

## FRIENDS' SCHOOL LISBURN PROSPECTUS 2024

QUAE SURSUM SUNT QUÆRIT



## Contents

Welcome to Friends' School Lisburn	02
History	03
FSL 250	04
Values and Aims	05
Aspire	06
Pastoral Care	07
Special Educational Needs	08
Curriculum	09
Careers Education, Information Advice & Guidance	13
A School Connected to it's Community	14
Sport	15
Music and the Arts	17
Clubs and Societies	19
The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme	20
School Trips	21
Global Awareness and Sustainability	22
Advanced Level Results 2022/23	23
GCSE Results 2022/23	24
Admissions Criteria	25
School Map	29
Further Information	30



# Welcome to Friends' School Lisburn

Friends' School, established in 1774 by the Religious Society of Friends, is a thriving school of 1040 pupils set in mature and extensive grounds in the heart of Lisburn. As we look forward to our 250th anniversary next year, there has never been a more exciting time to be part of the school.

Although the last 250 years have seen enormous change, the school can trace its distinctive character and values back to its foundation by the Religious Society of Friends. The only Quaker school in Northern Ireland, it occupies a unique space in the educational landscape here, welcoming pupils from a diversity of backgrounds, and valuing the unique contribution of each one.

As well as having a rich history, the school also enjoys modern facilities, allowing pupils to embrace the best of the old and the new. During their time at Friends', pupils are given the opportunity to grow and flourish personally and intellectually in a supportive, caring and stimulating environment. They are encouraged to develop a love of learning and nurture the values that will allow them not only to achieve their academic potential but also to lead fulfilling lives.

As active members of our school community, pupils can avail of a wide range of opportunities both in the classroom and beyond. By learning to value themselves and others, our hope is that they will develop a deep-rooted sense of service that will enrich the communities in which they live.

We hope you enjoy finding out more about Friends' in the pages of this prospectus and that you will also take opportunity to visit us where, most importantly, you will be able to speak to pupils and staff and experience for yourself what the school has to offer.

**Stephen Moore, Principal**



values we live by  
**aspire**

# History

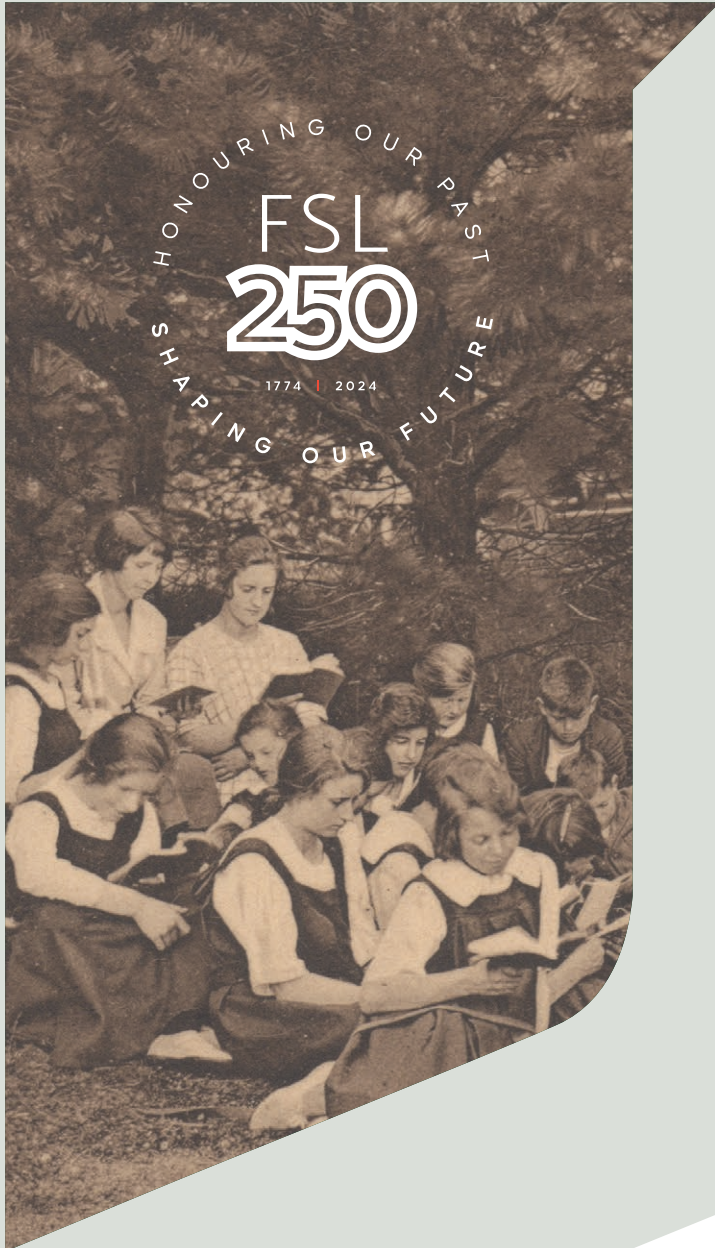
Formerly known as the Ulster Provincial School, Friends' derives its current name from the Religious Society of Friends, who founded a boarding school for thirty boys and girls in 1774.

One of the oldest Quaker schools in the world, it enjoys close links with the other eight Quaker Schools in Britain and Ireland, as well as with other Friends' Schools further afield, including Brummana High School in Lebanon.

The school still stands on the site on Prospect Hill it has occupied since its foundation and welcomes pupils from across community in Lisburn and the surrounding area. Our oldest building, Middle House, dates from 1880, and was refurbished in 2015. Recent development has transformed the school estate: two floodlit hockey pitches were installed in 2013 and, in 2016, we opened a new Maths and Music block. We are delighted to have been awarded funding by the Department of Education which will allow us to embark on a substantial building project over the next few years.

The Chair of the Board of Governors and the Principal report to the Ulster Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends. The Board of Governors includes eight representatives of Ulster Friends, who work alongside six nominees from the Department of Education, two elected parent governors and two elected teacher governors.





# FSL 250

As we look back at the last 250 years, we do so with an appreciation of the legacy we have been left by previous generations. We hope to mark this important milestone in the life of the school with legacy projects and a series of events.

As well as publishing a new coffee table book about the school, set in the context of the history of the area, we also have plans to commission a new painting of school and to create a digital archive for pupils past and present.

Plans are in place for a new outdoor performance space which, as well as allowing pupils to showcase their talents in music and drama, will also serve as a recreational space and outdoor classroom. To enhance pupils' physical and mental wellbeing, we also hope to open a legacy trail around the perimeter of our grounds.

The year will begin with a meeting for worship in the school assembly hall and the programme of events will include a celebration of sport, a garden party, a Christmas market, a gala concert and a celebration dinner.

# Values and aims

Our values are drawn from our Quaker heritage and are still relevant today.

Friends' is a school in which each individual is valued as of equal standing before God, and in which a sense of social awareness is encouraged through service to others. Our aim is to provide an environment in which pupils, staff and parents are committed to the idea of excellence within a caring, supportive community.

**We seek:**

- to enable all pupils to develop their academic potential and interests to the fullest extent
- to provide a broad and balanced curriculum relevant to the needs of our pupils
- to foster the self-esteem of pupils and staff
- to encourage the moral and spiritual development of our pupils
- to establish a partnership between the school, the parents and the local community
- to prepare pupils for adult life

Our motto, drawn from the New Testament book of Colossians, is *Quae sursum sunt quaerite*, or 'seek those things that are above'.





# ASPIRE

We want our pupils to be the best they can be, which is why we have chosen the acronym ASPIRE to sum up the values we think are important and which we seek to live out in our everyday lives.

Drawn from the Quaker Testimonies, these values of Adventure, Sustainability, Peace, Integrity, Respect and Equality underpin everything we do. These are values we seek to model in our everyday lives and which we want each of our pupils to nurture.

**We aspire to live adventurously,** to take risks in our learning and grasp the opportunities available to us to explore the world around us.

**We aspire to live sustainably,** to make good use of our resources and reduce our impact on the environment.

**We aspire to live at peace with ourselves and others,** to nurture our wellbeing and to resolve conflict where we see it.

**We aspire to live with integrity,** to be honest in our dealings with others and to be true to our values.

**We aspire to show respect to ourselves and others,** to nurture our talents and to build our school community.

**We aspire to promote equality,** to value everyone for who they are and to celebrate the contribution they make.

# Pastoral Care

The excellent pastoral care at Friends' is built on strong and positive relationships and aims to create the conditions in which pupils can thrive and make the most of the opportunities afforded to them, both in the classroom and beyond.

All members of staff work with pupils to support them in their learning and in their personal development. We encourage pupils to have high expectations of themselves in all areas of school life: in their conduct, in their engagement with others, in their academic subjects and in extra-curricular activities.

Year Teachers, supported by Heads of each Key Stage, work with a team of Collect Teachers – our term for Form Tutors – and, as far as possible, there is continuity of care from Year 8 to Year 14. Collect Teachers meet with their classes every morning to monitor pupils' attendance, progress and welfare.

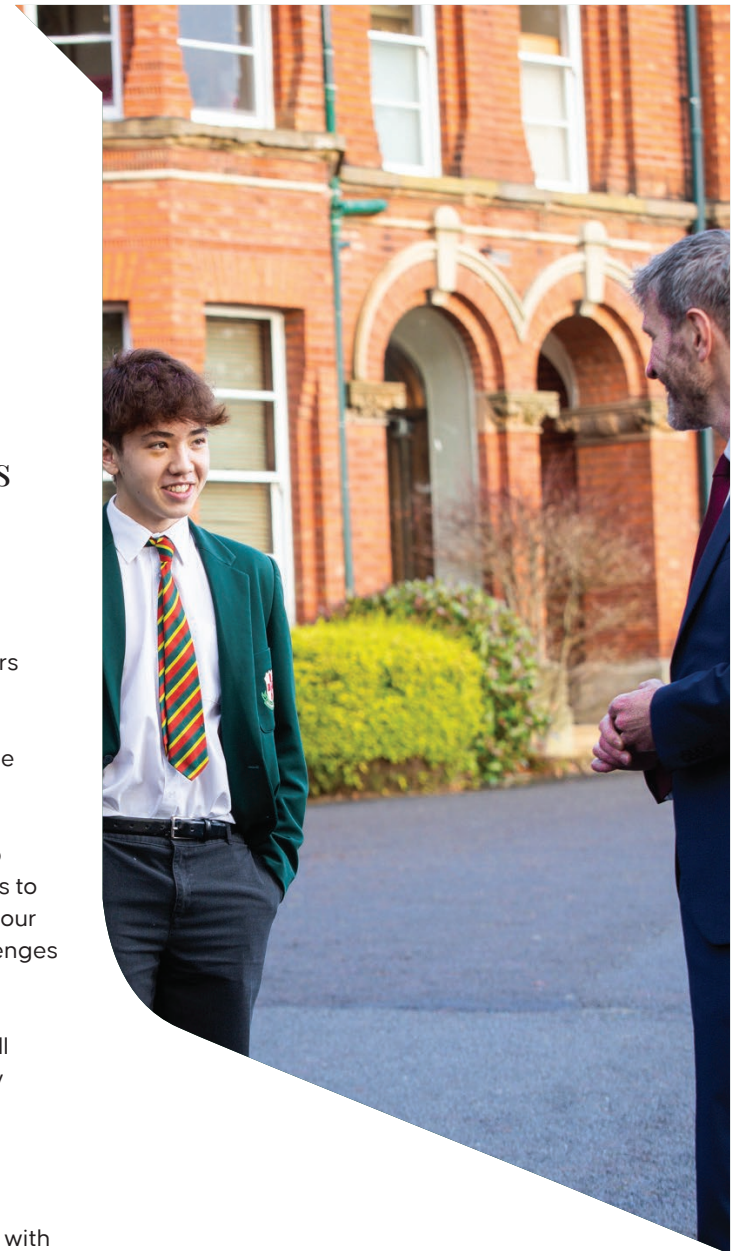
Assemblies promote a sense of community and allow us to celebrate achievement. Led by staff and pupils, they focus on a range of moral, spiritual, social and personal issues. At their conclusion, a short period of silence is observed, which allows space for reflection at the start of a busy day.

Each pupil is allocated to one of the four Houses: Aughrim, Collin, Croob and Divis, all named after hills in the area.

To allow family links to be established, pupils are generally allocated to the same Houses as brothers and sisters. House Assemblies and activities, led by staff and House Captains, promote a sense of belonging and foster good relationships across the year groups.

We enjoy a successful partnership with Tooled Up Education, which provides webinars and resources to support staff and parents as they work alongside our young people, helping them to navigate the challenges they face in life.

Our Designated Teacher takes responsibility for all Safeguarding issues, and our Safeguarding Policy acknowledges the duty of care of each member of staff towards each young person at Friends'. A qualified nurse works during school hours to provide medical care for those who require it, and appointments can be arranged on a weekly basis with two counsellors from external agencies who provide support on a range of issues.







## Special Educational Needs

In accordance with SEND legislation, our aim is to take all reasonable steps to identify and provide for pupils and ensure that we meet their needs. All pupils have access to the full curriculum, and Personalised Learning Plans are drawn up to support those with Special Educational Needs. These are monitored and evaluated by a trained SENCO, in consultation with parents and members of staff, and shared with all those involved in each pupil's education. Pupils participate in decisions regarding their SEN, including at the annual review of their statement.

Once a picture of need has been established, reasonable adjustments are made in classroom practice and assessments to take account of additional needs for pupils.

## Mentoring

We provide training for Sixth Formers so that they can take on responsibilities as pastoral and academic mentors to younger pupils.

Three mentors are assigned to each Year 8 Collect group. They assist with the induction programme, working alongside the Collect Teachers and the Head of Year and getting to know the pupils individually. Mentors will also provide an additional layer of support for those in Year 9.

## Pupil Voice

We want to listen to pupils and give them the opportunity to share their views and influence decision-making in school. Each Collect elects a representative who sits on a council for each year group, and each year group in turn sends two representatives to the school council.

## The School Day

Pupils are expected to be in school by 8.45 each morning. Classes finish at 3.30pm Monday – Thursday and at the earlier time of 3.00pm on Fridays to allow for staff development.

There is a 15-minute morning break for all pupils and a 45-minute break for lunch, with separate sittings for Years 8-10 and for Years 11-14.

On Saturday mornings, there is generally a full programme of school games.

# Curriculum

Learning and teaching are at the heart of everything we do at Friends'.

We want to ensure that all pupils are secure in their knowledge, challenged in their thinking, and equipped to extend their understanding in each subject. We expect everyone at Friends' to be committed to their learning and to work hard, knowing that this will bring rewards and will enable them to fulfil their potential.

Our aim is to provide a curriculum that gives everyone a rich learning experience and lays the foundations for future study. We take a research-informed approach to learning and teaching; we have an ongoing programme of professional learning which has a clear focus on exploring how pupils learn, and how we can optimise classroom practice.

Technology is used to support learning and to enhance pupils' experience in lessons and we are continuing to develop our IT provision in school. There is excellent Wi-Fi coverage throughout the buildings and all classrooms are equipped with Clevertouch boards.



## Year 8

In June each year, we hold an Induction Evening for our new Year 8 intake and their parents, which allows pupils to meet others in their Collect and find out more about Friends'. The PTA also organises activities for our new pupils to enable them to get to know each other outside the classroom.

At the start of the Autumn term, Year 8 pupils have a half day on their own, before those from other year groups return to school. This allows them to meet up again with others in their Collect, and to spend time with their Collect Teacher, Year Teacher and Sixth Form Mentors. In late September, we organise an activity day in Castlewellan which allows pupils to learn and build friendships in a different setting.

## Key Stage 3: Years 8 - 10

Pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 follow a broad common curriculum, developing knowledge and skills across a wide range of subjects. Teaching is focused on encouraging pupils to enjoy learning and to be curious to find out more.

In Year 8, pupils have lessons in Art & Design, English, French, Geography, History, Home Economics, Information Technology, Junior Science, Mathematics, Music, Religious Education, Physical Education and Technology & Design. There are also classes in Learning for Life & Work, incorporating Citizenship, Employability and Personal Development.

In Years 9 and 10, pupils take on either German or Spanish, and Junior Science is divided into separate classes for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Across all subjects, pupils are given opportunities to stretch themselves through participation in competitions for individuals and teams. Visits to school from local artists, writers and musicians help to inspire pupils' enjoyment of the Arts. Junior Programming and Robotics clubs give pupils further opportunities to develop their computing and IT skills.



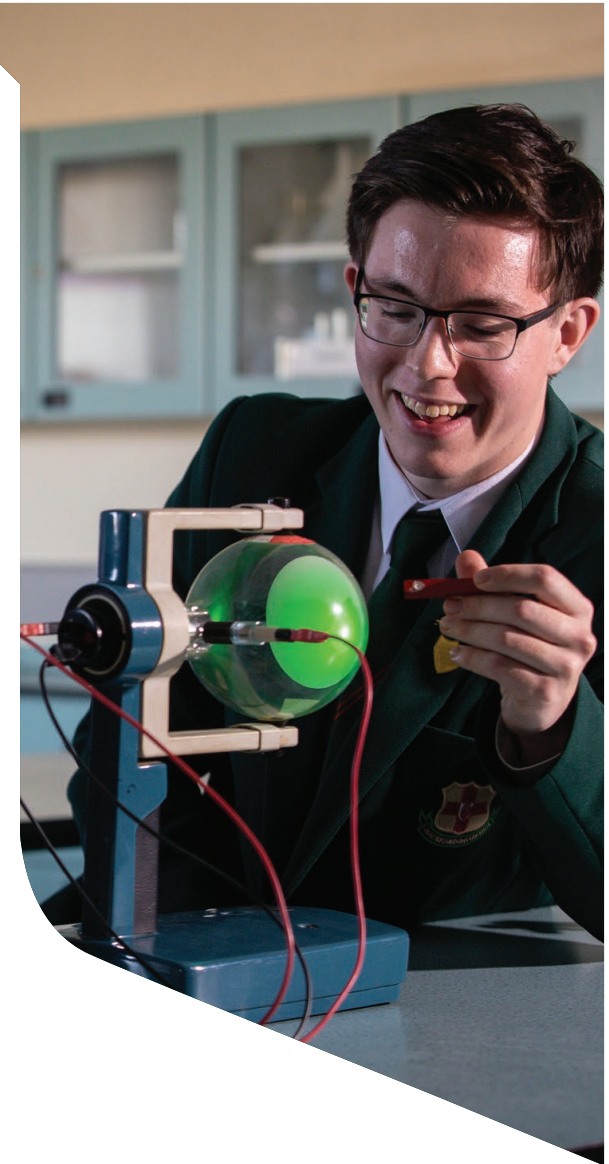
# Curriculum

## Key Stage 4: Years 11 and 12

At Key Stage 4, pupils generally take ten GCSE subjects from a wide range of options. All pupils take English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science (one, two or three of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, or Double Award Science), at least one Modern Language (from French, German and Spanish) and Religious Studies. They then choose the remainder of their subjects from Agriculture, Art & Design, Business Studies, Digital Technology, Drama, Economics, Food & Nutrition, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Music, Physical Education and Technology & Design.

In addition to their GCSE subjects, all pupils are timetabled for Physical Education, Games and Learning for Life & Work.

At Key Stage 4, pupils' learning continues to be enriched by fieldwork, links with industry, visits from outside agencies and attendance at subject-specific workshops and conferences. Pupils are also encouraged to improve their language skills through Exchange or Home Stay visits to France, Germany and Spain.



## Sixth Form: Years 13 and 14

The Sixth Form gives pupils the opportunity to pursue their main academic interests and to deepen their understanding and knowledge by taking A-level qualifications in the three or four subjects they most enjoy.

Pupils choose their AS and A-level subjects from a broad range of options: Art & Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Economics, English Literature, French, Geography, German, Government & Politics, Health & Social Care, History, Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Moving Image Arts, Music, Nutrition & Food Science, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Studies, Software Systems Development, Spanish, and Technology & Design.

Pupils have many opportunities to extend their subject knowledge through activities beyond the classroom, and are encouraged to stretch themselves by entering competitions, such as the UK Maths Challenge, the Juvenes Translatores competition, Sentinus, the Chemistry Olympiad and the Bebras Computational Challenge.

Pupils also have the opportunity to widen their interests through a General Studies programme and benefit from taking on responsibility in clubs and societies, including the Wellbeing Committee and the Charity Committee. All Year 14 pupils are invited to become prefects and they play an invaluable role in giving leadership to others and in welcoming visitors at functions and events.

## Academic Success

Pupils from Friends' have an excellent record of success in examinations, and over the years, many have achieved top places in CCEA's GCSE and A-level exams. Friends' was placed second in Northern Ireland in the Sunday Times Schools Guide for 2024, having been named Northern Ireland Secondary School of the Year in both 2011 and 2018. As well as taking into account results at A-level and GCSE, the awards reflected extra-curricular provision and other aspects of school life.



# Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

CEIAG is delivered at all Key Stages. Its aim is to allow pupils to explore their interests, aptitudes and strengths, and to enable them to find out about the opportunities they will have when they leave Friends'.

The Careers Department plays an important role in personal career planning at key transition points: at the end of Key Stage 3, when pupils make their GCSE choices; at the end of Key Stage 4, when A-level choices are made; and in the Sixth Form, when pupils consider options for when they leave school.

In Year 13, pupils generally plan and undertake a week of work experience. Most take up placements locally, although pupils have also completed placements outside Northern Ireland, including at Westminster, the European Parliament and with the Quaker Council for European Affairs in Brussels. We also encourage pupils to avail of online work-shadowing opportunities which can allow them to explore a range of different career pathways.

Most of our pupils embark on a degree course when they leave Friends', and pupils are offered individually tailored guidance on university applications throughout their time in the Sixth Form. We encourage pupils to be ambitious in their choices and, each year, pupils from Friends' gain places on competitive courses, including Medicine, and at Oxford and Cambridge.

Our links with the local community are very important and we value the contribution of outside specialists and parents who offer each of our Year 14 pupils a formal interview in November.



# A school connected to its community

In keeping with our Quaker ethos, we encourage pupils to devote time to the service of others, using their talents to make a positive contribution to the local and wider community, both during their time at Friends' and once they have left school.

We encourage them to be involved without seeking anything in return, although we know that these experiences are enormously enriching for them.

We value our links with the Quaker Service, which works closely with families in north and west Belfast, and the whole school takes part in the annual collection for Christmas hampers for the families with whom the charity is involved. Our Charity Committee raises awareness for a number of organisations through assemblies and organises events and non-uniform days. Over the past year, they have supported Jeans4Genes, Made for More, Emerge, Save the Children and Children in Need.

Through our General Studies programme, some of our Sixth Formers volunteer in primary schools and local charities, including food banks in the Lisburn area.



# Sport

Pupils at Friends' benefit from a range of opportunities and can enjoy activities at both a recreational and competitive level. Participation levels are high and we aim to enthuse every pupil in school, regardless of individual talents and skills.

We have an excellent on-site sports complex, incorporating three rugby pitches, two cricket pitches, five tennis courts and two floodlit 3-G hockey pitches. Our indoor facilities are also of a high standard, with a gymnasium, purpose-built Sports Hall and fitness suite.

All Year 8 pupils are encouraged to attend hockey, rugby and netball on Saturday mornings during the first term so that they can get to know each other and enjoy being involved in physical activity. Many go on to represent school on one of the many teams in their year group.

Teams are entered for schools' competitions in athletics, badminton, cross country, hockey, netball, rugby, show jumping, swimming and tennis. In addition to these sports, pupils are offered the opportunity to enjoy basketball, dance, gymnastics and health-related PE.

There are regular tours for rugby, girls' and boys' hockey and netball, offering pupils the opportunity to travel with their team and enjoy matches with overseas opposition.

Friends' has a long tradition of sporting excellence and our teams have a proud record in a number of competitions. Individual Friends' pupils also have an impressive record in sport, achieving representative honours at Ulster and Irish level in rugby, hockey, netball, badminton and athletics.







# Music and the Arts

Music is an important part of life at Friends' and our Music Department enjoys excellent facilities in the East Suite, which was opened in 2016.

It houses a Mac Suite, a recording studio, multiple practice rooms, ensemble rooms and a large rehearsal space, all of which are put to good use.


Pupils who play instruments are given the opportunity to develop individual skills and to join with others in the orchestra, brass group, wind band, flute ensemble, string ensemble, folk group and jazz band. Rehearsals take place before school and pupils enjoy a range of musical styles, including jazz, Irish traditional, rock and Samba drumming.

Large numbers of pupils are involved in choral singing through the chamber choir, the junior and senior choirs and the recently formed male voice choir.

Lessons are offered in brass, woodwind, strings, guitar, piano and singing, and our new Year 8 pupils can opt to begin learning an instrument when they arrive in school.

Last March, we held our Spring Concert in the Ulster Hall and our Christmas Concert this year was held in St Patrick's Church in Lisburn. Both occasions allowed pupils to showcase their talents and to put on excellent performances to sell-out crowds.





Following successful productions of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, *Annie* and *Oliver*, we staged the musical *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* in October 2022. Over 200 pupils from Years 8 to 14 were involved in every aspect of the show: alongside the large cast and an excellent band, Friends' pupils were responsible for programme design, sound and light, costumes and the backstage team.

The Art Department organises workshops with local artists, designers and filmmakers. They also organise visits to museums and galleries, and the inspiration pupils draw from these events can be seen in the artwork on display in the corridors throughout school.

Pupils have opportunities to take part in public speaking and debating. Juniors and seniors enter debating and public speaking competitions, and delegates from school attend Model United Nations conferences in the United Kingdom and Ireland.

# Clubs and societies

Our enrichment programme allows pupils to develop their interests beyond the curriculum and to enjoy spending time with each other outside the classroom.

Pupils at Friends' are encouraged to make the most of the wide range of opportunities available to them in school clubs and societies to enable them to flourish and make the most of their talents. There are clubs for Junior Maths and Science, animation, debating, robotics, chess, cross-stitch and drama, and pupils can also be involved in Model United Nations, Scripture Union and the Charity Committee.





# The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has inspired a love of the outdoors and sense of adventure in many of our pupils, and the Friends' School flag, on display in our entrance hall, even found its way to the summit of Everest.

Pupils can participate in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme at Silver and Gold levels. The award involves pursuing a skill, maintaining a physical activity, being involved in voluntary work and completing an expedition. Most of the training and walking is completed in the Mourne at Silver level, with the Gold qualifying expedition in the Lake District.

# School trips

Pupils are encouraged to broaden their horizons through travel and meeting with other young people from different countries.

Since 2006, we have had an exchange programme with our partner school in Germany, the Remstal-Gymnasium in Weinstadt, near Stuttgart. We have also organised home stay programmes in Santander, Salamanca and Nice, where pupils are hosted by local families while they take part in French and Spanish classes and visit local attractions.

The History Department organises trips to Berlin for Key Stage 4 pupils, allowing them to see for themselves places of interest associated with WW2 and the Cold War.

Ski trips normally take place in the February half term. With all of this, as well as sports tours linked to the teams in school and the ever-popular Scripture Union weekends, Friends' seeks to offer opportunities for all pupils to travel and broaden their horizons.



# Global awareness and sustainability

Our work with other schools at home and in other countries increases pupils' awareness of the world around them and promotes international links.

Our links with other Quaker Schools in Britain and Ireland continue to be important to us and we are also exploring links with the Friends' School in Brummana, Lebanon, which we hope will lead to further opportunities for pupils.

We want to encourage pupils to take care of the environment and to have respect for the world around them. This year, we are embarking on a tree-planting project in conjunction with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, which will allow us to make a positive contribution to our community and will increase biodiversity at school.



## Public Examination Results 2022 – 2023 Advanced Level

### Advanced Level June 2023 (% achieving each grade)

	Entered	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Arabic	1	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Art & Design	7	71.43	28.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Biology	62	25.81	33.87	29.03	9.68	1.61	0.00	0.00
Business Studies	27	3.70	48.15	25.93	11.11	7.41	3.70	0.00
Chemistry	38	31.58	52.63	10.53	5.26	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chinese	1	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Economics	17	5.88	35.29	41.18	0.00	17.65	0.00	0.00
English Literature	19	26.32	36.84	31.58	0.00	5.26	0.00	0.00
French	13	53.85	46.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Further Mathematics	6	33.33	33.33	16.67	16.67	0.00	0.00	0.00
Geography	21	4.76	42.86	28.57	23.81	0.00	0.00	0.00
German	4	50.00	25.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Health & Social Care	8	0.00	75.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
History	34	17.65	35.29	23.53	20.59	2.94	0.00	0.00
Mathematics	54	40.74	31.48	18.52	5.56	3.70	0.00	0.00
Moving Image Arts	6	16.67	50.00	33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Music	2	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nutrition & Food Science	10	10.00	50.00	10.00	20.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Physical Education	7	14.29	71.43	0.00	0.00	14.29	0.00	0.00
Physics	24	20.83	41.67	29.17	0.00	8.33	0.00	0.00
Politics	19	5.26	42.11	31.58	21.05	0.00	0.00	0.00
Religious Studies	9	11.11	77.78	11.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Software Systems Development	3	0.00	66.67	33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish	17	11.76	64.71	11.76	11.76	0.00	0.00	0.00
Technology & Design	8	50.00	12.50	25.00	0.00	12.50	0.00	0.00
Totals	415	23.13	41.93	22.65	8.43	3.61	0.24	0.00
Cumulative %		23.13	65.06	87.71	96.14	99.76	100.00	100.00
2022 Cumulative	426	28.64	68.54	87.56	96.48	99.30	100.00	100.00
2021 Cumulative	398	31.66	71.36	93.22	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2020 Cumulative	401	21.70	55.61	85.04	97.51	100.00	100.00	100.00
2019 Cumulative	421	18.29	46.79	78.38	92.87	97.39	99.29	100.00

Number of pupils in Year 14:

**133**

Number of those with a Statement of Special Educational Needs:

**0**

Percentage achieving 3 or more passes at Grades A\*-C:

**92**

Percentage achieving 2 or more passes at Grades A\*-E:

**100**

## Year 14 School Leavers' Destinations 2022 – 2023

Percentage of Leavers to:

Higher Education	Further Education	Employment	Unknown
97.0%*	-	3%	-

\*Including pupils taking a gap year prior to entry at university



# Public Examination Results 2022 – 2023 GCSE

## GCSE Level June (% achieving each grade)

	Entered	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U
Art & Design	14	57.14	28.57	7.14	7.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Biology	68	35.29	35.29	25.00	2.94	1.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Business Studies	42	26.19	47.62	16.67	7.14	2.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chemistry	67	34.33	32.84	14.93	10.45	4.48	2.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Digital Technology	21	19.05	42.86	23.81	14.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English	142	33.80	42.25	19.01	2.82	2.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Literature	140	36.43	42.86	16.43	3.57	0.00	0.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
French	85	32.94	38.82	18.82	5.88	3.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Further Mathematics	71	57.75	35.21	5.63	1.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Geography	49	28.57	44.90	18.37	4.08	4.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
German	15	46.67	20.00	20.00	0.00	13.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
History	79	37.97	29.11	22.78	6.33	3.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Home Economics F&N	47	38.30	27.66	27.66	4.26	2.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mathematics	142	53.52	37.32	8.45	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Music	13	30.77	46.15	15.38	7.69	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Physical Education	29	37.93	55.17	3.45	0.00	3.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Physics	49	38.78	42.86	16.33	2.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Religious Studies	135	35.36	37.78	11.11	10.37	2.96	1.48	0.74	0.00	0.00	0.00
Science (Double Award)	126	38.39	41.27	10.32	6.35	3.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish	44	25.00	43.18	13.64	13.64	2.27	2.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Technology & Design	19	26.32	47.37	21.05	5.26	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1397</b>	<b>37.94</b>	<b>39.01</b>	<b>15.32</b>	<b>5.15</b>	<b>2.08</b>	<b>0.43</b>	<b>0.07</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Cumulative %</b>		<b>37.94</b>	<b>76.95</b>	<b>92.27</b>	<b>97.42</b>	<b>99.50</b>	<b>99.93</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>
2022 Cumulative		40.11	79.94	95.02	99.22	99.93	99.93	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2021 Cumulative	1414	38.54	76.17	91.44	95.97	98.94	99.93	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2020 Cumulative	1427	30.97	73.79	90.12	95.94	99.09	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2019 Cumulative	1399	26.95	66.19	84.63	93.35	97.14	99.36	99.79	99.79	99.93	100.00

Number of pupils in Year 12:

**142**

Number of those with a Statement of Special Educational Needs:

**5**

Percentage entered for 7 or more subjects:

**99**

Percentage achieving 7 or more passes at Grades A\*-C:

**99**

Percentage entered for 5 or more subjects:

**100**

Percentage achieving 5 or more passes at Grades A\*-C:

**100**

## Trend Data

Year 14 pupils achieving three or more A-levels at grades A*-C:	92%
Year 12 Pupils gaining 7 or more GCSEs at grades A*-C (including English and Mathematics):	99%

## Admissions Criteria

### Capital Fee

As Friends' is a Voluntary Grammar School, a Capital Fee of £140 per annum is charged to all parents.

### Respective Functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to admissions to the School

The Board of Governors draws up the Admissions Criteria and delegates to the Education Committee the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference below to the Board of Governors includes any committee or sub-committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purpose of applying the admissions criteria. The Principal is a member of the Board of Governors.

### Admissions Criteria for Pupils at the Normal Transfer Stage (Year 8)

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria, punctual applications will be considered before late applications. The application procedure opens on 30 January 2024 at 12 noon and an application submitted by the closing date of 22 February 2024 at 12 noon will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon on 22 February 2024 and up to 4pm on 4 March 2024 will be treated as a late application.

The School will initially consider at transfer stage only those pupils who have taken the Entrance Assessment provided by the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG) and who have been awarded a mark in the form of a standardised score<sup>1</sup> or have been assigned to a Group (see below) after determination of an application for Special Provisions or Special Circumstances. Information on the Entrance Assessment is available from the School or on the SEAG website ([www.seagni.co.uk](http://www.seagni.co.uk)).

It should be noted that children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission must be admitted before children who are not resident.

The process for admissions, should the School have more applications than places available, is as set out below. The information to be provided in the event of a claim that Special Provisions should apply or that Special Circumstances exist is detailed in Appendix 1.

It should be noted that the Board of Governors will not take into account the position of preference given to the School by the applicant on the Transfer Application. For example, an application received from a pupil who has placed Friends' second in order of preference on the Transfer Application and who has not been offered a place by the school placed first in order of preference, will be considered in the same way as all first preference applicants to Friends' School.

**When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only consider information detailed on, or uploaded with, the Transfer Application. Please note therefore that it is the responsibility of the parents of the applicant to ensure that all information relevant to the criteria is provided on the Transfer Application or uploaded with it.**

### Entrance Tests Results

A readable copy of the original notification of the score received from SEAG should be uploaded with the Transfer Application.

### Admissions

The Board of Governors will consider initially those pupils who have taken the SEAG Entrance Assessment and who have been awarded a score or have been assigned to a Group after determination of an application for Special Provisions or Special Circumstances.

Applicants claiming that Special Provisions and/or Special Circumstances apply will be considered first. Once a decision has been made for each pupil for these special cases, the applicant will be considered along with all pupils of the same Group for the purposes of applying the admissions criteria.

The Total Standardised Age Scores of all applicants in the SEAG Entrance Assessment will be placed in rank order and grouped within ranges of 7 marks. Higher scores will precede lower scores. To determine which pupils will be accepted into Year 8 the following criteria will be applied:

- Preference will be given to those in Group 1 before Group 2, Group 2 before Group 3, Group 3 before Group 4 and so on.
- If the School is oversubscribed, there will come a point where a group contains more applicants than there are places available. Within that group, the remaining places will be allocated in accordance with the following sub-criteria:
  - a) applicants who are children of Members or Attenders of the Religious Society of Friends<sup>2</sup>;
  - b) applicants enrolled in the Preparatory Department of Friends' School Lisburn from 1 September 2023;

- c) applicants who have a brother or sister enrolled in Years 8-14 at Friends' School Lisburn at the date of transfer; this includes applicants who have a twin, or triplet, sibling already admitted;
- d) applicants who are transferring from schools which have contributed pupils to Friends' School Lisburn within the last 5 years (a list of these is below);
- e) applicants to whom (a) to (d) above do not apply.

Under each of these criteria, applicants who are entitled to Free School Meals<sup>3</sup> will be given preference over others who meet this criterion. If, following the application of the above sub-criteria in order, there comes a point where there are more pupils who meet a particular criterion than there are places available then the Board of Governors shall decide which of these pupils are to be admitted on the basis of computerised random selection.

**Contributory Primary Schools in the last five years**

Abbey	Academy	Anahilt	Ballinderry	Ballycarrickmaddy
Ballydown	Ballymacash	Ballymacrickett	Ballymacward	Ballynahinch
Bocombra	Brownlee	Cairnshill	Carr	Christ The Redeemer
Cooley	Crumlin	Downshire	Dromara	Dromore Central
Drumlins	Dunmurry	Fair Hill	Fane Street	Finaghy
Fort Hill	Friends' Prep	Harmony Hill	Holy Child	Holy Evangelists
Holy Trinity	Killowen	King's Park	Knockmore	Largymore
Lisburn Central	Maghaberry	Mardlin Village	Mckinney (Dundrod)	Meadowbridge
Millennium	Moira	Moneyrea	Oakwood	Pond Park
Portadown	Riverdale	Rowandale	Seymour Hill	St Aloysius
St Anne's	St Brendan's (Craigavon)	St Bride's	St Colmans (Lambeg)	St Francis'
St Joseph's (Lisburn)	St Joseph's PS (Crumlin)	St Malachy's	St Michael's	St Patrick's (Magheralin)
St Peter's	St Teresa's	Stranmillis	Taughmonagh	Templepatrick
Tonagh	Wallace Prep	Waringstown		

## Appendix 1

### Special Provisions

It is expected that all those seeking admission should sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment, except for those pupils who take up residence in Northern Ireland after 22 September 2023.

#### Special Provisions will apply for:

1. Children whose parents wish them to transfer to grammar schools from schools outside Northern Ireland.
2. Children who have received more than half their primary education outside Northern Ireland as from 1 September 2023.

3. Children who, because of serious medical, personal or other problems which are supported by appropriate documentary evidence, were either unable to take the Entrance Assessment, or have received an estimated standardised score because they were able to sit only one of the Entrance Assessment papers.

It should be noted that if a claim for the consideration of Special Provisions is made in respect of matters for which Access Arrangements were granted for a pupil, the School will take into account the fact that the pupil was granted Access Arrangements for those matters.

## Appendix 1 continued

### Application for Special Provisions

Parents who wish to apply to the School under Special Provisions must complete the SP Form obtainable from the school website, and upload it with appropriate documentary evidence, as detailed below, with the Transfer Application. Additional evidence **must** be uploaded in the formats specified in the guidance for parents provided with the SP Form.

Parents must provide the precise reason why they believe the pupil is eligible for consideration under Special Provisions and append educational evidence\* as detailed below.

### Special Circumstances

The Board of Governors will consider medical or other circumstances which may have affected a child's performance in the Entrance Assessment which are supported by contemporaneous documentary evidence. The Board of Governors will then decide whether the score awarded in the Entrance Assessment should be adjusted. It should be noted that if a claim for the consideration of Special Circumstances is made in respect of matters for which Access Arrangements were granted for a pupil, the School will take into account the fact that the pupil was granted Access Arrangements for those matters.

### Application for Special Circumstances

Parents who wish to apply to the School under Special Circumstances must complete the SC Form, obtainable from the school website, and upload it with appropriate documentary medical and educational evidence, as detailed below, with the Transfer Application. Additional evidence **must** be uploaded in the formats specified in the guidance for parents provided with the SC Form.

### Medical Evidence

When it is claimed that an applicant's performance in the Entrance Assessment has been affected by medical or other problems, independent evidence of the existence of the problem **must** be provided with the claim. Where the problem is a medical one of short-term duration, the Board of Governors will require the production of evidence that the applicant was examined **contemporaneously** by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness. Where the difficulty or problem is of longer-term duration, the Board of Governors will still require medical evidence. In both cases the medical practitioner providing the evidence must be independent, i.e. not related to the applicant.

Where the problem is of a non-medical nature, the parents of the applicant must also set out with the claim precise details of the problem and append appropriate contemporaneous evidence to corroborate its existence.

### \*Educational Evidence

**When applications are made under Special Provisions or Special Circumstances, it is the responsibility of the parent to provide sufficient educational evidence as detailed in the SP/SC Form. This should include (where they exist):**

- In cases where, because of illness or other unforeseen circumstances, a child has sat only one test, a readable, scanned copy of the original notification from SEAG of the estimated standardised score.
- Objective documentary evidence including, where they exist, the results for the pupil of any standardised tests in English and Maths (such as PTE/ PTM) conducted in Year 5, Year 6, and Year 7.

- Additional comparative information in respect of standardised test scores relating to the other pupils in the applicant's Primary 7 class from the Primary School as set out in the SP/SC Form.

Where an application for Special Provisions is made and the School decides that supplementary educational evidence is required, the School may arrange an agreed date for an assessment. A report on the assessment outcomes will be provided to parents and may be shared with other schools listed on the post-primary Transfer Application.

Additional educational evidence will be considered in conjunction with the standardised SEAG score, where applicable, and adjustments will only be made if there is clear evidence that the circumstances outlined have resulted in underperformance. A panel of Governors will determine, on the basis of the information available, a Group for the applicant, who will then be considered with all other applicants who have received a SEAG score, and the admissions criteria will then be applied.

### Duty to Verify

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.

Please note that Department of Education guidance states that the provisions of false or incorrect information, or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post-primary schools, can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's Transfer Application.

**Waiting List Policy and Admissions Criteria after the commencement of the school year 2024/2025**

A waiting list will be drawn up of those applicants who had initially been refused a place during the transfer procedure, and the admissions criteria listed above will determine the order in which applicants are placed on this list. Should vacancies arise within the admissions number for the year 2024/2025, applicants will be contacted in the order in which they have been placed on the waiting list.

**Applications and Admissions**

Year	Admissions No	Total Applications <i>i.e. all preferences</i>	Total Admissions
2021/22	140	373	147*
2022/23	140	313	161*
2023/24	140	292	169*

*\*includes pupils with full statement of SEN and other supernumerary pupil*

## Appendix 2

**Admission of pupils to Years 9 – 11**

External applicants may be admitted to Years 9 to 11 if there are places available within the School’s approved Enrolment Number and within the relevant year group. Pupils shall be admitted on the basis of academic ability and shall be required to provide the most recent school report from the school currently attended. In addition, pupils shall be asked to take a test set by the School.

Pupils shall be admitted on the basis of their performance in the test and evidence of a good record of progress and behaviour at their current school. The format of the test will include English and Maths and will be determined by the proposed year of entry. It should be noted that applicants to Year 11 must have a viable course of study at GCSE level.

Should two or more applicants to the same year group have the same academic profile, the decision to admit will be taken by applying the sub-criteria (a) to (c) below:

- a) applicants who are children of Members or Attenders of the Religious Society of Friends<sup>4</sup>;
- b) applicants who have a brother or sister enrolled at Friends’ School Lisburn;
- c) applicants to whom (a) to (b) above do not apply.

Under each of these criteria, applicants who are entitled to Free School Meals<sup>5</sup> will be given preference over others who meet this criterion. If, following the application of the above sub-criteria in order, there comes a point where there are more pupils who meet a particular criterion than there are places available, then the Board of Governors shall decide which of these pupils are to be admitted on the basis of computerised random selection.

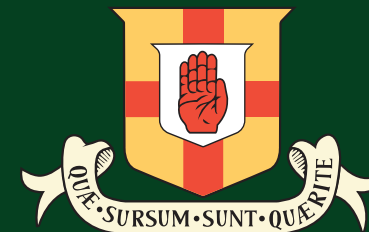
**Footnotes**

1. Throughout the admissions criteria, ‘the score’ refers to the Total Standardised Age Score as awarded by SEAG.
2. Parents will be required to provide details of the Meeting with which they are associated so that this information can be verified.
3. “Entitled to Free School Meals” will mean applicants who are listed on the Education Authority register as entitled to Free School Meals at the date on which their parent or guardian has submitted their post-primary Transfer Application, or at any date up to and including 4 pm on 4 March 2024.
4. Parents will be required to provide details of the Meeting with which they are associated so that this information can be verified.
5. “Entitled to Free School Meals” will mean applicants who are listed on the Education Authority register as entitled to Free School Meals at the date on which their parent or guardian has submitted their Application Form.

# School Map

1. Middle House
2. Main Building
3. West wing
4. Assembly Hall
5. East Suite
6. Technology & Design
7. Sports Hall
8. Dining Hall
9. Tennis Courts
10. 1st XV Rugby Pitch
11. Hockey Pitches
12. Rugby & Cricket Grounds





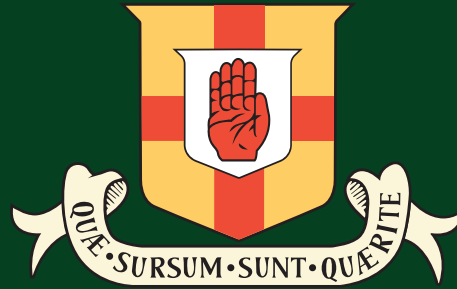
# Further Information

Further information, including school policies and the School Development Plan can be found on our website [www.friendsschoollisburn.org.uk](http://www.friendsschoollisburn.org.uk)

Our Appearance Code sets out our expectations regarding the wearing of school uniform and is also available on the website.

The annual attendance rate for 2022-23 was 96.5%.

The last inspection of Friends' School was in November 2019 and is available on the ETI website ([www.etni.gov.uk](http://www.etni.gov.uk)).



## Contact us

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