



# LORETO ABBEY SECONDARY SCHOOL, DALKEY

## Prospectus





# A LORETO EDUCATION

Loreto Schools aim to form  
Young women  
of Faith,  
of Truth,  
of Sincerity,  
Seeking Justice  
and Freedom,  
in Joyful Service,  
For the Greater Glory of God.





# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



I would like to warmly welcome you to Loreto Abbey Secondary School, Dalkey as you explore second level options for your daughter.

Our school draws upon a 400 year old tradition of educating young women which is rooted in the core values of Venerable Mary Ward (1585-1645). As the founder of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, she was a visionary who saw the potential in all women to contribute meaningfully to society and the church. Mary Ward particularly recognised the significance of education for young women so that they '*could be educated for a praiseworthy Christian life in the world*'. She proposed that justice, freedom, sincerity, truth and joy form the central tenets of the spirituality at the heart of a Loreto school, values which remain unchanged in their significance in the 21st century.

In Loreto Abbey Secondary School, we strive to make these core values tangible in our daily interactions. Our relationships are characterised by respect, honesty, justice, sincerity, compassion and courage. We recognise the importance of faith development and we seek to introduce our students to a reflective way of living. Every student is encouraged to reach her potential in a supportive environment.

We are proud of the high quality teaching and learning in our school which is reflected in our students' impressive State Examination results, however, a strong academic emphasis is not our only focus. Our engaging co and extra curricular programme nurtures our students' holistic development so that they hone their talents and discover new passions. In addition to self development, we also encourage our school community to look outwards and become agents for social change through initiatives supporting justice.

Our prospectus provides a brief insight into life in Loreto Abbey Secondary School. Should you have any questions please contact us at [office@loretoabbeydalkey.ie](mailto:office@loretoabbeydalkey.ie) or visit our website [www.loretoabbeydalkey.com](http://www.loretoabbeydalkey.com) for more information.

We wish your daughter success as she embarks on her journey through secondary school.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Robert Dunne'.

Mr Robert Dunne  
Principal



# HISTORY

*'Women in time to come will do much'*

Mary Ward

Loreto Abbey Dalkey is a member house of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (I.B.V.M) which now has houses across the five continents. The Institute was founded in the 17th century by Mary Ward (1585-1645), a Tudor lady who was a pioneer in the education of women. During her lifetime she established schools all over Europe.

The Irish branch of the Institute was founded in 1821 by Teresa Ball, a Dublin woman. Her first convent, at Rathfarnham, was called Loreto Abbey and subsequent foundations were also called Loreto. Soon the Sisters became known as Loreto Sisters.

Loreto Abbey, Dalkey was founded in 1843. For a number of years Teresa Ball sought a house by the sea, in the belief that the healthy air would contribute to the wellbeing of her novices.

While the convent was intended primarily as a novitiate, from the outset it also provided schooling to local children and on Sundays to a number of interested adults. Some of the latter travelled from as far away as Dublin for tuition, using the newly extended railway for transport.

Mother Teresa Ball and her companions took up residence in Bulloch Castle during their search for a suitable place for their convent. A three acre site, stretching along the seashore, cost £1,500. Mother Teresa, an amateur architect, herself drew up the plans for the building. In the Gothic style, with the chapel as its centre piece, its turrets and miniature battlements made it an imposing building which was in keeping with the other castles around the town.

Although she founded more than thirty convents in her lifetime, Loreto Abbey, Dalkey continued to hold a special place in Mother Teresa's heart. When she was terminally ill in 1861, she asked to be taken back here where she reflected on the beauty of the place before she died

***'It is very beautiful and the view raises the soul to praise God. The rising sun reflected on the ocean is sublime and the thunder echoed through the rocks has a magnificent sound'.***



Since then the ideal of a liberal arts education, which inspired Mary Ward and Teresa Ball in their time, continues to inform the philosophy and vision of the educational experience on offer in Loreto Abbey Secondary School today.



# LORETO ABBEY SECONDARY SCHOOL TODAY



As a dynamic and contemporary school which builds on the rich traditions of the past, we lay the foundations for our students' futures through the high quality and progressive education we provide. While we strive for academic excellence, we never lose sight of the individual. We support every student to reach her potential in an inclusive environment.

It is our goal that graduates of our school will be well prepared to take their place in 21st century society; having developed moral integrity, motivated by selfless generosity and aware of how fully they can contribute to the common good. We embrace Christian values and we encourage our students to develop a social conscience, always looking outward to assist those in need.

Belonging to the Loreto school community is a formative experience which we hope our students cherish, taking with them on life's journey a treasure trove of memories and friendships.





....to set each student  
on a pathway to  
personal excellence  
recognising different  
aptitudes and gifts....





# ACADEMIC LIFE

*'All lessons were characterised by the creation of an inclusive and positive learning environment built on mutual respect...teachers demonstrated very good subject knowledge and were able to call on it with ease'.*

*Whole School Evaluation /MLL Department of Education 2019*



## EXAMINABLE SUBJECTS AVAILABLE TO STUDY INCLUDE:

- Accounting
- Applied Mathematics
- Art
- Business
- English
- French
- Gaeilge
- Geography
- German
- History
- Home Economics
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme
- Mathematics
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- Spanish

## SHORT COURSES INCLUDE:

- Civic, Social, Political Education (CSPE)
- Physical Education
- Social, Personal & Health Education (SPHE)

## WELLBEING MODULES INCLUDE:

- Choir
- Digital Learning
- Drama
- Learning to Learn
- Sustainability Studies





...able to think for themselves, ready to further develop their diverse competencies, find their own voices, claim their own identities...





# TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME

*'The TY Programme provides a range of skills development, opportunities for learning through work experience and charitable endeavours, as well as co-curricular activities.'*

WHOLE SCHOOL EVALUATION/MLL: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2019

We introduced the Transition Year Programme in 1986 and it is offered as an option. This programme provides students with ample opportunities for self development, community involvement and experience of the world of work while acting as a bridge between Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle.

Transition Year students study the core academic subjects while also sampling Leaving Certificate subjects such as:

- Accounting
- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics
- History
- Home Economics
- Geography
- Modern Foreign Languages
- Music
- R.E

Transition Year students also engage in Modules such as:

- Development Education
- Digital Learning
- Film Studies
- Journalism
- Politics
- Sustainability Studies
- World of Work

Other Areas of Learning:

- An Gaisce: President's Award Annual school musical
- Cultural school trips
- Guest speakers
- Loreto Blackrock interschool musical
- Loreto Seville Exchange & French, German Exchanges
- Work Experience







...the ideal of a Loreto Education today will be enshrined in the co-curricular activities organised...





# CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMME



*'Senior Management and staff provide a safe and caring environment for students where a holistic education is valued and learners are encouraged to engage in a wide range of sports and activities designed to support wellbeing'*

*Whole School Evaluation /MLL Department of Education 2019*

Students are encouraged to participate in our multifaceted co-curricular programme where talents and friendships are developed.

Our school has a proud tradition in creativity and the Arts with activities including:

- Art Club
- Chess Club
- Choir
- Debating including Gael Linn & Concern Debates
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Green Schools
- History Club
- Homework Club
- Junior Drama
- Knitting
- Musical Theatre
- Orchestra
- Songwriting Club
- STEM/Lego Club
- Young Entrepreneur Scheme







# EXTRA CURRICULAR PROGRAMME



*'Loreto Abbey Secondary School is a caring, Christian community in which pupils have the opportunity to achieve academic excellence and to grow spiritually, emotionally, socially, creatively and physically in a healthy environment'*  
Our Mission Statement

Learning to be part of a team, exercising in the outdoors and developing talents are some of the benefits of participating in one of the many sports available in our school including:

- Athletics
- Basketball
- Cross Country Running
- Gaelic Football
- Gym
- Hockey
- Rugby
- Sailing
- Soccer
- Tennis

OUR SPORTS FACILITIES INCLUDE:

- Athletics Track
- Astro Turf Hockey Pitches
- Indoor & outdoor Basketball courts
- Dance & Yoga Studio
- Gym
- Tennis Courts





...happy, friendly and self-confident, with a sense of humour and an awareness of their God-given gifts...





# STUDENT SUPPORT

*'A supportive, nurturing and positive atmosphere prevails and is evident in respectful and encouraging interactions'.*

WHOLE SCHOOL EVALUATION/MLL: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2019

It is our aim to ensure that every student feels confident and safe during her time with us. Feeling cared for and supported in her personal, social, emotional, physical, creative, spiritual and academic development is our priority. The best way of supporting our students is by getting to know them. Through interaction with their Class Tutors, Year Heads, Mentors, Learning Support teachers, Chaplain and Guidance Counsellors, strong bonds are formed. The Principal and Deputy Principals play a significant role in coordinating this support by liaising with parents and guardians.

Our Cara Programme is designed to enable First Year students settle into secondary school. Each First Year student is assigned a Sixth Year Cara who acts as their 'buddy' throughout their initial year in school organising activities such as the Cara Friendship Walk, Cara lunches and a Christmas party. In addition, our Amigas are a student led group who promote positive relationships within the student body.

At Senior Cycle, our Guidance programme supports the students in making significant decisions by providing one to one meetings, mock interviews, seminars, third level visits and subject option talks. SPHE forms part of our curriculum from First to Fifth Year during which issues related to health, relationships, sexuality, nutrition, drugs and alcohol are explored in a supportive environment.

An atmosphere of care and respect for every member of our school community permeates our school and at the heart of this lies our Code of Behaviour. Every student signs up to this Code where encouragement and affirmation are central. This approach ensures that the positive relationships experienced between students and staff are based on mutual trust, respect, care and consideration.





# STUDENT VOICE & LEADERSHIP



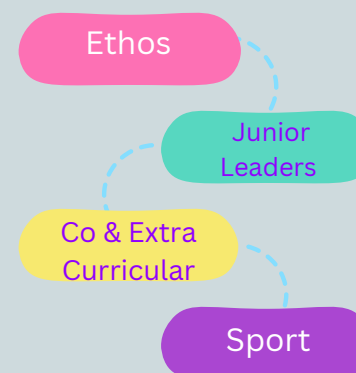
*'Students are afforded excellent opportunities to take leadership roles'*  
Whole School Evaluation /MLL Department of Education 2019

We recognise that our students have a valuable contribution to make to the life of the school. The Student Council is a democratically elected forum which enables the voices of the student body to be heard. This group of student leaders meet on a monthly basis and advises the Principal on policy formation and issues of concern.

At Junior Cycle there are a variety of leadership roles available to students including:



At Senior Cycle our Head Girl, Deputy Head Girls and Prefects take responsibility for various aspects of school life including:





# SPIRITUALITY



*'A strength of the school is its inclusive ethos that is evident in the school community'*  
Whole School Evaluation /MLL Department of Education 2019

Care of faith remains central to the Loreto tradition. Along with other Loreto schools, we at Loreto Abbey strive to build a school based on the Gospel values of dignity and respect for all. We treasure our Catholic ethos and tradition and we welcome students from all faiths and those of no particular tradition. We embrace students from all religious backgrounds and cultures and it is the celebration of such diversity and inclusivity that is one of the hallmarks of our school.

The faith and spiritual development of our students is nurtured and facilitated by our Religious Education team and Chaplain. The team provides opportunities for worship, prayer, reflection and celebration within the Catholic tradition but also within a wide multi-faith context. Students are offered many enriching opportunities to explore what their faith means to them.

A faith that seeks justice is at the heart of our school. The Justice and Peace Group enables students to explore and take action regarding significant global issues such as gender inequality, poverty and climate change to name but a few that this group have tackled.

At Junior Cycle all students study Religious Education as an examinable subject. Senior Cycle students explore a diverse range of faith based topics such as Philosophy, Morality, World Religions, Justice among others. Students may select Religious Education as an examinable subject at Leaving Certificate. Sixth Year students are also offered the opportunity to travel to Lourdes to assist pilgrims.

Religious Education in our school seeks to integrate life and faith in a way that provides students with a platform to explore and express their spirituality in way that is fulfilling, genuine and nourishing.





...care of faith and education remain central to the Loreto tradition...





# PARENTS

*'An active Parents' Association meets regularly and effectively supports Senior Management and the school community...There is a strong focus on promoting communication between the school and the parents'.*

*WHOLE SCHOOL EVALUATION/MLL: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION 2019*

In our school we recognise the significance of partnership with parents. We seek to form strong links between home and school through effective and regular communication such as:

- Unique School App
- VShare Record System
- Parents' Association
- Seminars and Coffee Mornings
- Parent/Teacher Meetings
- Our weekly newsletter, the 'Dalkey Diary'
- [www.loretoabbeydalkey.com](http://www.loretoabbeydalkey.com)
- Twitter: @LoretoAbbey\_
- Instagram: loretoabbeydalkey\_
- Our Annual





# LORETO LINKS & PAST PUPILS' NETWORK



*...strengthen links between the world-wide network of Loreto schools and pupils...*

We are proud to be one of almost 150 Loreto schools worldwide which educate approximately 70,000 students annually. In Ireland, our students participate in inter Loreto sports and student events. Our staff also attend inter Loreto conferences.

In Transition Year, students have the opportunity to engage in our exchange programme with our sister school in Seville, Spain. This successful inter Loreto programme is an enriching European experience for students within the comfort of our familiar ethos.

We have a vibrant and connected Past Pupils' network for whom our Past Pupils' Union host our annual Loreto Ladies' Lunch. Our past pupils enjoy returning to their alma mater for reunions and we encourage them to keep in contact via Instagram and Facebook.



# PROFILE OF A LORETO STUDENT



*By the end of their time in a Loreto school it is hoped that our students are.....*

- Developing and deepening a relationship with God and are able to find God in reflection on their own experience.
- Happy, friendly and self-confident, with a sense of humour and an awareness of their God given gifts and the need to fulfill their potential for good.
- Able to think for themselves, ready to further develop their diverse competencies, find their own voices, claim their identities.
- Seen to have a generosity of spirit and a readiness to place their talents in service of others, especially the most needy, ready to ask **'What more can I do, what more can I give?'**
- Well prepared to take their place in contemporary society, motivated by selfless generosity and aware of how fully they can contribute to the common good.
- Ready to stand for truth and to be advocates for the voiceless.
- Proud of having belonged to a Loreto school community with respect for its values and for those who travelled the education journey with them.





LORETO ABBEY SECONDARY SCHOOL, DALKEY

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[WWW.LORETOABBKEYDALKEY.COM](http://WWW.LORETOABBKEYDALKEY.COM)

*'Do Good and Do it Well'*

*Mary Ward*