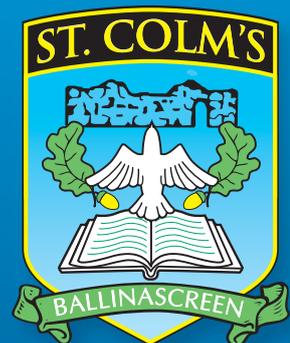


Believe & Achieve



PROSPECTUS 2022

ST. COLM'S HIGH SCHOOL
DRAPERSTOWN

A photograph of four school children, three girls and one boy, sitting on blue plastic chairs and playing violins. They are all wearing black school uniforms. The background is a yellow brick wall decorated with several framed photographs of school sports teams. A blue speech bubble is overlaid on the top right of the image.

I love being part of the traditional group. Getting the opportunity to showcase our talents is just brilliant.

Welcome to St. Colm's

Dear Students, Parents and Guardians,

Despite the challenges and restrictions in the current climate, I offer you a warm welcome to St. Colm's High School and thank you for your interest in joining our school community.

As we continue to operate under restrictions, I am sure you will understand, we are unable to welcome you onsite for a traditional Open Day. However, it is our hope that your young people can get a taste of St. Colm's through activities run by our youth club, The Cornstore in their new state of the art building.

Since taking up position as Principal in January 2021 I have immersed myself in all things St. Colm's and am proud of the excellence that has gone before. I seek to build upon this and ensure St. Colm's continues to provide sector leading education for all our students.

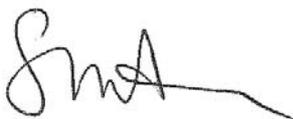
St. Colm's has a long history of providing outstanding educational experiences for the young people in the local area. We excel in public examinations; provide a wide variety of extra-curricular and enrichment activities and nurture our young people in an environment that embodies our Catholic faith.

St. Colm's has an outstanding staff; our teachers and our support staff work tirelessly to ensure all in our care fulfil their potential. We have high expectations of our young people and craft a curricular and extra-curricular programme that both extends and supports them.

We are rightly proud of our all our achievements; in the last number of years we have been the recipient of a variety of awards including the Community and Collaboration Award from TES for our intergenerational project. This project involved Cornstore Youth Club, our school Eco-club, Ballinascreen Fold, Men's Shed and S.T.E.P.S. In addition to this, we were awarded All-Ireland YEA for health and wellbeing. Sporting achievements also abound as we are currently the Senior Ulster Camogie champions.

Our vision is Believe and Achieve and regardless of all the challenges posed by COVID-19, we remain confident that we can bring our vision to life for all in St. Colm's.

I look forward to welcoming you into the St. Colm's High School family in September 2022.



Sinead McAllister
Principal

Aims of the School

To create a caring Christian community within this school where the truths and practices of our Catholic faith are taught daily, learned and experienced by all staff and pupils and in so doing, foster spiritual growth.

- To provide a learning environment that is caring and hard-working and cherishes the nurturing and development of each individual pupil
- To develop pupils who are appreciative of their heritage, their community and their civic responsibilities
- To prepare pupils for the experiences and responsibilities of their adult lives - personal, social, cultural and working
- To foster and develop in pupils an awareness and appreciation of other denominations and cultures
- To develop parent and community partnerships in the education of the next generation
- To promote the well-being and professional development of all staff



The Catholic Ethos

We foster a Catholic ethos within St. Colm's. The Liturgy forms part of school life providing students with experience of prayer, sacraments at Christmas, Lent and Easter.

The school year begins with the celebration of Harvest Mass when we unite as a community. Each day in assembly we come together for prayer. We strive to create an atmosphere where Christian values are expressed in the daily life of the school and students are led to a deeper, reflective and more personal faith. Our school Chaplain is a direct link between the school and our Catholic parishes.

Retreats are organised for senior pupils enabling them to explore their beliefs and spirituality in a prayerful atmosphere.

The Catholic ethos permeates every aspect of St. Colm's.



Pastoral Care

The aim of Pastoral Care is to support, encourage and develop all pupils as individuals, as young people and as students.

Every teacher is responsible for Pastoral Care in every class.

It is Pastoral Care policy that every pupil should have continuous points of reference (i.e. same Tutor & Head of Year) for advice, encouragement and trust over their years at school.

The chief Pastoral Care Officers are:

- The Principal
 - Vice Principal
 - Heads of Year
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Mrs P. McNamee | Mrs F. Devlin |
| Mrs N. Quinn | Mrs O. Kearney |
| Mrs D. Shields | Mrs M. McKernan |

The Head of Year is the leader of the Tutor Team. The Head of Year is responsible, through and with the Tutor Team, for the wellbeing of every child in the year group.

The personal and social development of every child

The student's whole experience of school should continually contribute to his/her personal and social development. However the relationships between pupil and Tutor and between pupil and Head of Year are especially important. Each Tutor is responsible for his/her tutor group under the guidance of the Head of Year.

The academic progress of every child

It is the Head of Year's responsibility through the Year Team to ensure that each child is learning as effectively as possible. Subject teachers scrutinise the results of each monthly assessment and keep the Tutor and Head of Year informed of academic achievement. They praise those doing well, assist those who are under-achieving and set targets for improvement.



The extra curricular provision for the year group as a whole

Extra curricular activities are an essential part of a good school. The Head of Year encourages extra curricular activities in the year group.

Cara System

Every Year 8 pupil is given a special friend or 'Cara' from Year 12. This helps each pupil to settle in quickly and provides a feeling of security during this time of transition.

Anti-Bullying

We believe that every child has the right at school to be free from intimidation of any kind and that every child has the duty to respect each person's property, time and point of view.

Our staff will:

- Foster in our pupils, self esteem, self respect and respect for others
- Demonstrate by example the high standards of personal and social behaviour we expect of our pupils
- Discuss bullying with all classes, so that every pupil learns about the damage it causes to both the child who is bullied and the bully. They will also learn the importance of telling a trusted adult when it happens

"Excellent school, very approachable. Caring and compassionate on every level, all pupils are treated equally and fairly." Parent comment

- Be alert to signs of distress and other possible indications of bullying
- Listen to children who have been bullied, take what they say seriously and act to support and protect them
- Report suspected cases of bullying to the Head of Year
- Follow up any complaint by a parent about bullying and report back promptly and fully on the action which has been taken
- Deal with observed instances of bullying promptly and effectively, in accordance with agreed procedures

Drugs Education

The school's programme aims to educate children about prevention and protection around drugs. The designated staff member for drugs is Miss McAllister.

Relationships and Sexuality Education

This programme is delivered through Religious Education, Learning for Life and Work, Home Economics, Pastoral Care, Science and P.E. As a Catholic school we ensure that all issues are within a Christian and Catholic framework.



Positive Behaviour Policy

Rationale

All aspects of discipline are in the context of pastoral care.

Staff, pupils, parents and governors are consulted on the main principles of positive behaviour.

Pupils learn in a secure, happy and industrious environment, conducive to effective learning and personal development. The school expects the highest possible standards in the following areas:

- Uniform, punctuality, attendance, homework
- Co-operation in the classroom, playing pitches
- Self-respect and respect for others
- Participation in school events
- Order in the corridors, playgrounds, canteen, coming to and going home from school
- Respect for school and other people's property

Purpose

School policy is to seek to be positive:

Staff will endeavour to use every opportunity to encourage and praise the achievements of all pupils.

- There are monthly and annual awards for excellent attendance
- Heads of Year will seek out opportunities to celebrate success in their year group Evidence of this will be displayed on success boards
- Positive comments, when appropriate, will be written in the Student Planner and in pupil workbooks
- We seek every opportunity to acknowledge and publicise the achievements of our pupils in school, in the local and national press
- We seek to involve all our pupils in all aspects of school life
- We are especially interested in targeting underachievement through our mentoring scheme
- We operate an incentive reward system for KS3 and KS4



"The school's ethos is founded on producing well educated, well behaved and rounded individuals who will enrich their own life, enhance the lives of those around them and contribute to their community."
Investors in People



"Pupils are given every opportunity to develop their confidence, interests, talents and skills."

ETI Inspection Report



Curriculum

Key Stage 3 (Years 8-10)

Religious Education	Geography	I.C.T
Mathematics	Art & Design	Learning for Life and Work
Science	Drama	Music
English	History	Physical Education
Irish	Home Economics Food & Nutrition	Technology
French		

Key Stage 4 (Years 11-12)

In Years 11 and 12 pupils are required to follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum. This includes a compulsory core and a range of optional subjects.

Choices are then made from the following:

Agriculture
Art and Design
Business and Communication Systems
Business Studies
Child Development
Construction
Drama
English Literature
French
Geography
Health & Social Care
History
Home Economics
Hospitality
I.C.T.
Irish
Leisure & Tourism
Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies
Moving Image Art
Music
Occupational Studies
Physical Education
Technology & Design

Public Examinations

Pupils are entered for G.C.S.E., A Level and AS Level examinations offered by all the major Examination Boards.

Compulsory Core:

Religious Education
English
Mathematics
Science (Single Award & Double Award)
Learning for Life and Work
Careers Guidance
General Physical Education

Curriculum Enrichment Opportunities.

Pupils are given the opportunity to participate in:

- A wide variety of subject specific trips across all year groups
- Fund Raising activities supporting local and national charities
- Entrepreneurial Skills Programme
- Subject specific competitions

"The school is very much rooted in the area and the community it serves. It has strong links across the parish, local business and community, building partnerships that are key to its success."
Investors in People

Sixth Form

All students study three subjects at Advanced Level and the opportunity exists for some to take four subjects.

Some of these subjects are offered in collaboration with St. Patrick's College Maghera, St. Pius X College, Rainey Endowed, Northern Regional College, St. Conors College, Magherafelt High School and Sperrin Integrated College.

Choices are made from:

- Business Studies
- Applied Health and Social Care (Double/ Single A Level)
- Applied ICT
- Art and Design
- Music
- Geography
- Government and Politics
- Biology
- BTEC Child Care
- Religion
- Performing Arts
- BTEC Sport Studies
- Engineering
- English
- Chemistry
- Home Economics
- Physics
- Politics
- Irish
- Psychology
- Further Maths
- Maths
- Moving Image Arts
- Sociology
- History
- Construction

Collaboration includes:

- Extension of the curriculum offer at KS5 to help meet the requirements of the Entitlement Framework
- Shared Careers convention with a focus on STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)
- Shared Performing Arts Workshops
- Shared Professional Development Training between all schools
- Sharing of resources and good practice
- Strengthened links between departments in each school

Enrichment Programme

Pupils are given the opportunity to participate in:

- Pope John Paul II Awards
- President's Award/Duke of Edinburgh
- Young People Leading Change
- Nutrition Life Skills Programme
- Derry Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes



"Those pupils who have opportunities to take on leadership roles talked maturely about how adopting leadership and peer-support roles contribute well to developing further their social and interpersonal skills."
ETI Inspection Report



Homework Policy

Rationale

- Homework is an indispensable part of school policy and an essential element in the learning process
- Homework is a vital communication link between home and school
- Homework should be a meaningful and useful exercise reinforcing learning outcomes
- To assess what students have actually learned and understood in class
- To revise for internal and external exams
- To complete coursework as part of an ongoing assessment

Purpose Of Homework

- To reinforce, consolidate, complete work started in class
- To encourage students to recall and use important facts and skills developed in class
- To encourage students to work independently
- To promote good study skills i.e. students use time to cover all subject areas set for homework

Supported Study/Homework

The library and computer suites remain open until 4.15 p.m. for additional study/homework on four evenings per week. The teacher and supervisors will seek to encourage and support all participating pupils. The computer suite is also open from 8.30 a.m. each morning.

"All of the pupils who met with the inspectors appreciate the support they receive from their teachers, including the additional assistance provided through mentoring and the after-school sessions".
ETI Inspection Report





Life beyond the classroom

St. Colm's creates many opportunities for pupils to develop their skills and talents outside the classroom.



- Tuition is provided in Violin and Guitar
- Traditional music forms an integral part of the curriculum
- The Choir performs at a variety of celebrations throughout the year both in school and as guest artists at community functions
- Irish Dancing talents are encouraged in all events
- Pupils are provided with many opportunities throughout the year to visit the theatre
- STEM/ICT Workshops
- Ongoing fund raising for charity



School Uniform

The school uniform is as follows:

Boys

Black Blazer with School Badge (compulsory)
(compulsory)
2 School (light) blue shirts
School clip on tie
Black trousers
Black shoes only
Black jumper Halloween-Easter

Girls

Black Blazer with School Badge

2 School (light) blue blouses
School clip on tie
Long black skirt and tights
Black low heel shoes only
Black jumper Halloween-Easter

Digital Leaders

St. Colm's Digital Leaders Programme empowers pupils to play a central role in the digital learning strategy. Digital Leaders support the use and further the development of ICT. Pupils receive professional training on new software and technology. They share their expertise with their peers and teachers in the classroom. Pupils also enjoy assisting in the Coding Club after school. This programme develops pupils' digital creativity, confidence and team working skills. St Colm's were awarded the Capita ICT Excellence Award.



Assessment Policy

Rationale

Assessment is the process by which we come to know the pupils, their attitudes, understanding and skill. We believe that assessment is integral to effective teaching and learning and is most effective when undertaken in consultation with the child.

Assessment, recording and reporting together constitute vital communication channels between members of the school community, pupils, parents and teachers.

Purpose

The purpose of assessment, recording and reporting at St. Colm's High School is to:

- Plan future learning and secure progress in learning
- Demonstrate progress in learning
- Celebrate achievement
- Contribute to the school's evaluation processes
- Provide information for pupils, parents and teachers
- Fulfil statutory requirements

Guidelines

- Every child has a profile of personal achievements
- Assessments are built into schemes of work and shown in teacher planning
- We use assessment to plan future learning activities, as far as possible, in conjunction with the pupil
- Teachers keep manageable portfolios of assessment evidence
- Parents receive a full report and a short report annually
- Regular meetings/communications between parents and class teachers keep parents involved in assessment

Full copies of all policies are available from the school office.



School Council

St. Colm's School Council provides students with the opportunity to become active members of our school community.

The council is made up of 12 elected representatives across all year groups. Meetings take place on a termly basis and feedback is generated to all pupils through our Tutor System and Student Council notice board.

The council aims to enable pupils to:

- Contribute fully to the life of our school community
- Experience active citizenship
- Play a role in the wider community
- Develop confidence and responsibility
- Make the most of their abilities
- Develop good relationships and respect the differences between people

Successes to date include:

- A seated area at the front of the school
- Table tennis table and Handball Wall dedicated to the girls at lunchtime
- A water dispensing machine
- Tea/Coffee in the sixth form centre
- A specially designed school scarf and hoodie
- Designated area in ICT suite for older pupils at lunchtime
- Flat screen television in the canteen
- 'Buddy System' for Year 8 pupils
- Changes to the Canteen menu
- High speed WIFI in sixth form centre
- A redesigned PE kit



School Day

9.00 am – 9.10 am	Registration with Tutor
9.10 am – 10.00 am	Class 1
10.00 am – 10.15 am	BREAK/ASSEMBLY
10.15 am – 11.05 am	Class 2
11.05 am – 11.55 am	Class 3
11.55 am – 12.00 noon	Mid-day changeover
12.00 noon – 12.40 pm	LUNCH BREAK (Bell 12.35) There are a wide range of lunchtime activities to choose from.
12.40 pm – 1.30 pm	Class 4
1.30 pm – 2.20 pm	Class 5
2.20 pm – 3.10 pm	Class 6
3.10 pm	BUSES I
3.10 pm – 4.15 pm	Extra curricular activities - including supervised study
4.30 pm	BUSES II





“The pupils are involved actively in investigations and engage in high levels of discussion about their own learning”.
ETI Inspection Report

Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance

In St. Colm's we recognise the world is a changing and challenging place. Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is provided across all key stages and pupils benefit from expert guidance to prepare them for all aspects of life and work.

Teachers in the department adopt a pupil centred approach, which aims to equip students with the skills and capabilities necessary to make informed career decisions.

Work experience and the development of Employability Skills are composite elements of our CEIAG provision. Pupils undertake relevant

"In discussions, the pupils indicated that they have opportunities to research and investigate possible careers through the planned programme: visiting speakers, careers events, work experience, and through engagement with the local community hub. The pupils spoke positively about how these opportunities, combined with advice and guidance, inform their subject and career choices."
ETI Inspection Report

work experience in Years 11 and 13. This provision offers pupils the opportunity to view their current studies in the context of the world of work and long-term career aspirations.

In Year 12 each pupil is offered individual specialist advice through a Careers Guidance Interview conducted by the NI Careers Service. This is an integral component of the annual partnership agreement which encourages pupils to explore a range of career pathways based on current labour market information. In Year 13 pupils benefit from a comprehensive programme of self awareness and career exploration. Involvement in a range of workshops led by visiting speakers from universities and employment sectors helps to foster a culture of self discipline and independent learning among the senior students. In Year 14 the focus is very much on the completion of applications for Higher Education including UCAS, St. Mary's and other regional colleges. Post-16 students are also offered extensive interview preparation and receive assistance when preparing to undertake third level entrance examinations.

Pupils at key transition points receive a careers interview to gain valuable guidance which forms an integral part of our pupil's journey to success.

Child Protection

School Policy

We in St Colm's aim to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment.

- It is our responsibility to ensure that all individuals are protected from the risks of possible abuse
- Any parent/guardian with a child safety concern may contact the designated or deputy designated child protection officer.
- The problem of child abuse, if it occurs, will not be ignored by anyone in our school
- All schools are required by law to have a Child Protection Policy. A detailed policy document is available from the school
- Designated Child Protection Teacher - Mrs Ca. Devlin
- Deputy Designated Child Protection Teacher - Mrs S. McAllister
- Designated Board of Governor - Mr P. Cassidy
- **Procedures for issues of concern**

All issues of concern may be communicated to the following staff: Head of Year, Pastoral Co-ordinator, Vice Principal, Principal, Chairman of the Board of Governors.

Attendance

- Daily attendance at school is essential. Days lost are very difficult to make up
- Legally, parents are responsible for their child's attendance at school
- Total attendance of all pupils on roll as percent of possible days is consistently 95%

Special Education

St. Colm's curriculum caters for pupils of all abilities. Pupils with special educational needs will be assessed by the SENCO and provision is made according to individual needs.

Parent/Teacher Meetings and Appointments

Appointments can be made to meet the Principal, Vice Principal, Pastoral Co-ordinator, Head of Year, Careers Guidance Teacher or any other member of staff, Monday-Thursday 3.10-4.15. There will be a parent / teacher meeting for each year group once per year.

Charges and Remissions

A wide variety of opportunities exist to develop pupils beyond the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. These optional extras are funded privately.

School Meals/ Lunches

- A cash cafeteria system is in operation
- Pupils may bring a packed lunch
- Our school canteen provides the opportunity to buy food at morning break
- We are a health promoting school

"The parents are highly appreciative of the work of the school, in particular, the regular and informative communication between school and home, the care and support provided for each individual pupil and the dedicated and approachable staff".
ETI Inspection Report



Life beyond the classroom

The Eco-club was established 16 years ago, becoming an Eco-School in May 2007, and an Ambassador Eco-school from 2016. St. Colm's High School was the first post primary school in the Mid-Ulster District Council to achieve Green Flag status. Since then we continue to go from strength to strength.

Successes to date include:

- We achieved our 6th Green Flag in 2021, and are currently working towards our 7th Green Flag. We have achieved funding of almost £60,000 from grants and awards.
- Pupils refurbished the school greenhouse, dedicating it to Jody Mc Guigan, and grow strawberries and tomatoes, some of which are used in the school canteen. Our Biodiversity Health Trail, Susan's Trail, is dedicated to Susan Potter. Is a community area where many come to walk, relax and enjoy nature. Here our community planted 255 trees in memory of deceased loved ones. Water filters were fitted in the school and we use reusable bottles to reduce plastic waste.
- We work with our local primary schools, as part of Screen Eco-schools, and with Mid Ulster District Council on the regeneration of the parish including the Plantain/Moykeeran. Joint events include seasonal litter-blitzes, daffodil planting, climate strikes, brake safety and walk to school weeks.
- Regular eco-activities include litter-blitzes, making bird feed workshops, painting fences, hedge planting, seasonal planting and making new objects from recycled materials. Pupils are also responsible for the maintenance of the greenhouse and Susan's Trail.
- Awareness-raising includes Health and Well-being, Earth Hour, Adopt-a-spot, Big Spring Clean, Power Down, Brake Safety Walk, Big School Birdwatch, John Muir Awards and Translink Travel Challenge.
- Success in national competitions include many prestigious awards over the past 13 years: 9 All-Ireland Eco-Unesco Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA), NI Impact 2010 leadership award, Sustainable Ireland Award, 2 Irish News Awards, 2 Airtricity Global Wind Awards, and 2 TES awards. Winning areas include: Energy and Water Efficiency, Climate Change, Biodiversity, Health & Wellbeing, Eco-committee of the year, and Community Collaboration and Development.
- In 2018-19, Screen Eco-schools were awarded the Spirit of Live Here Love Here for our community

work. In the UK's Green Heart Heroes Awards in Westminster, St. Colm's was placed in the top 3, and awarded the Irish News 'Wellbeing Initiative' Award. Year 10 pupils were 3rd in the YRE eco-writing competition and we achieved the Fair Trade Fairachievers Award. We won the TES Sustainable Schools Award in June 2019, and Mid-Ulster District Council celebrated this by holding a Civic Reception.

- In 2019-20 we raised £2,100 through our coffee morning for S.T.E.P.S and Macmillan, supported by local businesses and the community. Pupils shared their eco-work at the All-Ireland Ocean Summit in Dublin, and won 1st and 2nd place in the YRE photography competition. The successful Ballinascreen Intergenerational Project between Cornstore Youth Club, Ballinascreen Fold, St. Colm's, Men's Shed and S.T.E.P.S. achieved both an All-Ireland YEA Health and Well-being Award, and a TES Community and Collaboration Award. This project brought many benefits to all involved. 2 Eco-leaders were awarded the Adult Champions Award by Grassroots Challenge and NI Youth Forum.
- In lockdown pupils attended online eco-club meetings and international Eco-webinars. They carried out many outdoor activities which contribute to their John Muir Award. They entered photographic, Eco-code and Minecraft eco-school competitions, 30DaysWild Challenge, parish litter picks and Green Heart Heroes.

Eco-activities in 2020-21 include:

- In September when pupils returned to school they spent time in Susan's Trail, discussed further developments of the trail, and carried out litter picks.
- Pupils took part in the #12DaysWild Christmas challenge and are carrying out the RSPB's Big School Birdwatch in January and February.
- We have plans to develop a second memory garden in Susan's Trail. The ground is prepared and trees have been obtained from the Woodland Trust.

"Over the past number of years, the school has been focusing on staff and pupil health and well-being through: healthy life-style events; environmental education and action; the development of a biodiversity trail. This work is impacting positively on pupil and staff well-being, and on the pupils' self-belief and achievement." ETI Inspection Report



St. Colm's High School won the Sustainable Schools Award at the prestigious TES Schools Awards in London. This award recognised outstanding contributions made by education teams and individuals to help students to succeed, both inside and outside the classroom.

Sport

In St. Colm's we promote physical activity and sport, recognising their emotional, social and physical benefits.



All Ireland Champions



Opportunities exist to become involved in the following sports

- Camogie at all levels
- Rounders
- Athletics
- Netball
- Girls Gaelic Football
- Cross Country
- Year 8 Hurling & Football
- Gaelic Football U14/U16
- Basketball
- U14 & U16 Hurling
- Handball
- Table Tennis
- Orienteering
- Swimming
- Soccer

Cornstore Youth Centre

The Cornstore Youth Centre is a full time youth facility located at the foot of the Sperrin Mountains in Draperstown. This centre aims to meet the needs of the local young people aged between 8-18 years. The club operates on four nights per week and has a full time youth tutor and several part time members of staff. The facility provides a programme which targets the physical, emotional, social and recreational needs of its members. The Youth Centre provides the opportunity for pupils to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh /President's Award at Bronze Silver and Gold level.

Health Promoting School

St. Colm's recently achieved Gold Standard in the Northern Ireland Action Cancer Awards. This award reflects the schools emphasis on pupil health and the determination to improve pupil lifestyles. The canteen provide a range of healthy options and all pupils are encouraged to drink water during the school day.



The Biology field trip to Magilligan provides a vital learning experience outside the classroom.





ST. COLM'S HIGH SCHOOL
DRAPERSTOWN

St Colm's High School
2 Magherafelt Road
Draperstown
Co Derry
BT45 7AF

Tel: 028 79628377
Fax: 028 79628973

www.stcolmshigh.org.uk



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



Eco-Schools



Curriculum Award

