



# St Philomena's

## Catholic High School for Girls

### **ST PHILOMENA'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS THE SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES DEPARTMENT**

The SEND department at St Philomena's consists of a dedicated team of professionals with a commitment to improving teaching and learning for students with a range of learning difficulties and disabilities. With a team of highly qualified and trained staff, the strategic SENDCo, Deputy SENDCo and team of nine Learning Support Assistants (LSAs), oversee provision and SEND needs across all Key Stages and curriculum areas.

The SEND department reflects the school's ethos of inclusion, equal opportunities and community spirit, by ensuring that all students have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

With Christ being the very centre of our daily life and the basis of our actions, all students and staff are respected for their individuality and welcomed into our school community.

Faith is an intrinsic aspect of teaching and learning at St Philomena's, creating confident and educated young women with love for Christ and each other.

The essence of our role is to provide effective and targeted support to students and staff both inside and outside of the classroom and to ensure that students receive the necessary support they need to continue to be included within the National Curriculum. Teaching staff are supported through training and ongoing communication with the SEND department. Within the realm of Quality First Teaching, all staff differentiate and cater for all learning styles, to ensure that all students have opportunities to make progress, are challenged and motivated in order to promote and reinforce self-esteem and excellent learning outcomes.

The Department is based in the Edith Stein Centre (ESC). The ESC is a relatively new Inclusion Centre on the site of the school where students are able to access provision as well as inclusive teaching. It is an inclusive environment where students can be taught either in full classes, 1:1, small groups or supported study periods. It is an area that staff can utilise to teach and run interventions, homework club and meet with parents and external agencies

The Centre has a Conference room, two class rooms, an Inclusion room, Assistant Head and SENDCo's offices as well as two counselling rooms. When you visit the ESC you may find that it is a building full of inspiration, determination and hard work, just like its names sake, Edith Stein.

Edith Stein was a model Catholic, a brilliant intellectual, yet a profoundly humble soul. Resilient and energetic she bore everything in union with God. It is these characteristics we aim to instil in our students so they may leave us as well grounded spiritual young women who feel empowered to follow their dreams use and nurture their talents and be of service to others. As a highly educated and dedicated professor, Edith Stein is a role model for both staff and students alike. Edith Stein, also known as St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, OCD, was a German Jewish philosopher who converted to the Roman Catholic Church and became a Carmelite nun. She is a martyr and saint of the Catholic Church.

The person appointed would join a lively, friendly and committed team, which works in a highly collaborative and supportive way. S/he would join the department as a welcomed and valued member of this team and would have an exciting opportunity to enhance and develop the work of this successful department. Many of our Learning Support Assistants go on to complete teacher training qualifications and embark on teaching careers committing themselves fully to the vocation of teaching.

We welcome visits to the Department.