AS Level, CTEC, BTEC, CACHE, GCSE
- Dedicated, well-qualified specialist staff and high quality teaching
- A broad and balanced curriculum which is student centred and needs led
- Learning Support for students with additional learning needs in our state of the art 'Learning Support Suite'
- A caring environment with excellent provision for pastoral support and careers guidance
- Wide range of extra-curricular activities
- Strong community support and opportunities for extensive community involvement
- Work experience and valuable school-industry links
- Full Service Extended School





Our Facilities

The Belfast Model School for Girls has modern educational, sporting, creative, performing and community facilities which are second to none.

ICT Provision

- Ten PC suites
- Three Apple Mac suites
- More than 600 computers

Sporting facilities

- Leisure centre sized sports hall
- Gymnasium
- Two polymeric hockey pitches
- A polymeric athletics track, with netball court
- Three tennis courts
- Dance studio with sound system and performance mirror
- Fitness suite with treadmills, exercise bicycles and rowing machines

Performing Arts provision in multi purpose hall

- Performing Arts theatre, with tiered retractable seating and professional quality sound and lighting
- Sound and lighting control booth
- Props store
- Green room, dressing room and showers
- Interlinked recording studio
- Drama studio, with stage curtains, lighting and sound system

Community facilities

- A professional standard hair and beauty salon
- Conference rooms
- Health Advice Centre
- Early Years Unit

Education facilities

- Specially designed Music Department, with rock room, orchestra room, Apple Mac suite, and recording studio
- Specially designed Art Department with Apple Mac suite, Sixth Form room and three classrooms
- Science and Technology with seven Science labs and extensive Design and Technology work areas
- Dedicated Media Studies suite
- Large Home Economics suites
- Extensive Learning Zone, with tutorial, teaching, reading, counselling and resource rooms
- Interactive Whiteboards in all classrooms







Academic Standards

We aim to ensure that your daughter has every opportunity to experience a wide variety of quality and exciting learning experiences, which will enable her to develop a love for learning, as well as an enquiring mind.

Each learning programme, whatever the stage (KS3, KS4 and KS5) is designed so that your daughter can achieve success, fulfil her highest potential and be thoroughly equipped for the future. Each girl will have her own pathway to success.

Such experiences enable students to gain knowledge and develop important skills across the Key Stages which lead to the highest grades and outcomes in public examinations.

The majority of students return to continue their studies in Post 16, where learning pathways are carefully crafted to ensure students have access to suitable, relevant and engaging courses to ensure they are ready for work, college or university.

We offer individualised programmes of study: GCE Advanced Level, BTEC / CTEC or other vocational courses. Our curriculum on offer is continually informed by labour market information.



Model

STUDENTS AND STAFF WHO ARE:

Motivated

Organised

Determined

Enthusiastic

Lifelong

Learners



A seven year journey to success at Belfast Model School for Girls

KS5

Post 16

Years 13 and 14

Subjects Level 3:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| ■ ICT | ■ History |
| ■ Art and Design | ■ Performing Arts |
| ■ Business Studies | ■ Religious Studies |
| ■ Drama and Theatre Studies | ■ Single Award Life and Health Sciences (Applied) |
| ■ English Literature | ■ Double Award Life and Health Sciences (Applied) |
| ■ French/Spanish | ■ Sociology |
| ■ Geography | |

KS4

Senior School

Years 11 and 12

Core Subjects:

- English Language
- ICT
- Mathematics

Non Exam Subjects:

- Religious Education
- Physical Education
- Learning for Life and Work

Broad and balance curriculum
Entitlement Framework compliant
Individual pathways

KS3

Junior School

Years 8, 9 and 10

Numeracy, literacy and ICT skills acquired, developed and assessed across the curriculum.

Personal capabilities and thinking skills aquired, developed and assessed across the curriculum

PRIMARY SCHOOL TRA



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Subjects Level 2:

- Sports Studies
- Travel and Tourism
- Children's Care, Learning and Development

- Childcare, Learning and Development

Optional Subjects:

- Art and Design
- Business
- Catering
- Childcare
- Child Development
- Drama
- English Literature
- French/Spanish

- Geography
- Health and Social Care
- History
- Leisure and Tourism
- Moving Image Arts
- Music
- Performing Arts
- Public Services

- Religious Education
- Science (Single and Double Award)
- Sociology
- Sports Studies
- Technology/Product Design

Subjects Studied:

- Art and Design
- Drama
- English
- Geography
- History
- Home Economics
- ICT
- Learning for Life and Work

- Mathematics
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science
- Technology

TRANSITION PROGRAMME



Learning support

- Many students benefit from a range of support services provided by the Learning Support Team.
- Individual programmes for students returning after prolonged absence.
- Peer tutor support.
- Literacy and numeracy support at Key Stage 3.
- GCSE support.

Student Wellbeing

The **Assistant Principal: Culture, Care and Character for Learning** and the **Assistant Principal: Student Wellbeing for Learning** work collaboratively with the team of Year Leaders, Assistant Year Leaders and Form tutors, sharing ideas, skills and talents and contribute to the effective functioning of a highly motivated, cohesive team with a shared vision for the future of Belfast Model School for Girls. Staff have a shared sense of common purpose to ensure that the young people in the school experience the highest quality of learning provision from a highly skilled professional team of teachers and support staff, within a supportive, encouraging and disciplined environment.

- Year Leaders / Assistant Year Leaders - provide support and also monitor attendance, behaviour and academic progress.
- Form Tutors deal with day-to-day matters.
- A range of counselling and youth services is available to support students, coordinated through our Full Service Extended School provision.
- Full health provision and support through our specialist Student Hub.



**“If you have a problem
there is always
someone ready with a
listening ear”**



Safeguarding and Child Protection

We make every effort to ensure that our students are protected and kept safe from harm.

We do this by:

- Giving parents, students and staff information about what we do and what they can expect from us.
- Making sure that our staff and personnel from outside agencies are carefully selected, trained and supervised.
- Letting parents and children know how to voice their concerns or report if there is anything concerning them.
- A dedicated safeguarding team of designated teachers for Safeguarding and Child Protection.
- Access to and support from external partners and agencies

We promise to provide:

- A safe, well ordered, fun, caring, learning environment.
- Programmes of study suitable for each student's age, aptitude and ability.
- Regular information about school activities, academic progress and courses on offer at each Key Stage.
- Annual face to face consultation meetings (parent-teacher interviews).
- Early identification of underachievement or other issues causing concern and requiring support in terms of relationships, behaviour and wellbeing.
- An efficient system of dealing with complaints with access to the Principal and other members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Designated Teacher Team



Ms P Stuart

Mrs J Clarke

Mrs G Houston

Mrs S McKeown



— Extra Curricular **Activities** —

Aerobics **Fitness Training** Football **Athletics**
Gymnastics **Badminton** Hockey **Basketball**
Running Club **Tennis** Cross-country **Netball**
Trampolining **Dance** Volleyball **Duke of**
Edinburgh Award Scheme Choirs **Orchestras**
Recorder Groups **Ensembles** Rock Challenge
Hair and Beauty Club Young Enterprise **Theatre**
Visits Art Gallery visits **Scripture Union**
International Links **Computer Club** Residentials
Drama Club **Film Club** Homework Club



“I have made lots of friends at the after school clubs and I am trying new activities that I haven’t had the chance to do before”



Music **Tuition**

Singing, woodwind, brass and piano lessons are available during and after school and are open to all Year 8 students, no previous experience is required. More information will be provided in September.



Settling into Year 8

We understand how daunting the move from primary to post primary can be, therefore we have in place a thorough and wide ranging transition programme to help your daughter settle in as smoothly and as quickly as possible.

Friendship Conference

In the first term your daughter will take part in the Year 8 'Friendship Conference'. This event is hosted by our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who help new students settle into their new school.

Team Building

Every September Year 8 go on an activity day to get to know the other girls in their Form class and Form tutor better. The girls participate in a range of activities that encourage them to test their limits, solve problems and challenge each other, while learning new ways to communicate.

Peer Mediators | ABA

Our Peer Mediators, Wellbeing Ambassadors (WBA) and Anti-Bullying Ambassadors (ABA) are senior students who work with Year 8 students to help them settle into life at Belfast Model School for Girls.



"I was worried that I would struggle to make new friends but the activity day was a lot of fun and I realised everyone was feeling the same"

ELLIE YEAR 8



Preparation for **life after school**

The school seeks to provide a comprehensive programme of careers education, information and guidance which equips students with the skills required for the world of work.

Industrial Awareness Conferences

Industrial awareness conferences enable Year 12 students to develop their interview skills with the help of advisers from a wide range of occupational areas.

Industrial Visits

Industrial visits provide students with experience of the real working environment and enhance their understanding of industry and production.

Work Shadowing

Work shadowing is organised for Year 13 students undertaking A/AS level courses to give them insight into professional roles and responsibilities.

Individual Careers Interviews

Individual careers interviews with Careers Officers (Training and Employment Agency) are organised for all Year 10 and 12 students.

Work Experience

Work experience is offered to all Year 12 students and Post 16 students.



“I loved the experience of working at my old school. I now know that i want to work with children in the future”





Belfast Model School for Girls

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