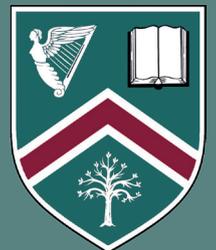




Strathearn
Preparatory Department
Penrhyn







Strathearn Preparatory Department

Principal - Mrs N Connery MA PGCE PQH

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Email info@penrhyn.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Website www.strathearn.org.uk

Head of Department Mrs B Mawhinney BEd

Chairman of the Board of Governors Mrs P Stewart

The Preparatory Department Reception is open Monday to Friday 8.30am - 3.30pm.

The enrolment of the school is 148 girls.

Admissions Criteria: In the event of the school being over-subscribed, the Board of Governors of Strathearn, in consultation with the Head of the Preparatory Department, will apply the following criteria:

- 1 a girl who has a sister attending Strathearn.
- 2 a girl whose mother attended Strathearn.
- 3 by date order of application.

Penrhyn's Open Morning is held in February each year. Parents and prospective pupils are also very welcome to view the school at other times and this can be arranged by contacting the Head of Department.

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Welcome

Thank you for your interest in Penrhyn, the Preparatory Department of Strathearn School. Founded in 1953, Penrhyn recently celebrated 60 years of excellence in teaching and learning. We value each child as an individual and our team of experienced and committed teachers provides a learning environment that is supportive, stimulating and challenging. I believe that children work harder with people who care about them and that they trust. The staff in Penrhyn care deeply for the girls and we aim to be positive, kind and considerate at all times. It is our aim that your daughter will be happy in school and feel valued. We take the time to listen to the pupils, and respect for others and good manners are emphasised daily.

Through activities and learning opportunities that are purposeful and engaging, the girls are encouraged to become confident and motivated learners. We use a variety of teaching techniques within the classroom and beyond. Interactive whiteboards are used as teaching resources and they open up many new opportunities within the classroom. The curriculum is relevant, broad and balanced. From entry at P1, we emphasise the development of fundamental Literacy and Numeracy skills. Our aim is to build a secure foundation on which future learning can be based. The statutory NI Curriculum has been integrated into our provision in a manner best suited to our pupils.

Whilst excellence can readily be seen in the academic achievements or in sporting, musical, dramatic or artistic successes, it can also be attained in less easily defined areas, which are equally important to us. We value the contribution every pupil has to make and we strive to help each one develop her individual talents and personality, and to realise her full potential. Through the provision of a range of appropriate curricular activities, as well as a wide range of extra-curricular activities, Penrhyn offers each pupil a school experience where self-esteem and self-confidence are fostered. Pupils' achievements, both inside and outside school, are nurtured and celebrated at class and at whole school level.

We work closely in partnership with parents. You are warmly invited to visit our school and I look forward to meeting you so that you can experience the happy family atmosphere that is so special and unique in Penrhyn.

Barbara Mawhinney

School Staff

Principal Head of Preparatory Department

Mrs N Connery MA PGCE PQH
Mrs B Mawhinney BEd

Full Time Teachers

P1 Form Teacher
P2 Form Teacher; Head of FS KS1
P3 Form Teacher
P4 Form Teacher; Head of Department
P5 Form Teacher; Head of Pastoral
P6 Form Teacher
P7 Form Teacher

Mrs V McKinney BEd
Mrs J Walls BEd (Cantab)
Mrs A McKeown BEd
Mrs B Mawhinney BEd
Ms G Boyd BA PGCE
Mrs D Hyndman BA PGCE CertEd
Mrs E Andrews BEd CertEd PQH LNEA

Part Time Teachers

Physical Education
P4
Swimming
Learning Support

Miss B Brittain BEd
Mrs P Devlin BEd ALCM
Mrs K King STA
Mrs A Hanna BEd Hons

Specialist Teachers

Speech and Drama
Ballet/Modern Dance
Piano
Irish Dancing
French
Singing
Tennis
Classroom Assistant

Mrs J Armstrong ALAM
Miss C L Montgomery
Miss P Williams BMus
Mrs C McCamley
Mrs E Black BA PGCE DASE
Mrs P E Devlin BEd ALCM
Mr S Garvin BA
Miss C Brown

School Secretary
Premises Assistants

Mrs C Quee
Mr J Algie, Mr T McConnell,
Mr M Paxton

'The school play was amazing.
My daughter was encouraged
to take on a lead role and her
confidence has soared.'

Parent of P7 Pupil



The School Day

Early morning supervision		8am - 8.45am
Classes begin		8.45am
Break 10am		10.15am
Assembly		10.15am - 10.25am
Lunch		12 noon - 1pm
Classes end:	P1	12.30pm (September and October) 2pm (November onwards)
	P2	2.15pm
	P3-P7	3pm
Afterschool Club		2pm - 5:45pm



Location

Strathearn Preparatory Department is situated at the junction of the Belmont Church Road and Sydenham Avenue, on the outskirts of Belfast.

The school comprises two houses, and one mobile classroom, set in extensive, attractively laid-out gardens which provide play and activity areas for the pupils. There is also a hard-surfaced playground.

There is accommodation for seven form classes, as well as smaller classrooms for group activities, a gymnasium/Assembly Hall, a computer suite, a library and individual music tuition rooms.

Sited within easy walking distance of Strathearn, the girls enjoy the facilities of the grammar school. Pupils make full use of the Strathearn all-weather hockey pitches, the athletics track and the tennis courts, whilst the Strathearn Assembly Hall and stage are used for Penrhyn concerts and entertainment.

School Aims

We aim to;

- establish a climate, based on mutual respect and consideration, where the needs of each learner are recognised and where all members of the community feel a strong sense of belonging
- value commitment, endeavour and excellence in all areas of school life
- provide a stimulating learning environment where each pupil has equal opportunities to develop her individual talents and abilities through the provision of a range of appropriate curricular and extra-curricular activities
- encourage pupils to share responsibility for their learning and behaviour and to develop the initiative, independence and thinking skills which will enable them to adapt knowledge to new situations
- provide opportunities which allow pupils to develop interpersonal and communication skills and to work together towards recognised goals
- encourage pupils to develop an understanding of their own culture and tradition and that of others, and to establish links with the local and wider community
- develop a meaningful partnership between home and family

Curriculum

In Penrhyn our aim is to provide a broad, well-balanced curriculum, currently following the Programmes of Study as laid down by the Education (NI) Order (1996).

Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 (P1 and P2) classes, an integrated approach to the curriculum is widely used, with many subjects being taught through the medium of play-based learning.

In Key Stage 2 (P5-P7), individual subjects are more discretely identifiable and are timetabled as such.

Areas of Learning:

- ⊙ Language and Literacy
- ⊙ Mathematics and Numeracy
- ⊙ The Arts
- ⊙ The World around Us
- ⊙ Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- ⊙ Physical Education
- ⊙ Religious Education

Cross-Curricular Skills:

- ⊙ Communication
- ⊙ Using Mathematics
- ⊙ Using Information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:

- ⊙ Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making
- ⊙ Self Management
- ⊙ Working with Others
- ⊙ Managing Information
- ⊙ Being Creative



Penrhyn has a team of experienced and committed teachers, each of whom has a specialist subject. This professional expertise is used and timetabled wherever possible, to the best advantage of the pupils throughout the school - in the delivery of the curriculum for Music and Art for example. A specialist teacher delivers the curriculum for Physical Education (P4-P7).

Computers and iPads are available in each classroom for daily cross-curricular use, and there are interactive whiteboards in all classrooms. There is also an ICT Suite in the Preparatory Department, with a C2K (Classroom 2000) network installed.

Parent Information Evenings

At the beginning of each academic year, parents are invited to school to meet with their daughter's form teacher and with the Head of Department. At that year group information evening, the teacher gives details of the curriculum to be covered during the coming year and explains teaching methods, assessment procedures and homework routines. Both the Head of Department and the class teacher also give general information about the school year ahead and are always glad to answer any queries parents may have.

Assessment

Assessment of the pupils' work is continuous. Detailed written reports are issued twice a year, in January and in June. Details of individual levels of attainment in Mathematics and English are also issued to P4 (end of Key Stage 1) and P7 (end of Key Stage 2) in June.

Individual parent-teacher consultations take place, by appointment, as follows:

- in October for P1-P7
- in February for P7 parents (Transfer interviews)
- in June for all parents, P1-P7

Appointments may also be made at any time with the Head of Department or with class teachers to discuss a pupil's progress or to assist with a parental concern about any aspect of school life.

Destinations

The high level of academic achievement attained by our pupils enables many of them to obtain places at grammar schools. Penrhyn prepares girls for the AQE Common Entrance Assessment which is held towards the end of the first term in P7. This preparation builds on the strong literacy and numeracy skills developed in earlier years. Strathearn gives preference to Penrhyn pupils. The number of P7 pupils leaving Penrhyn and transferring to other schools in 2017 is given below:

Strathearn - 19; Bloomfield Collegiate - 1 ; Victoria College – 1, Ashfield - 1



'I was pleased to hear the Head of Department emphasising the importance of developing self-confidence.'

Open Morning Feedback





School Library

The Penrhyn library has been updated providing a stimulating environment to support learning. It is the aim of the school to provide P7 pupils with the opportunity to manage the library. This responsibility will not only develop pupil confidence but will also foster respect for this important resource.

The library aims to:

encourage the girls to read for pleasure

provide information for projects and investigations

develop the girls' information literacy skills allowing them to access, evaluate, organise and use information from a variety of sources

Religious Education

Throughout Penrhyn, the girls follow the Programme of Study for Religious Education laid down in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Parents who wish to withdraw their daughter, on grounds of conscience, from attendance at religious education classes or at school assembly are asked to contact the Head of Department.

Assembly is held every day and takes the form of a non-denominational act of worship, usually with a thematic or seasonal approach, and it also provides the opportunity for individual classes to play an active part in leading the service. We particularly value it too as the time when we all meet together as a whole school family.

P7 Residential Trip

In the summer term our P7 pupils have the opportunity to experience a five day residential trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre in Co Louth. During the day the girls take part in land based activities for example rock climbing, abseiling, orienteering, laser combat, high ropes and team challenge. The water-based activities include Canadian canoeing, raft building, kayaking and pier jumping. In the evenings the girls can enjoy adventure walks, treasure hunts, 'nightline in the forest', team games and quizzes. This trip allows the pupils to develop their interpersonal skills, including leadership, teamwork and trust and respect.



'Carlingford is a very busy trip where you learn a lot about yourself. I challenged myself and realised I could do activities that were new to me.'

P7 Pupil



Music and Drama

Music and Drama are very important elements in the lives of Penrhyn pupils from P1-P7, both through the taught curricular and extra-curricular activities. Every pupil in the school looks forward to being involved in a school musical production, P1-P4 girls taking part in a Christmas entertainment and P5-P7 girls in a Spring production. Recent productions have included: Oliver, Joseph, Peter Pan, Panto Pandemonium and last year it was Cinderella. P5-P7 pupils have the opportunity to join the Strathearn Preparatory Department choir, which, as well as singing for pleasure, performs at major school functions such as the Christmas Carol Service, Open Day and Prize Day. Furthermore, the choir has performed at a number of charity events with Festival Brass and in St Anne's Cathedral to support NSPCC. The choir has had many successes at the local music festivals in Holywood and Belfast.

Classes throughout the school regularly link up with other primary schools to participate in the very successful and enjoyable music workshops at the Belfast School of Music. Every pupil learns to play the recorder from P5 upwards. Pupils are also offered private tuition in piano from P3 upwards and singing from P4 upwards. Speech and Drama lessons are available from P1-P7.

Each year pupils are entered for LAMDA speech exams and choral-speaking events in the local speech and drama festival and Penrhyn has a highly successful record of achievement in this field.

Sport

Physical Education is taught throughout the school according to the Programmes of Study laid down in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The girls from P4-7 have the opportunity to access Strathearn's excellent sports facilities - a key feature of the new build.

The girls also have the opportunity to participate in hockey, netball, athletics, cross-country and gymnastics. Swimming classes (P3-P7) take place weekly in Templemore Avenue swimming pool. Pupils are transported there by private coach.

Penrhyn has a strong tradition of participation and success in inter-school sporting competitions. A Sports Day for P1-P3 is held on the Penrhyn lawn in the summer term, and for P4-P7 at Strathearn's athletics facilities in the summer term. Parents and friends are invited to attend both these events.

Swimming galas (P3-P4; P5-P7) are held in Templemore Avenue swimming pool in the summer term.



Extracurricular Activities

These activities are a very important element in the lives of the Penrhyn pupils. The choice varies from year to year and according to age groups, but currently includes:

Athletics (P6-P7)

Ballet (P1-P3)*

Choir (P5-P7)

Cycling Proficiency (P7)

French (P3-P7)*

Hockey (P6-P7)

Individual Piano Tuition (P3-P7)*

Irish Dancing (P1-P7)*

Modern Dance (P4-P7)*

Scripture Union (P3-P7)

Singing (P4-P7)*

Speech and Drama (P1-P7)*

Tennis (P3-P7)*

Miniversity – computer club (P2-P7)*

* Tuition Fees applicable

School - Community Links

Penrhyn pupils value opportunities to forge links with the local community.

Penrhyn donated their Harvest collection of non-perishable food items to Storehouse Food Bank, Belfast.

Fund-raising activities are held throughout the year by the pupils for local and international charity organisations and personal links are often forged. We supported the following charities in 2016-2017:

Term 1 ~ TinyLife, NSPCC Childline

Terms 2 and 3 ~ Children's Heartbeat Trust

In total Penrhyn donated £1,920 to these charities.

Each year one class participates in a Police Education Programme which focuses on personal safety, road safety and crime awareness. This programme also involves inter-school projects. Classes also regularly participate in workshops which focus on recycling and the environment.

Museums and places of interest, locally and province-wide, are visited regularly by our pupils. These outings enrich the curriculum for each year group and are greatly enjoyed by the girls.

In the past two years, visits have been made to: Belfast Zoo, Belfast City Airport, Mount Stewart, The RSPB Lookout at Belfast Lough, Sentry Hill, The Ark Open Farm, The Ulster Museum, The Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Seaforde Butterfly House, W5 at the Odyssey Arena, Castle Espie, Castle Ward, Crumlin Road Gaol, The Belfast School of Music, Belvoir Park and Carrickfergus Castle.

Pastoral Care

Our pastoral care policy is centred on the pupil and begins with the individual induction visits of P1 pupils and their parents in June, prior to commencing school in September. There is also an induction programme for all new pupils, which enables them to settle in quickly and confidently, at whatever age or stage of the academic year they may join Penrhyn. Every member of the Penrhyn staff has a role in enabling the pupils to gain maximum benefit from their time at school, but the child's class teacher is the key figure in the pastoral system.

At the beginning of every academic year, parents are invited to give any information, medical or personal, which they feel the school needs to know, in order that due care and consideration may be given to their daughter. Parents are encouraged to contact the school at any stage throughout the year, if they feel that any new information should be added to their daughter's file.

As well as the scheduled parent-teacher consultations which are held twice a year, we are always glad to meet with parents to discuss their daughter's progress and personal development or to talk over any concerns they might have. If this need arises parents are encouraged to make an appointment with the class teacher, with the Head of Department, or with Ms Boyd, who has overall responsibility for pastoral care in Penrhyn.

In Penrhyn, we aim to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment in which all our pupils can learn and develop to their full potential. One way in which we seek to protect our pupils is by helping them to acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe. If anyone has a concern about a child's safety they may talk to the appropriate form teacher, to Ms Boyd, who is the designated teacher for Child Protection, or to Mrs Mawhinney.

Flyers containing a synopsis of the school policies on Child Protection, Drugs and Anti-Bullying are provided for parents on the enrolment of their daughter and at regular intervals thereafter.

Our full Pastoral Care policies are available on our website www.strathearn.org.uk or in the School Office upon request.

"The school has a range of policies on pastoral care, including guidance on promoting positive behaviour. These policies place a strong emphasis on developing the children's self-confidence and self-esteem; the school's effective implementation of the policy documents has contributed to a setting in which the children feel safe and secure. The children receive a wide and effective programme on pastoral matters, for example on issues related to bullying and personal safety."

(DE Inspection Report, March 2007)

'I can't praise the school enough. My daughter has settled very quickly. The P1 teacher is so caring and kind.'

Parent of a P1 pupil



My daughter felt welcome from her very first day in Penrhyn. She loves her new school.

Parent of new pupil

Positive Behaviour

High standards of discipline and self-discipline are expected in Penrhyn. We are committed to creating an atmosphere and environment in which every pupil feels comfortable, confident and secure. By creating an awareness of personal responsibility and by identifying and agreeing the type of behaviour which is desirable in our school community, we aim to have a positive framework within which pupils may operate happily and successfully.

The girls in each year group enjoy working together to draw up positive codes of behaviour for their classrooms and for whole school situations. These agreed codes are displayed in each classroom, around the school and in the staffroom. They fall into the broad categories of:

- ⦿ respect for myself
- ⦿ respect for others
- ⦿ respect for property

The code of behaviour for the whole school falls into the categories of:

- ⦿ communication
- ⦿ learning
- ⦿ respect
- ⦿ movement
- ⦿ safety

A copy of these codes of behaviour/classroom charters is also included in the School's Positive Behaviour Policy which is available to parents upon request.



Special Educational Needs

In accordance with the 1996 (NI) Education Order and the 2005 Special Educational Needs and Disability (NI) Order, the Governors of Strathearn are cognisant of their responsibilities in relation to Special Educational Needs and Inclusion.

They consider a statement of Special Educational Needs to exist if a pupil has a learning difficulty which calls for a special educational provision or a disability which may prevent her from making full use of the educational facilities available for children of this age. Any pupil in Penrhyn, statemented or otherwise, experiences the full range of the curriculum through involvement in all classes during Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 and 2.

Learning Support Provision

Mrs Hanna provides learning support for pupils who need a little extra help in certain aspects of their school work. She works closely with the class teacher to devise an individual learning programme. This programme of support can involve pupils working on a one to one, or in a small group.

Where a pupil with a specific learning difficulty is identified, she is allocated an individual learning programme in the relevant area of study. Progress is discussed with the child's parents, and where necessary, advice and support is sought from the Area Board's Educational Psychology Service.

Homework

The tradition of setting homework as a supplement to what is done in school is deep-rooted in Penrhyn's educational practice. It has a vital part to play in the overall programme of the school. A 'homework guide' issued to parents each September at the Year Group Information evenings offers guidance to parents/adults as to how best they can assist children to complete homework assignments and create a suitable routine and environment for homework.

The amount of time spent doing homework increases as the pupil proceeds up the school, and as she progresses, each girl is expected to take more responsibility for managing the time she spends on homework. This is an integral part of our policy of encouraging the girls to become increasingly self-reliant learners.

In their 'homework guides' and through discussion with parents at the beginning of an academic year, individual form teachers clarify the purpose, content, frequency, duration and nature of work to be done at home with each year group.

A copy of the school's policy on homework is also available to parents, upon request.

Lunch Time Arrangements

The lunch break is from 12 noon to 1pm. All Penrhyn girls (P1 from November onwards) walk to the Strathearn canteen every day for lunch. They are accompanied at all times by lunch time supervisors and a member of staff is also in attendance.

The girls have a choice of either a lunch provided by the school canteen (at a cost of £2.60 per day, payable in addition to fees each term) or of bringing a packed lunch.

Uniform

The school uniform, including regulation blazer, must be worn by all pupils as prescribed. It is a smart, sensible and practical uniform. The girls wear it with a sense of pride and we attach importance to the high standard of its appearance. It is essential that all items of clothing and equipment are clearly marked with the owner's name.

On admission to Penrhyn, a uniform list with details of suppliers is issued to parents.

"The school's programme for promoting the health and wellbeing of the children has many strengths. Attention is given to the development and implementation of programmes which encourage the children to adopt healthy lifestyles, for example, healthy breaks. There is a commitment to the promotion of healthy eating."



Partnership with Parents

Penrhyn parents are encouraged to take an active role in their daughter's education and there is a strong tradition of close partnership between parents and staff.

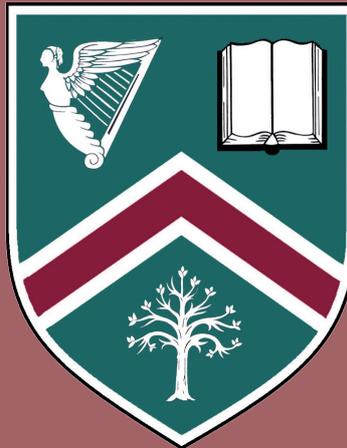
There is a very active Parents' Association for parents of pupils in Strathearn and Penrhyn. The Association plays a vital role in the life of Penrhyn. Through its fund-raising activities, many of which involve parents, pupils and staff, it has been able to provide Penrhyn with many additional resources. In recent years, for example, the Association has funded the complete refurbishment of the Penrhyn Library and has provided interactive whiteboards for every classroom, visualisers, laptops, iPads and an outdoor climbing frame with an enhanced safety surface. Members of the Association also assist in practical ways at many of the annual events in Penrhyn, eg Open Mornings, concerts and at the Summer Fête in June.

School Fees 2018

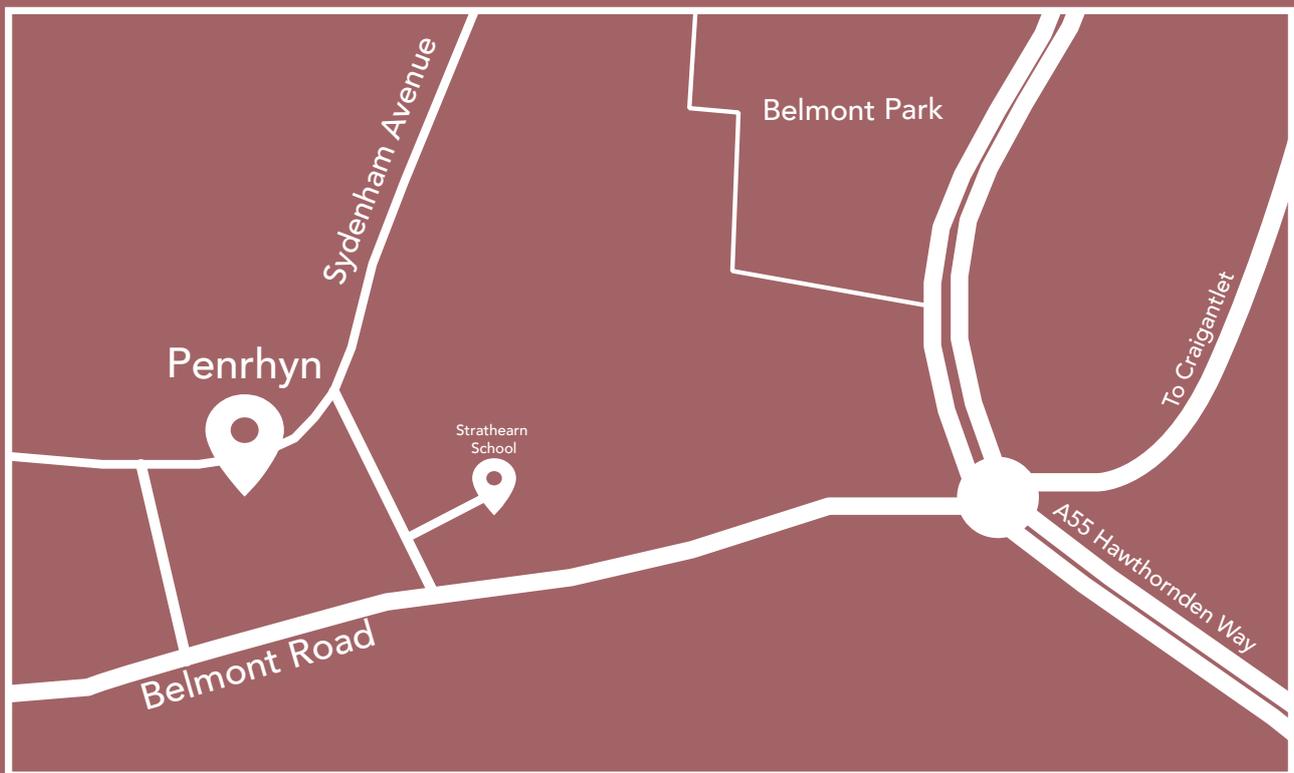
Key Stage 2 (P5, P6 and P7)	Tuition Fee	£4,250 per annum
Key Stage 1 (P3 and P4)	Tuition Fee	£4,125 per annum
Foundation Stage (P2)	Tuition Fee	£4,025 per annum
Foundation Stage (P1)	Tuition Fee	£3,775 per annum

- ⊙ An allowance of 10% is made for the second and each subsequent sister in the Preparatory Department at the same time.
- ⊙ A non-refundable deposit of £250 must be paid on enrolment.
- ⊙ School fees will be invoiced in September and the option is available to pay fees in full immediately, by direct debit over a ten-month period or 50% on a bi-annual basis in September and January each year.
- ⊙ One full term's notice should be given, in writing, in the event of withdrawal of a pupil.
- ⊙ Extracurricular lessons - Parents are asked to annually indicate which of the optional subjects they wish their daughter to take. Fees are then paid directly to the teacher concerned.
- ⊙ Charges for school trips are billed in May each year.
- ⊙ Charges for school meals are billed retrospectively in January, April and September each year.
- ⊙ It is the school's policy that all accounts for the year, including those for school trips and school meals, (with the exception of those who pay by Direct Debit) should be settled in full by 20 June of that school year before a pupil will be allowed to begin a new academic year in Penrhyn.





Finding Us



188 Belmont Road, Belfast BT4 2AU

www.strathearn.org.uk