



We are Strathearn 
• Encourage  Empower  Excel •



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Strathearn School was founded as a single sex school in 1929 to enhance the educational attainment of girls in the East Belfast area. We are one of Northern Ireland's leading voluntary Grammar Schools, providing high quality education for some 805 girls aged 11 to 19 years.



We currently serve young people from all over Belfast, North Down and the Ards Peninsula, doing so through the promotion of academic excellence and within a culture of inclusion and equity.

Our renewed vision for every one of the pupils who are part of this Strathearn community is as follows:



Encourage



Empower



Excel

Every Strathearn girl should be ENCOURAGED to

- value herself and respect others
- love learning with an inquisitive and aspirational approach
- develop meaningful relationships and life-long friendships
- embrace a holistic school experience
- have pride in her school and care for our wider community

Through being EMPOWERED with

- the knowledge required to make good and sustainable decisions
- the tools and skills to solve problems
- the resources that will foster independence
- opportunities to explore, grow, mature and thrive with others

So that she can EXCEL in

- areas of personal interest that motivate her
- the extra-curricular and co-curricular activities undertaken
- academic learning by fulfilling her individual potential
- her contribution to society, now and in the future

An open letter from the Head Girl Team to the pupils of Strathearn (April 25)



I'm sure you're all familiar with the school motto: **encourage - empower - excel**. We wish to share what it means to us and hopefully to each of you individually, and to the school community as a whole.

Firstly, **encourage**, and specifically the power of **encouragement**. It's easy to forget how much a kind word or a simple act of support can make a difference to someone's life.

Encouragement lifts people up when they're feeling down, gives them the courage to keep going when things get tough, and reminds them that they are capable of achieving great things.

Whether it's helping a friend with a difficult task or cheering on a teammate, your **encouragement** can spark confidence and motivate others to reach their full potential. Strathearn has such a friendly community, where **encouragement** can be found through music, sports, house events and all other activities.

We have found that it's not just the teachers **encouraging** us in our studies, but also our friends and other pupils who have **encouraged** and supported us throughout our time here. As a school, we have also been able to **encourage** the community around us through charity events and other visits. Anyone can contribute to a culture where people feel like they matter. So, let's make an effort every day to be the source of positivity and support for those around us.

Empowerment is realised by making someone stronger and more confident in taking charge of their own life and achievements.

Strathearn **empowers** us to achieve our personal best in all avenues of life through extra-curricular opportunities dedicated to our personal interests and by stimulating new interests. Your voices ring loudly causing significant change and impact through school council with representatives from all 33 form groups allowing form one pupils to collaborate with those up to upper sixth and share their



thoughts on how to improve our school. The leaders of tomorrow are among us demonstrated through programmes like Sisters!N and with students regularly taking assemblies, you have illustrated how Strathearn gives us a platform to display our many strengths. Moreover, our LLW curriculum teaches us how to stand up for others and ourselves. We are taught how to develop and harness life skills which enables us to become independent and self-reliant individuals.

Therefore, through building and developing extra skills, Strathearn promotes self-confidence in which we can trust in our own capabilities and carry out decisions with conviction.

Excel is about striving for personal growth and improvement, not about achieving perfection. It means working hard to reach goals, embracing challenges and learning from mistakes, trying to be the best versions of ourselves and striving for excellence in everything we do. There's always so much to celebrate within the Strathearn community because of all the exceptional achievements that pupils and staff work for every day. We are represented across so many activities and sports on a range of levels.



Strathearn pupils are **excelling** at a national level, representing the country in hockey, swimming, bowls, football, netball and more. There are runners and motorcyclists who are earning national titles and awards. Not only do pupils work hard for themselves, some help to teach and **encourage** others to succeed, coaching winning dancers and table tennis players.

Beyond sports, pupils **excel** in public speaking, debates, bar mock trials, and Young Enterprise programmes while our Autumn and Spring concerts highlight the talents of our exceptional musicians and singers.

In Strathearn, **excelling** means achieving success in our personal and diverse journeys of interest, celebrating with each other, and learning from our failures. With the support and **encouragement** from within the community at Strathearn we have many opportunities to push ourselves to be the best we can be.

You should all be proud of what you have achieved so far and how well you are representing our community.

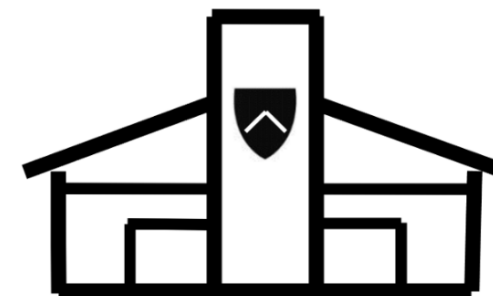
Georgia, Lauren & Francesca



We are Strathearn.

SDP 25/28 – We are Strathearn

Our goal for the next three years is to renew our vision for the pupils and staff in a learning community where **encouragement**, **empowerment** and the opportunity to **excel** are prioritised in all that we do. We wish to embrace a **research informed approach** to our decision making, upskilling our staff and maintaining a high standard of learner outcomes.



To achieve this goal, we have **4** new **KEY PRIORITIES** for improvement along with our ongoing action areas:

KP1 - To reform our *curriculum and timetable provision* for maximum learner benefit, informed by pedagogical research and resource sustainability

KP2 – To enhance the *knowledge and skills progression* of our pupils, supported by research informed teachers

KP3 - To promote and support the *health, wellbeing and resilience* of pupils

KP4 - To ensure pupils with *special, additional or other educational needs* progress in line with their peers through enhanced monitoring and support

These key priorities for improvement will be targeted through actions over the next three years centred on the 10 focus areas below:

