

Dominican College Portstewart

2026 Prospectus







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Welcome

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Dominican College Portstewart.

Established in 1917 by the Dominican Sisters, our school enjoys a wonderful location with magnificent views over the Strand, the sea and the town of Portstewart.

Our school is steeped in history and tradition, and the rich legacy left by the Dominican Sisters is at the heart of what we do. Faith and family are at our core, where we value the uniqueness of each young person, and provide educational opportunities and experiences that allow them to develop a sense of purpose and reach their full potential, whilst preparing them for life beyond school.

The College is unique amongst Catholic Grammar Schools in Northern Ireland, in that a very significant proportion of our students are drawn from other denominations as well as coming from a wide geographical area. This strong inclusive community forms a significant part of our identity, along with the emphasis placed on truth, respect, social justice and community.

Dominican College offers a diverse and relevant curriculum, supported by a wide range of extra-curricular activities where there is something for everyone. Our students are empowered by an enthusiastic and dedicated team of staff to strive, stretch, succeed and shine. High standards of work and behaviour are both encouraged and expected in the pursuit of personal excellence; whilst at all times living out the 'Dominican Way' by adopting a spirit of freedom and love in constant search of truth.

Our prospectus will give you a flavour of life here at DCP, where students excel in the classroom and beyond; but perhaps more importantly, where students are safe and happy.

Here at Dominican College Portstewart, we have a strong tradition of academic success and outstanding pastoral care, where we foster a contemporary, stimulating and engaging learning environment for all students. Working together in the heart of Portstewart, we are developing young people to be the best they can be whilst shining brightly in the community and world in which they live.

Thank you for taking the time to view our prospectus and I hope to welcome you to our school in the near future.

Ruth Oliver
Principal





Our History

Dominican College is a Catholic Co-Educational Voluntary Grammar School. It was founded, as a school for girls, in 1917, by the Dominican Sisters, who had purchased a spectacular site, formerly known as 'O'Hara's Castle'.

The school became co-educational in 1968 and has grown steadily to its current population of 675 pupils.

Over the years the College has seen many changes. In the 1970s there were up to 130 boarders at the school but, when boarding ended in the mid-1990s, the boarding accommodation made way for new classrooms, an ICT Suite and the Art department. There is no longer a Community of Dominican Sisters living on the site but the rich legacy which they left us is at the heart of the Dominican Way in Education which we seek to follow.

Situated on the North Coast, in the picturesque seaside town of Portstewart, Dominican College is an enriching community that offers a truly unique educational experience for all. Here, we foster excellence and ambition according to individual ability and interests.

We welcome pupils of all faiths and abilities into our inclusive family – a place where we respect differences and celebrate them, recognising that we are richer due to each unique member who joins our Dominican family.

As part of the area plan compiled by the Catholic Commission Dominican College Portstewart has been recognised as playing a vital role in the education of young people in the Portstewart and surrounding areas in the twenty first century.



Enhancement Programme

The College is currently involved in Stage 3 of an Enhancement Programme funded by the Department of Education. This will see significant investment in a new building to improve our facilities for Art, Drama and Music.



Who We Are

Being a Dominican

Our Dominican tradition has been handed on to us through the vision and dedication of our predecessors. It was their response to the needs of their own time that created the tradition which continues to inspire us as Dominican educators today. For this legacy, we remember them with pride and gratitude.

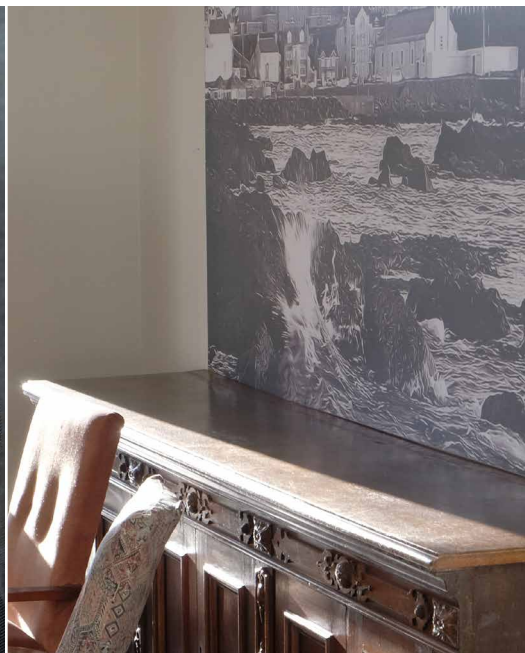
Here at Dominican College Portstewart, we seek to create a community permeated with the gospel spirit of freedom and love in constant search for truth. Our Dominican motto “Veritas” reflects this desire to promote Truth in all its forms.

The aim of the College is to support each young person, in a safe and secure learning environment, in the pursuit of their full human and spiritual

development. We view our role as more than merely imparting knowledge and skills, which have their place, but more importantly with training our students to think, evaluate and to make decisions.

Dominican College has a long tradition of educating young people from all faith traditions and we value the contribution made to our school community both by our Catholic students and also those from other traditions.

The influence of our staff in developing the identity and values of the school cannot be overestimated and through the building of good relationships and mutual respect, we seek to create an atmosphere where real learning can take place.



Vision & Values

Our Vision

Our purpose is to create a safe and welcoming environment where everyone can thrive. We believe in celebrating the creation of each individual, meeting them at their own unique starting point and providing an excellent educational experience that empowers them to become the very best version of themselves, both in school and beyond.

Our Mission

To foster a positive and secure learning environment where every pupil is encouraged to achieve their full potential within and beyond the curriculum.

Our Values

We are guided by our core values of:

- Truth
- Faith
- Responsibility
- Respect
- Kindness
- Forgiveness and
- Justice

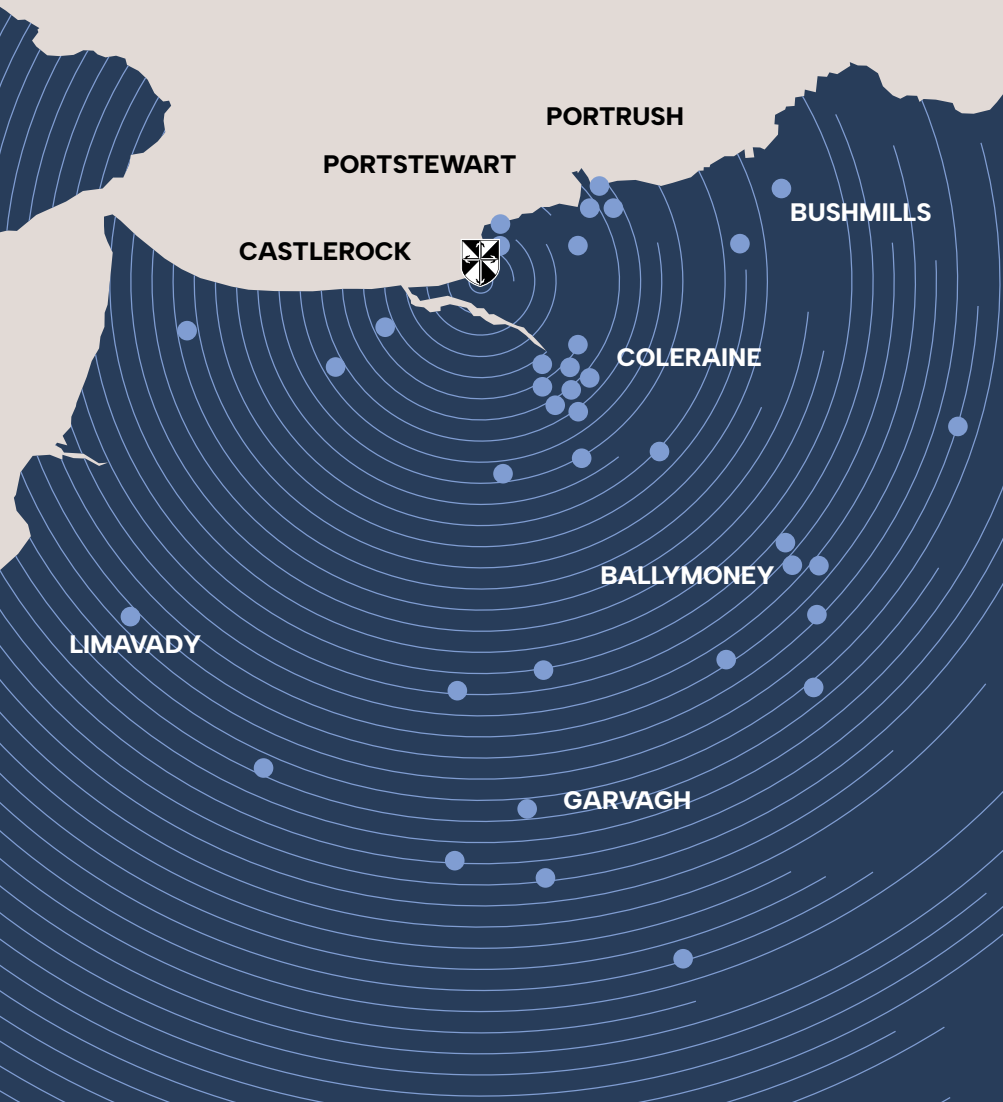
to nurture every member of our Dominican family.

“Being a Year 8 pupil in Dominican is like being part of a big family, it feels like a second home.”

Peter (Year 8)



Catchment Area



Feeder Primary Schools

Ballyhackett P.S
Ballymoney Model P.S
Ballysally P.S
Ballytober P.S
Bushmills P.S
Bushvalley P.S
Carhill P.S
Carnalridge P.S
Carrowreagh P.S
Castleroe P.S
Crossroads P.S
Damhead P.S
DH Christie P.S
Eden P.S
Gorran P.S
Harpur's Hill P.S
Hezlett P.S
Irish Society P.S
Killowen P.S
Leaney P.S
Lislagen P.S
Macosquin P.S
Millburn P.S
Millstrand P.S
Portrush P.S
Portstewart P.S
St Aidan's P.S
St Brigid's P.S
St Columba's P.S
St Colum's P.S
St John's P.S
St Malachy's P.S
St Matthew's P.S
St Patrick and St Joseph's P.S
St Patrick's P.S
Termoncanice P.S

Travel Arrangements

Alongside our Portstewart pupils we have pupils travelling to and from Dominican College from Aghadowey, Articlave, Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Bushmills, Castlerock, Coleraine, Dunloy, Garvagh, Kilrea, Magilligan, Portrush, Stranocum and other outlying districts. Staff carry out supervised bus duty to ensure all pupils leave the school safely on the correct bus.

Pupils travelling to and from school can receive free transport, through a bus pass, provided that their home is more than three miles (as measured by the nearest available route) from the school and that transport to the school is available. Applications for bus passes should be made by parents on the Translink website.



Morning Buses

Please note that bus routes and times can change from year to year. See our website for the latest routes and times.

COLERAINE 140 A

8.05 8.25 8.35 Station and Rose Gardens

PORTRUSH 140 B

8.30 Coleraine Road Stops, Dunluce

BALLYMONEY 143

8.20 Health Centre (Robinson)

8.25 Town Hall

Current Afternoon Buses

(all from Pedestrian Gate)

3.20 Coleraine and Ballymoney Connecting Bus

3.25 Coleraine and Magherafelt

3.30 Portrush

3.25 Coleraine Heights

3.45 Ballymoney

Pupils who remain after school are able to travel freely on normal service buses to Portrush and Coleraine.

Our School Day

The school day begins at 8.55 am and ends at 3.15 pm.

We operate a two-week timetable with a registration period followed by six 50 minute periods each day. This structure supports our delivery of a broad curriculum, whilst allowing a range of learning activities to take place within a single period.

The Servery

Breakfast Club is held each day between 8.15 am and 8.45 am. This allows all students to start their day with something to eat, ensuring that they will be able to concentrate fully in their lessons. Breakfast Club is open to all pupils and is free.

Students can purchase hot snacks and drinks each break time.

Lunches can also be pre-ordered on a weekly basis. These are prepared on-site and get very favourable reviews from our existing student body.

A Typical Day

Registration	9:00 – 9:15
Period 1	9:15 – 10:05
Period 2	10:05 – 10:55
Break	10:55 – 11:15
Period 3	11:15 – 12:05
Period 4	12:05 – 1:35
Lunch 1 (Years 8, 9, 10 & 13)	12:25 – 1:05
Lunch 2 (Years 11, 12 & 14)	12:50 – 1:35
Period 5	1:35 – 2:25
Period 6	2:25 – 3:15



Uniform

Our uniform forms part of our identity, and so it is important to us that our pupils are proud of their uniform. We expect pupils to wear it correctly at all times throughout the school day, when travelling to and from school, and when representing the school.

Pupils should be aware that their personal appearance matters, and they should always be clean, neat and tidy. Pupils have a responsibility to themselves and to our school to take pride in their appearance, and we ask that parents support us in maintaining high standards.

The school uniform suppliers are:

- McKenzie Menswear, Portstewart,
- Couples, Coleraine; and
- Heart and Home, Coleraine (from September 2026).



Boys' Uniform

- Dominican College blazer
- White shirt for all year groups
- Dominican College regulation tie
- Dominican College regulation jumper (optional)
- Black trousers
- Black socks
- Black shoes

Girls' Uniform

- Dominican College blazer
- Dominican College blouse or
- White shirt with Dominican College regulation tie
- Dominican College regulation jumper (optional)
- Dominican College grey pleat skirt (to the knee) or black trousers
- Grey socks or black tights
- Black shoes (heel should be low for health and safety reasons)
- Dominican College scarf

Our uniform is currently under review. There will be additional optional items made available to offer choice for pupils, ensuring warmth and bringing our PE and school uniform together.

Starting School Life At Dominican

Building the bridge



In Dominican College we recognise that the transition from primary to post-primary school has the potential to be very challenging, given the changes it involves for young people; but we also recognise it is an exciting time, and one where many new possibilities are on offer.

We believe that by building strong foundations in Year 8, it will allow each of our young people to flourish throughout their Dominican education.

OUR AIMS ARE:

- To build a bridge from where your child is now to their new life in Dominican College;
- To create a secure, positive learning environment which celebrates the uniqueness and individuality of every pupil;
- To work in partnership with parents to ensure a smooth and effective transition for each child both socially and academically from their Primary school to Grammar School.

Year 8 pupils in Dominican College study up to seventeen different subjects within their form class which will be as evenly balanced as possible in terms of academic ability, gender and feeder primary school. We aim to ensure that each young person will know at least one other person in their class whilst also providing opportunities to form a range of positive friendships within and beyond their year group.

Senior pupils are assigned to each class in Key Stage 3 with the aim of helping ensure that each young person will feel welcomed, secure and valued within their new school.

In Dominican we believe that our senior pupils have much to offer our new Year 8 pupils as leaders, mentors and friends.

Year 8 Dominican pupils are also fully supported and encouraged by a Form Teacher, Head of Year and Head of Key Stage. This team, alongside all teaching and non-teaching staff, work to help each young person be the best version of themselves within and beyond the classroom.

As successful Dominican pupils we want you to:

Develop your full potential.
Organise your time positively.
Maintain your high standards.
Involve yourself fully in the life of the school.
Nurture your talents and creativity.
Insist on being the best version of yourself.
Commit yourself to the values of the school.
Aspire to dream big dreams.
Nourish your full human development.



Pastoral Support

“The quality of arrangements for pastoral care in the school is outstanding”

DENI Inspection Report

As Dominican educators our pastoral care system revolves around allowing each young person to develop their full potential at all times, in all they do.

We believe in helping our pupils to grow in every way – morally, spiritually and academically; and our pastoral care is key to helping each individual become the best version of themselves possible.

The voice of pupils in this school matters; and underpins our pastoral approach, which is founded on the principle that ‘only in the measure that we elicit the co-operation of our pupils is our work a real success.’

We believe that all our pupils are equal, and we ask our young people to mirror this by treating their fellow pupils and all staff of the school with respect. Working together in this way, in a school which is built on a belief in the values of love, trust, honesty and forgiveness, will allow all to succeed.

We are a Take 5 Level 3 school and are also participating in the Being Well, Doing Well programme. Supporting the wellbeing of everyone in our College community is a main priority for us here at DCP.



Curriculum Provision

We pride ourselves on providing pathways to learning that are characterised by quality, breadth, balance and scope. This allows us to cater for the abilities and needs of all our students now, whilst also making provision for their future pathways in education and the world of employment.

Dominican College is an approved centre for the following awarding bodies: CCEA, EDEXCEL, OCN, OCR, Pearson and WJEC. This ensures the school has the flexibility to offer a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum for all our KS3, KS4 and KS5 pupils, offering both academic and vocational pathways.

We are also a member of the Coleraine Area Learning Partnership.

Learning and Teaching

Our committed and dedicated team of staff invite learners on a daily basis to stretch and challenge themselves, to see what they can really achieve. Participative learning is promoted, helping each of our pupils to develop independence and a natural curiosity in their learning. By exciting and engaging our learners, encouraging them to take risks and develop resilience, we believe this provides the opportunity for each of our young people to embrace their learning and achieve outcomes beyond their expectations.

Supporting Learning

Literacy and numeracy are the backbone of success in learning and in life. We provide support

for those who find these and other areas of the curriculum challenging.

In addition, Homework Club is held after school in the Library each day, where all pupils are welcome to complete homework tasks in a quiet and calm environment. Homework Club is supported by staff and senior pupils each day.

A range of help and support is available for those pupils with physical difficulties or additional learning needs. This is overseen by the Learning Support Co-ordinator and Assistant Learning Support Co-ordinator, who work with all staff, parents and outside agencies; and are supported on a daily basis by a team of Learning Support Assistants.

Homework and Assessing Pupil Progress

Homework provides an opportunity to help learners consolidate their learning from school. Through the setting of regular homework, staff aim to encourage good work habits, the development of independent study skills and a high level of motivation from each young person towards their own learning.

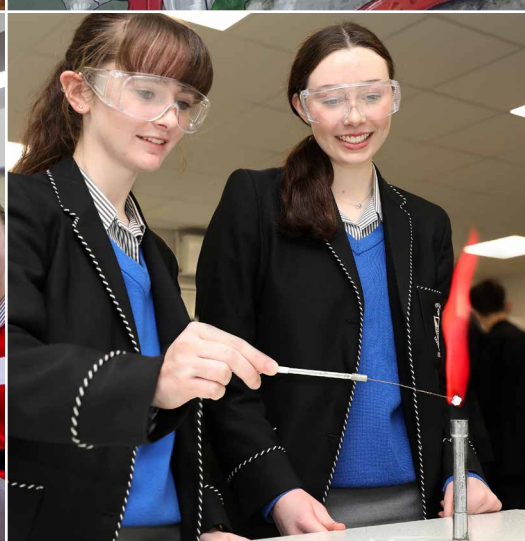
Regular assessment allows teachers and parents to assess the progress of individual learners. Parents receive a report after each assessment point in the school year. Interventions are arranged, if necessary, to help our young people overcome any obstacles to their learning and to support them in their efforts to meet their personalised targets.



Subjects offered at KS3, KS4 & KS5

Subject	KS3	KS4	KS5
Applied Science			✓
Art and Design	✓	✓	✓
Biology	✓		✓
Business Studies	✓	✓	✓
Careers Education	✓	✓	✓
Chemistry	✓		✓
Childcare		✓	
Construction		✓	✓
Creative Cookery		✓	
Creative Arts and DT		✓	
Digital Technology		✓	✓
Drama	✓	✓	
Engineering		✓	✓
English Language	✓	✓	
English Literature		✓	✓
French	✓	✓	✓
Further Mathematics		✓	✓
Geography	✓	✓	✓
Health and Social Care		✓	✓
History	✓	✓	✓
Home Economics	✓	✓	
ICT	✓		
ICT Single Award			✓

Subject	KS3	KS4	KS5
ICT Double Award			✓
Irish	✓	✓	
IT Applications		✓	
Key Skills	✓	✓	
LLW	✓	✓	
Mathematics	✓	✓	✓
Media Studies		✓	✓
Motor Vehicle Studies		✓	
Music	✓	✓	✓
PE	✓	✓	✓
Performing Arts			✓
Physics	✓		✓
Polish	✓	✓	✓
Psychology			✓
Religious Studies	✓	✓	✓
Religious Studies OCN		✓	
Science Double Award		✓	
Science Single Award		✓	
Spanish	✓	✓	✓
Sport		✓	✓
Technology	✓	✓	✓
Travel and Tourism		✓	✓
Vocational Studies		✓	





Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance

The Careers department provides a carefully planned programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) for all pupils in Years 8–14, in partnership with the Northern Ireland Careers Service.

Each young person is encouraged to be autonomous, taking 'ownership' of their personal career planning, to ensure that informed and realistic choices are made at each of the transition stages in Years 10, 12 and 14. The programme aims to equip our young people with the knowledge and skills to investigate careers, and empower them to identify those which are of interest; whilst allowing each individual to develop capabilities that will allow them to participate confidently in a rapidly changing society.

This is supported by:

- A relevant curriculum with timetabled careers lessons;
- Access to careers information in the library and through use of ICT facilities;
- Experience of work through placements, guest speakers, workshops and an Interview Skills Day;
- Information meetings for parents at key transition points;
- Links with business, community groups and educational establishments.

Our students are successful in identifying and accessing the pathways most suited to their needs and abilities. Most of our departing Year 14 pupils are accepted to their first preference pathway, many

securing places on competitive courses at some of the UK's best universities including Cambridge. A number of students have also secured higher level apprenticeships with Deloitte and PWC.

"I am proud to wear the Dominican badge. It just feels like one big family here."

Maebh (Year 14)



Religious Education

Religious Education continues to play an integral part in our school. In the tradition of St Dominic, our main aim is to guide our pupils in search of the Truth of the Gospel in an environment where the spiritual dimension is emphasised alongside the intellectual, emotional, social and physical development.

Throughout their seven years at Dominican, we seek to nurture each pupil's spiritual development through a range of liturgical experiences. Dominican aims to widen our pupils' horizons by promoting the understanding of, and respect for, the beliefs, traditions and cultures of others.

We also aim to encourage each of our students to see their shared responsibility as stewards of creation whilst also exploring and celebrating their own unique gifts and talents.

The words of St Catherine of Siena, "Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire" underlie all our efforts here at DCP to develop fully each member of our Dominican family.

At Dominican we aim to:

- Provide the environment in which students may experience their Christian faith;
- Facilitate and support the ongoing development of the faith and spiritual life of our students;
- Provide opportunities for students to develop initiative, independence and critical thinking within the perspective of their faith.



Social Justice

The search for Justice and Peace is fundamental to our Dominican ethos. We aim to empower our pupils to appreciate their individual and collective responsibility in contributing to a more just society, both in our country and abroad.

Justice, respect, responsibility, kindness and forgiveness form a number of our core values. We 'live' by these on a daily basis in the College, and aim to educate our young people so that they too will use their gifts to contribute to a more just society.

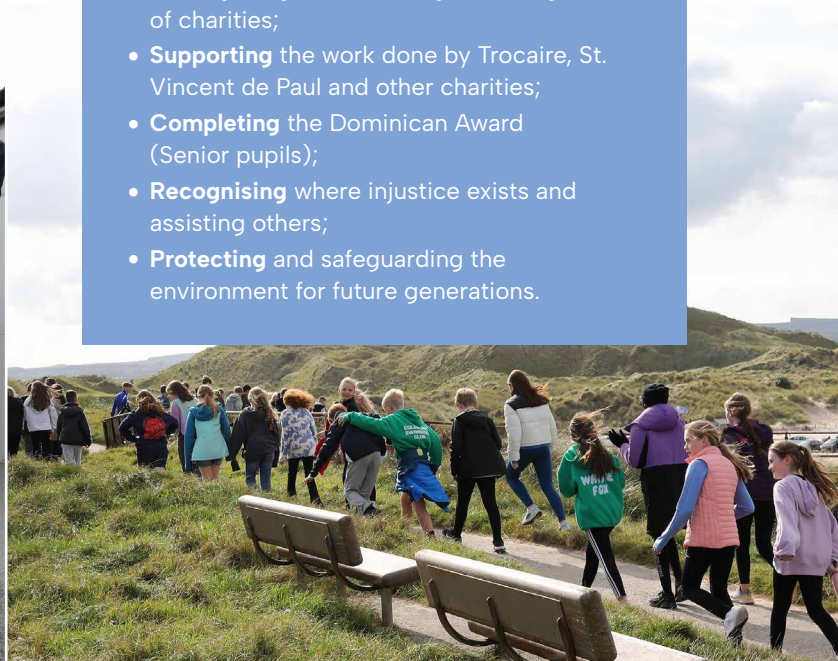
Throughout their school life, our pupils will be given opportunities to:

- **Raise their awareness** of local, national and international issues;

- **Engage in constructive**, meaningful and challenging debate and discussion;
- **Reflect on the importance** of their role within the broader community;
- **Develop ecological awareness** and responsibility for our planet;
- **Learn about the importance** of making the right decisions, and the actions of the decisions they take on themselves and others;
- **Realise they CAN and DO** make a difference.

All Dominican pupils are encouraged to involve themselves in some of the many Social Awareness initiatives including:

- **Volunteering** in a range of local and national causes;
- **Participating** in fundraising for a range of charities;
- **Supporting** the work done by Trocaire, St. Vincent de Paul and other charities;
- **Completing** the Dominican Award (Senior pupils);
- **Recognising** where injustice exists and assisting others;
- **Protecting** and safeguarding the environment for future generations.



Extra-Curricular Enrichment

We encourage all our pupils to involve themselves fully in the extra-curricular life of the school and we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Many sports and activities occur after school but there are also a number of clubs and societies that run at break and lunch time.

We firmly believe in the importance of extra-curricular activities and how they enhance the overall education, enrichment and development of our students.

Diversity and inclusion are at the heart of our extra-curricular provision and there is 'something for everyone'.

Benefits of extra-curricular activities:

- Creates and develops a greater sense of identity with, and belonging to, the school;
- Develops positive attitudes such as commitment, perseverance and industry;
- Promotes teamwork and responsibility to others;
- Enriches and builds on the work done in class;
- Increases levels of confidence, pride and sense of achievement;
- Provides opportunities for pupils to pursue their own interests;
- Learning about leadership, time management and prioritising;
- The experience of a wide and diverse range of interests;
- Helps to raise self-esteem and build solid relationships.

Sports

Athletics

Badminton Club

Camogie

Football (boys)

Football (girls)

Gaelic Football

Golf Club

Hockey

Hurling

Netball

Rugby

Walking Club

Volleyball

Music

Junior choir

Junior Chamber Choir

Music Tuition

Orchestra

School Carol Service

School Concerts

Senior Choir

Senior Chamber Choir

Singing Tuition

Traditonal Group

Ukelele Club

Wind Band

Clubs and Societies

Coding Club

Colour Club

Cookery Club

Debating Club

Running Club

Eco Club

STEM Club

Lego Club

Homework Club

Reading Club

Podcast Club

Languages Club

Junior Boardgames

Duke of Edinburgh

Healthy Hearts Club

School Musicals

Dungeons + Dragons

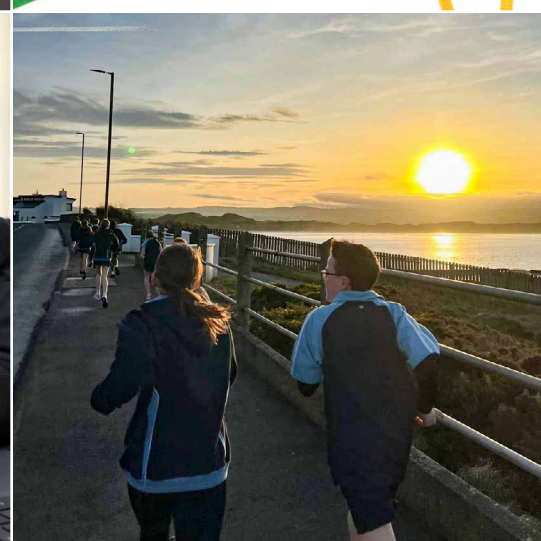
Surf Club (Summer)

The Dominican Award

Well-being Woolies

Young Enterprise

Salt & Light Faith Group



Making A Difference

At Dominican College we believe in the importance of listening to the pupil voice. For this reason, we provide many opportunities for our young people to be involved in the everyday running of the school, empowering our leaders of the future.

Senior and Junior School Prefects

Sixth Form pupils can make application to be a Prefect. Those selected assist with school events and serve as role models. They also work as Mentors, providing support to our new Year 8 pupils; helping them to settle into their new school family quickly. The team is overseen by the Head Boy and Head Girl.

There is also the position of Junior Prefect, which Year 10 pupils can apply for. Again, they support and assist in school events and act as ambassadors for junior school pupils.

School Council

Each year group nominates a Representative. If a pupil is concerned about any aspect of their school experience, they can tell their representative who can then raise the issue at a School Council meeting. Regular meetings which address whole school issues are chaired by the Vice Principal.



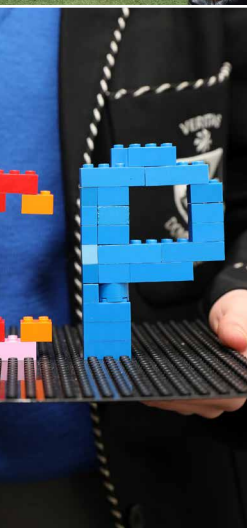


Form Captains

Each class nominates a Form Captain and a Vice Captain. These pupils support the work of the school council by passing information from their form class to the Year Group Representative. Form and Vice Captains also act as Wellbeing Ambassadors and Take 5 Ambassadors, encouraging all pupils within their form class to look after themselves and each other.

Subject Leaders

Mentors support younger pupils in specific areas of learning. This involves building the confidence of junior pupils in subject areas and working with KS4 or AS pupils to develop examination technique ahead of external exams.



Dominican Award

Our senior pupils connect with their wider parish and community as part of the Dominican Award. For example, through volunteering within our local primary schools, church youth groups and care homes.

Charity Committee

Members of the Charity Committee help with the organisation and running of charity events, for example, the Darkness into Light Walk, Children in Need activities, and the annual Beach Walk.

The annual Dominican Beach Walk is one of a number of initiatives we use to support our chosen charities.

Many other leadership opportunities exist, for example within the Eco-Committee or as a STEM Club mentor. All positions allow our young people to develop their self-confidence, communication and team-working skills whilst also making a significant difference to our school community and beyond.



Results, Leavers & Attendance

GCSE Results (KS4)

Subject	Pupils	%A*-A	%A*-B	%A*-C	%A*-E
All Subjects	101	31.6%	68.5%	94.1%	99.7%
Art and Design	17	11.8%	47.1%	88.2%	100.0%
Business and Communication Studies	20	35.0%	55.0%	90.0%	100.0%
Business Studies	8	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
English Language	101	21.8%	54.5%	92.1%	99.0%
English Literature	73	23.3%	53.4%	94.5%	100.0%
French	6	16.7%	50.0%	83.3%	100.0%
Geography	42	33.3%	52.4%	85.7%	100.0%
Health and Social Care	13	23.1%	53.8%	84.6%	100.0%
History	14	29.5%	50.0%	88.6%	100.0%
Digital Technology	30	76.7%	96.7%	100.0%	100.0%
Mathematics	101	40.6%	60.4%	86.1%	98.0%
Mathematics: Further	24	70.8%	79.2%	100.0%	100.0%
Motor Vehicles Studies	5	20.0%	40.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Multimedia	8	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Music	11	63.6%	90.9%	100.0%	100.0%
OS: Design	13	76.9%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
OS: Technology	8	12.5%	62.5%	100.0%	100.0%
Performing Arts	13	7.7%	46.2%	100.0%	100.0%
Physics	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Religious Studies	73	43.8%	57.5%	90.4%	100.0%
Religious Studies OCN	27	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Science	48	35.4%	62.5%	97.9%	100.0%
Science (Double Award)	52	57.7%	78.8%	99.0%	100.0%
Self Development	27	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Spanish	45	26.7%	57.8%	95.6%	100.0%
Sport / PE Studies	18	61.1%	88.9%	100.0%	100.0%
Sports Coaching OCN	6	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

A2 Results (KS5)

Subject	Pupils	%A*-A	%A*-B	%A*-C	%A*-E
All Subjects	75	27.8%	51.4%	87.3%	100.0%
Art and Design	6	16.7%	66.7%	100.0%	100.0%
Biology	11	45.5%	54.5%	90.9%	100.0%
Business	8	75.0%	75.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Chemistry	12	16.7%	33.3%	75.0%	100.0%
English Literature	8	12.5%	37.5%	62.5%	100.0%
Geography	7	14.3%	57.1%	85.7%	100.0%
Health & Social Care	9	22.2%	88.9%	88.9%	100.0%
History	10	10.0%	50.0%	80.0%	100.0%
Digital Technology	16	25.0%	62.5%	75.0%	100.0%
ICT CTec	10	80.0%	90.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Japanese	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Mathematics	17	35.3%	58.8%	82.4%	100.0%
Media	15	26.7%	66.7%	80.0%	100.0%
Music	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Performing Arts	3	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	100.0%
Physics	7	0.0%	57.1%	100.0%	100.0%
Psychology	15	26.7%	53.3%	93.3%	100.0%
Religious Studies	9	22.2%	44.4%	77.8%	100.0%
Science: Applied	18	16.7%	16.7%	94.4%	100.0%
Spanish	3	66.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Sport	10	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Travel and Tourism	7	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%



Leavers' Destinations

Destination	Year 12	Year 14
Higher Education NI	0	36
Higher Education GB	0	23
Higher Education Non-UK	0	0
Higher Education Unknown	0	0
Further Education NI	13	2
Further Education GB	0	1
Further education non-UK	0	0
Gap Year	0	1
Employment	1	9
Seeking Employment	0	1
A Levels Elsewhere	4	0
Apprenticeship	0	2
Unknown	0	0
Total	18	75

School Attendance

2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
93.1%	94.8%	90.2%	92.5%	92.2%	92.0%

“DCP challenges me to always try my best in all I do.”

Ellen (Year 12)

Admissions Information

Voluntary Grammar School (Denominational)

Age Range of Pupils: 11-18

Admissions Number: 100

Enrolment Number: 675

Principal: Mrs Ruth Oliver BEd (Hons) MEd

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr Michael Fleming BA

Fees & Charges

The school has no Capital Fee. Parents are invited to make a Voluntary Contribution of £100 per pupil.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8 September 2026

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 27 January 2026 at 12 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 19 February 2026 at 12 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on 19 February 2026 and up to 4pm on 24 February 2026 will be treated as a late application.

Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to Admissions to the school

The Board of Governors is the relevant admissions authority for Dominican College, Portstewart ("the College"). The Board of Governors draws up and approves the Admissions Criteria and delegates to a Selection Sub-committee responsibility for considering all applications for admission to Year 8. The Education Authority directs the Board of Governors to ensure that parents understand that no application is

guaranteed to be successful.

Any reference to the term 'the Board of Governors' within these Admissions Criteria includes the Selection Sub-committee nominated and approved by the Board of Governors, for the purposes of applying the Admissions Criteria set out in this document.

The Board of Governors has agreed that in the event that the number of applications for places at the College exceeds the College Admissions Number of 100, the criteria set out below will be used.

Pupils resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their application will be considered before any pupil not so resident.

For admission for academic year 2026 /2027

If the number of applications is greater than the Admissions Number, the following criteria shall be applied in the order listed below until the point where the Admissions Number is reached: -

1. Preference will be given to all children who give Dominican College as their 1st preference school on the application form.

2. Where selection has to be made between pupils after application of criterion 1, the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down until all places are filled:

(a) Pupils who have a child of the family currently enrolled in the College;

(b) Pupils who are the eligible first or only child in a family;

(c) Pupils who have a parent who is currently a permanent member of staff at Dominican College Portstewart;

(d) Pupils who attend a primary school located in Portstewart/Portrush (St Colum's PS, Portstewart PS, Carnalridge PS, Mill Strand Integrated PS, St Patrick's PS, Portrush PS).

(e) Pupils who permanently reside in the following geographical area (a map is available from the school office);

All of Portstewart, all residences east of River Bann until Kerry Foods, Coleraine, all residences west of Coleraine / Portrush Road (starting from junction at Vets practice on Millburn Road), all residences north of Ballymagarry Road to where it meets Dunluce Road. All of Portrush is included and also all residences between Portstewart and Portrush.

(f) All other traditional feeder Primary Schools** (pupils who attend a primary school in Portstewart or Portrush will not receive a score for this, due to receiving a score for (d) - ** Traditional Feeder Primary School is defined as one from which one or more pupils have transferred to Dominican College within the last 7 school years (ie after 30th June 2019) This information is available from the school office.

Tie Breaker

If the College is still oversubscribed after the application of each of the above, a computerised random selector will be used for the tie breaker.

FOOTNOTE

*** ELIGIBLE -**

Twins and other children of multiple births who are eldest in the family are treated as joint eldest children.

This criterion intends to prioritise the child of a family that has not had the opportunity to have an elder child to be

enrolled at the College. The following circumstances will therefore be treated as meeting this criterion:

- The Applicant is more than seven school years younger than the next eldest child of the family.
- The family has moved residence so that a child who is not the eldest child of the family is the first child of that family to have the practical opportunity to apply to the school.
- One or more elder children of the family attends a special school (or comparable unit), and the child applying is therefore the eldest child of the family in a position to apply to the College.

A verifying letter must be submitted at the time of application stating that the child is the eldest or only child of the family. The verifier must have known the child and family for at least two years.

It must be signed by one of the following who is not a member of the applicant's family: a primary school Principal, an elected public representative, a medical practitioner, a solicitor, a member of the clergy.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Responsibility

It is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all the information required by the College, accompanies the Transfer application. Failure to provide the required information may result in the College being unable to consider the application. Information submitted after a decision has been made cannot be considered.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should note that they must attach documents verifying information pertinent to the College's Admission Criteria to the online application. Where the Board of

Governors has a general knowledge or belief of a problem relating to false or incorrect information the College will take action to ensure that no pupil gains a place through use of such information.

Verification of all Information

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on the Transfer application or appended to the Transfer application by parent(s)/guardian(s).

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide any requested verifying documents within the deadline set by the College will result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of the school to offer a place.

The responsibility to ensure that:

- **the Transfer application and other necessary documentation is correctly completed;**

- **any required verification documents are provided within specified deadlines,**

lies with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the child. Failure to ensure that this occurs will lead to the application not being considered by the Board of Governors and/or the withdrawal of a place in the College.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

Parents who wish to have their child considered for admission in the event of a place arising after 1 September 2026 should write to the Principal clearly stating this. In the event of a vacancy arising, the above criteria will be applied to these applications.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 9 – 12

Admissions criteria for Year 9–12 is available from the school office.

Number of Applications and Admissions

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2023/24	100	124	100
2024/25	100	99	98
2025/26*	101	138	105

*The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 includes all Year 8 children admitted to the school including those who have a statement of special educational needs and/or may be attending SPiMS.

(SPiMS = Specialist Provision in Mainstream School)



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