

Friends' School Lisburn

Prospectus 2025



Contents

2	Welcome to Friends' School Lisburn
3	History
4	FSL 250
5	Values & Aims
6	Aspire
7	Pastoral Care
9	Curriculum
11	Key Stage 3
11	Key Stage 4
12	Sixth Form
13	Careers Education
14	Community
15	Sport
17	Music & The Arts
19	Clubs & Societies
20	Duke of Edinburgh Award
21	School Trips
22	Global Awareness & Sustainability
23	Examination Results
27	Admissions Criteria



Welcome to Friends' School Lisburn

Friends' School, established in 1774 by the Religious Society of Friends, is a thriving school of 1060 pupils set in mature and extensive grounds in the heart of Lisburn. This academic year marks our 250th anniversary, so there has never been a more exciting time to be part of the school.

Although the last two and a half centuries have witnessed 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, Friends' welcomes pupils from a diversity of backgrounds, and values 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.

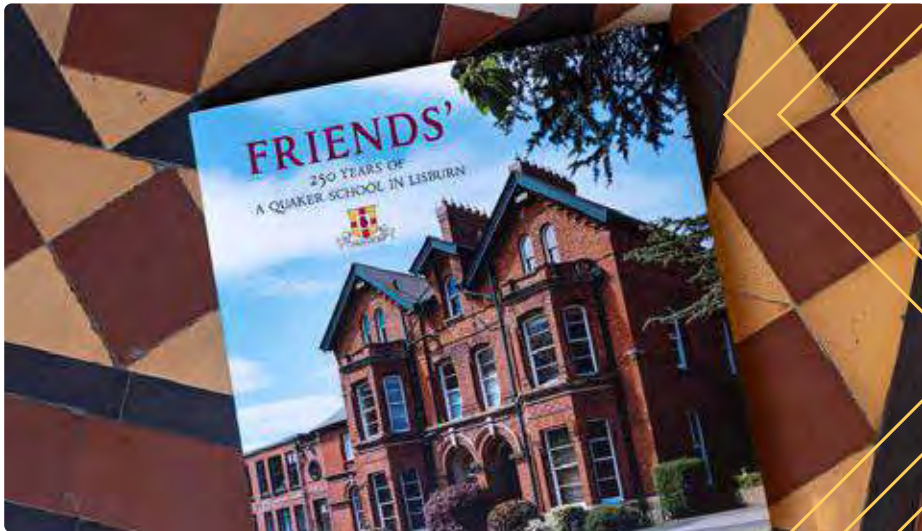
We hope you enjoy finding out more about Friends' and that you will also take opportunity to visit us, speak to pupils and staff, and experience for yourself what the school has to offer.

Stephen Moore
Principal

History

Formerly known as the Ulster Provincial School, Friends’ derives its name from the Religious Society of Friends, who founded a boarding school for thirty boys and girls here on Prospect Hill 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 it has occupied since its foundation and welcomes pupils from across community in Lisburn and the surrounding area. Our oldest building, the red brick Middle House at the front of school, dates from 1880, and was refurbished in 2015.



Recent development has transformed the school estate: two floodlit hockey pitches were installed in 2013; a new Maths and Music block was opened in 2016; and this year, to mark our anniversary, we opened a new performance space and a legacy trail.

In March 2023, it was announced that the school has been awarded funding by the Department of Education which will allow the school 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

Celebrating our 250th anniversary this year has provided us with an opportunity to reconnect with people and has given us a fresh appreciation of the legacy left to us by previous generations.

Events to mark the anniversary have included a 250-mile cycle from Kendal, the birthplace of the school’s first headmaster, John Gough; a Meeting for Worship organised by local Quakers; a family festival and a festival of sport; and a Christmas market and musical evening. Later in the year, we hope to stage a concert in the Waterfront Hall in Belfast, organise a Peace Conference for pupils from a range of schools, and host a gala dinner.

A new coffee table book traces the school’s journey over the last 250 years in the context of the history of the Lisburn area, and a new painting by local artist and Old Scholar Aly Harte captures the vibrancy of a day in the life of Friends’ School.

We also raised funds to create three unique legacy projects which are designed to make the most of our wonderful outdoor spaces and to enhance the mental and physical wellbeing of pupils at Friends’. Our legacy trail around the perimeter of the school grounds and our outdoor performance space, the 1774 Pavilion, provide recreational opportunities, and allow pupils to showcase their talents in music and drama. Pupils from the Prep can also enjoy the tranquillity of the Guess How Much I Love You Garden, inspired by the much-loved children’s book by Old Scholar Sam McBratney.





Values and Aims

Our values are drawn from our Quaker heritage and are more relevant today than ever.

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’.



A

Adventure

Take risks in your learning, make the most of the opportunities you have, and explore the world around you.

S

Sustainability

Make good use of resources you have, care for your surroundings, and reduce your impact on the environment.

P

Peace

Live at peace with yourself and others, nurture your wellbeing, and do what you can to resolve conflict where it arises.

I

Integrity

Act justly, be honest in your dealings with others, and remain true to your values.

R

Respect

Hold yourself and others in high regard, encourage everyone, and help build up our school community.

E

Equality

Value others for who they are, celebrate diversity, and recognise the contribution made by each individual.

Pastoral Care

The excellent pastoral care at Friends' is built on 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 the end of each assembly, a short period of silence is observed, which allows space for reflection at the start of a busy day.

Our four Houses – Aughrim, Collin, Croob and Divis – are named after hills which can be seen from school. 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

At Friends', we aim to make provision for each one of our pupils in an inclusive environment, and to ensure that we meet individual needs. All pupils have access to the full curriculum, and Personalised Learning Plans are drawn up to support those with statements of 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 also provide an additional layer of support for those in Year 9.

Pupil voice

We want pupils to participate fully in their learning 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. At their meetings, they discuss items they bring forward for consideration and provide feedback for the school leadership team.

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 with parents invited to come and watch fixtures and enjoy refreshments from our Coffee Dock.

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, with an ongoing programme of professional learning which has a clear focus on exploring how pupils learn, and how we can optimise classroom practice. In recent years, there has been an emphasis on retrieval practice, modelling, effective questioning and feedback.

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. 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, Food & Nutrition, French, Geography, History, Information Technology, Junior Science, Mathematics, Music, Religious Education, Physical Education and Technology & Design. There are also classes in Learning for Life and 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 technological and IT skills.

Key Stage 4 Years 11 – 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 and 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.

“I have really enjoyed the freedom that picking my own subjects has given me at KS4. I am able to focus on the subjects that I am passionate about and the subjects that will benefit me in the future.”

Erin – Year 12

Sixth Form Years 13 – 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, the Bebras Computational Challenge and the Rocketry 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 and Charity Committees. 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

While there is much more to life at Friends' than examination results, we think it is important for pupils to do their best and achieve the grades they need for the next stage of their education. Supported by a dedicated team of teachers, pupils from Friends' have an excellent record of achievement at the highest level, and over the years, many have achieved top places at GCSE and A-level.

In the Sunday Times Parent Power Guide for 2025, Friends' was named Northern Ireland Secondary School of the Year for Academic Excellence. This award, based on GCSE and A-level results, placed Friends' 32nd in the overall UK state school rankings and first in Northern Ireland. The school has been recognised by the Sunday Times on two previous occasions, winning the School of the Year Award in 2011 and 2018.



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. 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 acknowledge that these experiences are enormously enriching for them.

We value our links with the Quaker Service and the whole school takes part in the annual collection for Christmas hampers for the families in North and West Belfast 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, three tennis courts and two floodlit 3G 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 our new 1774 Pavilion and in the assembly hall. Both occasions allowed pupils to showcase their talents and to put on excellent performances to sell-out crowds. This year, we hope to have even more pupils, past and present, involved in our anniversary concert at the Waterfront.



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 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 are encouraged to take part in the wide range of opportunities available through clubs and societies, which 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, debating and Scripture Union. In the Sixth Form, pupils are encouraged to serve on the charity and wellbeing committees and to take part in initiatives such as SistersIN and Politics in Action.

Last year, a team of Year 12 pupils from Friends' won the UK-wide CamBio challenge, a science competition run by the University of Cambridge, finishing ahead of more than 400 other schools. Our Young Enterprise Company, Bottle Up, was placed first in Northern Ireland and went on to win the Creativity award at the UK finals. There was further success in the Robotics competition, with Friends' coming second in the UK, and in the Rocketry Challenge, where the Friends' team finished first in the regional competition and third in the UK.

“With special memories created through sporting victories, spectacular concerts and school trips, life in the Sixth Form equips students with the qualities and skills, enabling them to excel in a wide range of careers, holding close the Quaker values fostered here at Friends’.”

Bryan - Year 14



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 enjoy new experiences.



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. Last year, we took part in a tree-planting project in conjunction with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, which allowed us to plant 250 trees, making a positive contribution to our community and increasing biodiversity at school.

Through our Eco Committee and Shared Education Project with St Dominic's Grammar School, we have been exploring how we can promote solutions to environmental issues both locally and globally.

Public Examination Results

Advanced Level 2024

Number of pupils in Year 14	138
Number of those with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	1
Percentage achieving 3 or more passes at Grades A* - C	91.3
Percentage achieving 2 or more passes at Grades A* - E	100

Leavers' Destinations 2024

Higher Education	Further Education	Employment	Unknown
*96.4%	2.2%	1.4%	-

*including pupils taking a gap year prior to university.

Advanced Level 2024 (% achieving each grade)

	Entered	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	2	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Biology	49	32.65	34.69	22.45	6.12	4.08	0.00	0.00
Business Studies	34	11.76	20.59	44.12	11.76	11.76	0.00	0.00
Chemistry	43	27.91	32.56	25.58	13.95	0.00	0.00	0.00
Economics	12	8.33	41.67	41.67	0.00	8.33	0.00	0.00
English Literature	13	15.38	23.08	53.85	7.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
French	5	20.00	20.00	40.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Further Mathematics	10	40.00	20.00	20.00	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00
Geography	26	7.69	34.62	50.00	7.69	0.00	0.00	0.00
Health & Social Care	13	0.00	38.46	53.85	0.00	7.69	0.00	0.00
History	23	8.70	39.13	43.48	8.70	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mathematics	80	31.25	37.50	18.75	5.00	5.00	2.50	0.00
Moving Image Arts	2	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Music	5	0.00	60.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	0.00	0.00
Nutrition & Food Science	16	0.00	18.75	31.25	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Physical Education	11	54.55	9.09	27.27	9.09	0.00	0.00	0.00
Physics	39	30.77	23.08	25.64	15.38	2.56	2.56	0.00
Politics	26	15.38	46.15	34.62	3.85	0.00	0.00	0.00
Religious Studies	8	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Software Systems Development	12	0.00	41.67	33.33	25.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish	6	16.67	0.00	83.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Technology & Design	5	40.00	40.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	440	21.36	31.14	32.50	10.91	3.41	0.68	0.00
Cumulative %		21.36	52.50	85.00	95.91	99.32	100.00	100.00
2023 Cumulative	416	23.08	65.14	87.74	96.15	99.76	100.00	100.00
2019 Cumulative	421	18.29	46.79	78.38	92.87	97.39	99.29	100.00

Public Examination Results GCSE 2024

Number of pupils in Year 12	144
Number of those with a Statement of Special Educational Needs	9
Percentage entered for 7 or more subjects	98.6
Percentage achieving 7 or more passes at Grades A* - C	98.6
Percentage entered for 5 or more subjects	100
Percentage achieving 5 or more passes at Grades A* - C	100



GCSE 2024 (% achieving each grade)

	Entered	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U
Art & Design	19	26.32	57.89	15.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Biology	53	45.28	35.85	16.98	1.89	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Business Studies	41	19.51	26.83	21.95	19.51	7.32	2.44	2.44	0.00	0.00	0.00
Chemistry	53	37.74	45.28	5.66	3.77	7.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Digital Technology	18	27.78	38.89	22.22	0.00	0.00	11.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English	144	31.94	47.22	16.67	4.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
English Literature	143	41.96	36.36	13.99	6.99	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
French	64	32.81	39.06	15.63	9.38	1.56	0.00	1.56	0.00	0.00	0.00
Further Mathematics	87	52.87	36.78	8.05	1.15	1.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Geography	54	9.26	51.85	25.93	3.70	7.41	1.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
German	24	12.50	20.83	33.33	8.33	8.33	8.33	8.33	0.00	0.00	0.00
History	66	19.70	42.42	21.21	9.09	3.03	4.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Home Economics F&N	17	29.41	41.18	17.65	11.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mathematics	143	48.25	47.55	4.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Music	21	33.33	47.62	9.52	4.76	4.76	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Physical Education	27	44.44	33.33	22.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Physics	54	37.04	46.30	12.96	1.85	1.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Religious Studies	137	27.01	37.96	20.44	6.57	4.38	3.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Science (Double Award)	152	36.84	35.53	11.84	13.82	1.32	0.66	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Spanish	56	48.21	39.29	10.71	0.00	0.00	1.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Technology & Design	35	14.29	45.71	34.29	2.86	2.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Totals	1410	35.11	40.71	15.11	5.60	2.06	1.13	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cumulative %		35.11	75.82	90.92	96.52	98.58	99.72	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2023 Cumulative	1397	37.94	76.95	92.27	97.42	99.50	99.93	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



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 28 January 2025 at 12 noon and an application submitted by the closing date of 20 February 2025 at 12 noon will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon on 20 February 2025 and up to 4pm on 25 February 2025 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 score¹ 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).

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 3 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 Friends²;
 - b) applicants enrolled in the Preparatory Department of Friends’ School Lisburn from 1 September 2024;
 - c) applicants who have a brother or sister enrolled in Years 8-14 at Friends’ School Lisburn at the date of transfer, including 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 on the following page);
 - e) applicants to whom (a) to (d) above do not apply.

Under each of these criteria, applicants who are entitled to Free School Meals³ 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.

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 20 September 2024.

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 2024.
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.

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.

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 and 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 and educational evidence*, as detailed below, with the Transfer Application.

Documentary 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 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 for a child who was unable to sit the Entrance Assessment the School may choose to arrange for an assessment to be taken on an agreed date. 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.

Educational evidence provided for Special Provisions and Special Circumstances will be considered in conjunction with the standardised SEAG score, where applicable, and adjustments will be made only 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 2025/2026

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 2025/2026, 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.e. All Preferences	Total Admissions
2022/23	155	313	161*
2023/24	165	292	169*
2024/25	165	285	168*

*includes pupils with full statement of SEN and other supernumerary pupils.

Contributory primary schools in the last five years

Abbey	Academy	Anahilt	Ballinderry	Ballycarrickmaddy
Ballydown	Ballymacash	Ballymacrickett	Ballymacward	Bocombra
Brownlee	Cairnshill	Carr	Carrick	Christ The Redeemer
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	Lisburn Central	Maghaberry
Maralin Village	McKinney (Dundrod)	Meadowbridge	Millennium	Moirá
Moneyrea	Moyallon	Oakwood	Our Lady Queen of Peace	Pond Park
Portadown	Riverdale	Rowandale	Seymour Hill	St Aloysius
St Brendan’s (Craigavon)	St Bride’s	St Colmans (Dromore)	St Colmans (Lambeg)	St Francis’
St Joseph’s (Lisburn)	St Joseph’s PS (Crumlin)	St Malachy’s	St Patrick’s (Magheralin)	St Teresa’s
Stranmillis	Taughmonagh	Templepatrick	Tonagh	Wallace Prep
Waringstown				

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 Friends⁴;
- 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 Meals⁵ 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 4pm on 25 February 2025.
- 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.

66

I wasn’t sure which school would be right for me after primary school, but seeing all the activities on Open Morning and going around the school buildings, I realised that FSL was the school for me!

Jacob - Year 9

99

Further Information

Further information, including school policies and the School Development Plan can be found on our website at 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 2023-24 was 95.8%.

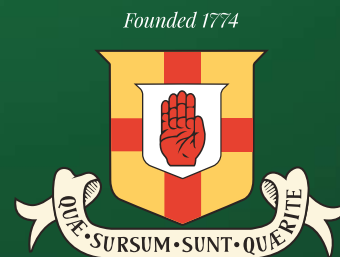
The report of the last inspection of Friends' School in November 2019 is available on the ETI website at www.etni.gov.uk



Location Map

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





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