



"We nurture all that is best
in each of our students"

Sutton Park School

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HISTORY Sutton Park School was founded in 1957 by a group of leading local professional and business people as a co-educational and multi-denominational school which, while catering mainly for day pupils, retains the spirit and sense of community of a boarding school.



The school began its first year with approximately forty pupils about half of whom were full-time boarders. It has steadily grown and developed over the past fifty years and now boasts a modern campus and educates well over 450 students from all over North County Dublin and a wide range of countries from all over the world. The Primary & Intermediate Section of the school accepts boys and girls from the age of five.

Our Secondary Section contains over 290 students and is recognised for grant purposes by the Department for Education. A small boarding house provides accommodation for students mostly from mainland Europe.



Approximately twenty percent of our students are from an international background.

LOCATION Sutton Park School is situated on the lower slopes of the Howth peninsula within a few hundred yards from the sea. The site overlooks Dublin Bay and yet is only fifteen kilometres from the city centre.

The peninsula is steeped in tradition and history and is one of the most unspoilt and pleasant locations in Dublin. Our 9 acre grounds are extensive and although the campus appears small and intimate, it is deceptively large.



FACILITIES The centre-piece of the school consists of a large Georgian House with a modern block of 20 classrooms extending from the side and reaching back into the main body of the school. We have well over 40 classrooms, including a large library and resource centre and study area. The library contains over 14,000 books and a bank of modern computers to supplement the considerable research facilities in this building.

It is staffed by two highly experienced librarians and always supervised.



Students can access this facility throughout the day. We also offer an extended option for evening study that goes on until 8:45 pm every evening. All students are invited to take part in evening prep – this lasts until 4:45 pm. We have an attractive Study Hall located in the old Georgian building.



We have a fully equipped Art room and Design Centre with a network of 20 computers all carrying the latest CAD/CAM software. Our well equipped science laboratories contain interactive whiteboards and we have a dedicated ICT room, newly furnished with the latest computers.

This computer suite is open to all subject departments and is booked out on a regular basis.



Our Sports facilities are also impressive. We have a full size all weather hockey pitch and another large, multipurpose sports field for athletics and a variety of winter sports. We also have basketball and badminton courts and a large gymnasium/assembly Hall. Most of our school productions take place in this hall. The school also has a heated outdoor swimming pool.



JUNIOR SCHOOL PROGRAMME

The early years department of the Junior School consists of Junior Infants, Senior Infants and Grades 1, 2 and 3. Pupils are enrolled from the age of 4/5. Class sizes are small. Junior and Senior Infants never rise above 18 in number and the first three grades of this section of the school contains classes of no more than 20.



These are important formative years and the emphasis in our curriculum at this time is on nurturing and developing an inquisitive mind and building self-confidence and self-belief in young impressionable minds. Highly qualified and dedicated “early years” staff teach a carefully balanced curriculum designed to awaken curiosity and excite the imagination. Much of the learning is achieved through topic work and each classroom is bright and well resourced. Work is displayed regularly and all classes can access interactive whiteboards, allowing the children to become familiar with the very latest technology in a completely natural way.



Each classroom has a computer facility that is used to develop basic research skills. There is a strong emphasis on developing the individual and awakening an enthusiasm for learning.



Each child is welcomed into a safe and loving community and teachers focus on developing core competencies in English, Mathematics and Reading. A strong emphasis is placed upon social, creative and physical development. It is our intention to foster curiosity and awareness to enable all the pupils to find out more about themselves and the world around them.



The acquisition of a green flag for raising ecological awareness brought even the youngest pupils into contact with important social issues that will we hope shape their entire life.



There are high expectations for all children and we aim to ensure that every child has the opportunity to enjoy success.

“We nurture and develop the best qualities in each of our students”



The progress of each child is carefully assessed and monitored as they move through each of the grades in the Junior School. Parents’ meetings, written reports and a policy that encourages an active partnership between the parents and the school is an integral part of our philosophy.

Developing self-discipline and completing home work tasks is an important part of every child’s educational development. At Sutton Park homework appropriate to the age and ability of each group is regularly set. Extension tasks are set for our gifted and talented pupils and the school provides learning support for those who are experiencing difficulties in English and Mathematics.



Learning Support lessons are organised on a more formal basis in grades 5 and 6 in order to provide specific and focused aid in the key competencies of English and Mathematics. The emphasis throughout is on positive reinforcement and encouragement.

The school has a strong tradition in fostering artistic and musical development. The pupils often take part in a full scale musical and dramatic performance in front of a packed audience of enthusiastic parents.



Our pupils are encouraged to take up music lessons in at least one musical instrument and we offer one to one lessons in Piano, Guitar, Flute and Recorder. By arrangement tuition may also be available in Violin, Saxophone, Clarinet and Voice.



The Junior School has a large choir. They regularly perform both in school and before the local community, at Christmas and on other occasions of importance.



INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL PROGRAMME

Grades 4,5,6.

From the age of 9 onwards [Grade 4] teaching becomes more formal and the teachers begin to focus on developing and building upon the firm foundations created in the important early years. The core competencies such as Maths, English, Irish and Science are developed in an environment that makes the pupils feel comfortable and happy to ask questions. Problem solving, accuracy and developing a methodical approach to expressing answers is encouraged in mathematics. Extended writing and creative work is a hallmark of our English classes. The pupils are introduced to more extended assignments and expectations regarding homework and the quantity of work are increased.

Our teachers are trained to use ICT extensively to enrich the teaching of maths and the interactive whiteboards. A wide range of software and websites enhances quality of their learning experiences in this subject.

All pupils in the primary school are encouraged to use the school library. We develop and guide independent readers using regular sessions with our librarians and nurture an active interest in all types of reading using a wide range of practical and intellectual techniques.



Throughout their experience in the Junior School the children are introduced to a wide range of physical activities.

All children from Grade 4 upwards can opt to be served a hot meal at lunchtime in our new canteen. Meals are served by a dedicated team of caterers and menus are changed every two weeks.



Transition from Junior School to the Senior School

Although approximately 50% of the places in the First Year are taken up by our Junior School pupils, a large proportion of the entry into Secondary School join us from a wide range of primary schools from the North County Dublin area.

In May we organise an induction day programme for all prospective First Year Pupils. The children are invited to spend a complete day in the Secondary School and experience at first hand actual lessons in many academic subjects that are new to them, especially in practical lessons such as Science, Computers and Technical Drawing and Home Economics. Not only do they mix with their new classmates in a structured and co-ordinated manner, they also experience the concept of a timetable and learn to negotiate the much larger site and range of classes in the secondary school.

We introduce the pupils to their form teachers, form areas [and their lockers] and other key personnel such as the Student Counsellor and the School Librarians.

A special Information Evening introduces the new curriculum to parents and outlines important details about homework, standards and assessment policies in the school.

By the end of their experience in the Junior & Intermediate Schools it is our intention to have given all our pupils a full understanding and experience of the core elements of most of the subjects they will encounter in the secondary school.

SECONDARY SCHOOL

The Secondary School draws its intake from a wide range of primary schools. Students come from as wide a field as Clontarf, Glasnevin, Swords and Drogheda. A bus service is organised from Swords and Malahide and the school is lucky to have easy access to the Dart. The First Year is also an important point of entry for families returning from long spells working abroad and of course families of international students who have relocated to Dublin. Every effort is made to ease the process of socialisation and integration into the school and students in the first three years of the school enjoy the support of a team of dedicated form teachers.

An extensive SPHE programme taught by the School Guidance Counsellor provides a structured and supportive platform for integration and inclusion.

The school has a very clear anti-bullying programme and lessons are conducted in an orderly and disciplined manner.



Classes are small. No class is larger than 24 and most considerably smaller. All students have a designated form base and form teachers who monitor progress and address any problems at source. The school has a good tradition of working in active partnership with parents and there is regular contact between home and school.

THE CURRICULUM - JUNIOR CYCLE

In the first three years of the Junior Cycle students follow the curriculum as laid down by the Irish State. All students take the Junior Certificate Examination at the end of the Third Year [age 15]. Most students sit these exams at the higher level and take up to 12 subjects. The curriculum is broad and balanced and there is plenty of opportunity for enrichment subjects such as computers, making presentations and group work.



All students are encouraged to take up a wide range of academic subjects and the focus is on maximising the potential of each individual and accentuating positive achievements. The curriculum is designed to both consolidate and build on previously learned skills, especially in the core areas of English, Mathematics, Irish, Modern Languages, Geography & Science. Students are also introduced to new subjects such as Home Economics, Technical Drawing, Business Studies and Computers.

CORE SUBJECTS

ENGLISH
MATHEMATICS
IRISH **
FRENCH
SCIENCE
HISTORY
P.E
GEOGRAPHY
ART
CIVICS
SPHE

** Students from an international background will usually receive an exemption from studying Irish.

All students study a core of subjects that include English, Mathematics, Irish, History, Geography, Science and French. The rest of the curriculum structure encourages students to choose from a range of three option groups.

OPTION SUBJECTS

COMPUTERS
MUSIC
BUSINESS STUDIES
HOME ECONOMICS
GERMAN
ART
TECHNICAL GRAPHICS
SPANISH
ITALIAN

Within these option groups numerous combinations of subjects are available. Some will opt to take subjects that cover a wide range of disciplines. Others might prefer a combination of more practical subjects such as Art, Home Economics and IT. It is possible to study four modern languages at this level – French, Spanish, German and Italian.

Alternatively, students can opt to follow courses that are more technical and mathematical – Technical Drawing with its emphasis on Computer Aided Design and Business Studies. Of course, students can opt to study combinations of all three disciplines.

SETTING By the end of the First Year the students are set by subject and begin to select option subjects on the basis of their academic strengths and interests. Parents, students and teachers work in close partnership during this process and the school provides an extensive career guidance programme to support the decisions made during this time.

Parents are encouraged to be active partners in the educational programme and we ensure that they are regularly informed of the progress of their sons and daughters in the form of regular assessments.

ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME				
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	CHRISTMAS	FEBRUARY	SUMMER
CAT	Interim Report 1	Report	Interim Report 2	Report
Objective Baseline Data	Core Competencies by Subjects	Exam Common by Subject	Core Competencies by Subject	Exam Common by Subject

Early in September the entire First Year take a diagnostic set of tests to establish baseline standards and give the teachers, parents and the students an objective view of potential future performance. This data provides the basis for target setting and allows us to focus on progression and development.

Classes are initially taught in mixed ability groups. Regular reports on achievement in two sets of internal exams and two formal assessments based on assignments in each subject designed to provide a picture of attainment in core competencies give a comprehensive insight into academic performance and measure progression. High standards are encouraged. Throughout this cycle students are exposed to a wide range of learning styles and begin to develop competency in oral and aural work, practical assignments, problem solving activities and group and team work.

Homework and Private Study

In the Secondary School we encourage independent and autonomous learners. All students in the Junior cycle are set regular homework and keep a detailed log of the tasks set in their homework diaries. These diaries are an important conduit of communication between parents and the form teachers. They are checked every day and allow Parents to communicate any concerns they have in a speedy manner directly to the form teacher. They also encourage students to take charge of their own learning. Study skills are taught as part of their curriculum and students are given opportunities to learn note-taking techniques and essay writing models.

Mentoring & Academic Advisors

All students have regular meetings with their Form Teachers to review their progress and set targets. The emphasis throughout this cycle is on encouragement and praise. Learning support is supplied in the form of classroom assistants and one to one tuition from our learning support team. Close monitoring by the subject teachers and the pastoral team allow us to put in place specific support lessons, retrieval strategies and learning reviews. Our brightest students are given extension tasks and encouraged to explore subjects and concepts in greater depth. The structure of setting by subject allows students to build on their strengths and work at a pace appropriate to their ability.

All students in fifth and sixth year have an Academic Advisor. The Academic Advisor holds regular individual meetings with each student. They monitor each students progress closely to ensure that they are maximising their potential.

An extended prep period takes place at the end of each day until 4:40 pm and students in the Junior Cycle are encouraged to use our Study Hall located at the heart of our Georgian Building and in close proximity to the Head of School's Office. Students are encouraged to use the library on a regular basis.

The English department has weekly library lessons and all students keep a review of their reading in the form of book reports. In subjects such as History, Art, Geography and Technical Drawing many opportunities are given to use our extensive research facilities located in the library.

Clubs and Activities

Academic achievement needs to be combined with enrichment activities and opportunities to extend and broaden horizons of young people. On Wednesday afternoon all students are given the opportunity to choose from a range of activities and clubs. Clubs include outdoor activities such as Golf, Tennis and Taekwondo and more sedentary activities such as Chess and film appreciation.



We also have a number of Debating teams in English, German and French. Our clubs and activities are reviewed every year.



The Transition Year + Years 5th & 6th

This is an important point of entry for Sutton Park. At age fifteen we have an influx of international students from a wide range of European and non-European backgrounds. Here the international dimension of the school really comes alive.

The Transition Year Programme (TYP) is designed to help students make the transition from the Junior Certificate course to the more academic Leaving Certificate programme with greater emphasis on individual research abilities, study skills and a more demanding, analytical approach to subject matter.

About 75% of the Transition Year course content is devoted to traditional academic subjects as preparation for the Leaving Certificate course and 25% is devoted to the provision of enrichment opportunities for students in many useful life skills.

The flexible nature of the programme allows students to get involved in different projects and activities throughout the year. The programme includes community action, cookery, computers, judo, first aid, outdoor pursuits, Model United Nations, mini-companies, work experience, as well as day trips and outings.



The School offers a range of subjects at Leaving Cert and many choose the Transition Year to sample subjects at Leaving Certificate Level. Regular careers guidance sessions are organised by our Careers Department.

ENGLISH
MATHEMATICS
APPLIED MATHS
PHYSICS
CHEMISTRY
BIOLOGY
DESIGN & COMMUNICATION GRAPHICS
IRISH
FRENCH
SPANISH
GERMAN
ITALIAN
HISTORY
GEOGRAPHY
ECONOMICS
BUSINESS STUDIES
HOME ECONOMICS
ART
MUSIC



Our history-making Senior Boys team

Sporting Heroes Making Sporting History



Our record-breaking Badminton teams



Sports as an extra-curricular activity plays an integral role in the lives of Sutton Park students. The main sports played are hockey, badminton, basketball and athletics.

In Hockey, the girls play at three levels—Under 14/16/18 and currently play in the Leinster Premier League at Senior Level. The boys have four teams—Under 13/14/16/18, all playing

in the Leinster Premier divisions, with the Senior boys now firmly established within the Irish Schoolboys Hockey Championships. We have also recently completed hockey tours to Barcelona, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

In badminton the boys and girls play at three levels, Under 14/16/19, in the Leinster League, and we have also participated in the All-Ireland

Championships.

The basketball squads compete in the Leinster League system in both boys and girls at Under 16 and Under 19 levels.

Our athletic programme has resulted in students participating in both the Leinster cross-country events and in the Summer the Leinster track and field competition, with students carrying on to All-Ireland level.

Other sports catered for with school representation include sailing and golf, and also at Wednesday club time soccer is a very popular activity. The level of participation among students is extremely high and is always a highlight of a students' time in Sutton Park School.

Modern Languages for World Citizens

Sutton Park School students can opt to study a choice of European Languages: French, German, Spanish and Italian.

Over and above the curriculum, the Modern Languages Department offers a vibrant and imaginative range of activities throughout the year.

Annual exchange trips to

Germany, France, Spain and Italy are normally organised. The visiting students are given tours around the country and city, and our students are likewise feted on the return visit. Throughout the year, our students represent the School in French and German Debating competitions. During the year, language students are encouraged to

research various European countries and on World Languages Day, they come to school dressed in native or folk dress and offer the food of their chosen country to their fellow students. Our language students have regular French and German breakfasts, where fun and learning are enjoyably combined.

For Open Evening don't forget to see Mme Bardel's French classroom, which holds a stunning collection of Frogs from over 40 countries, presented to her by generations of our Irish and international students. Well worth a visit!



Celebrating l'Épiphanie
avec Mme Bardel

A Thriving Arts Programme

Visitors to the Sutton Park School will see evidence everywhere of the School's varied and excellent Arts Programme. We offer Music, Art, Art History and Technical Drawing to Honours level as subjects on our curriculum, but the story doesn't stop there. Our students are encouraged to participate in many extra-curricular activities which expose them to so much more.

Throughout the school year, students are brought by teachers to plays and films, concerts, exhibitions and lectures. Guest lecturers and performers are regularly invited to make presentations to the students.



Our students are encouraged to hone their skills by entering writing, music, art and design competitions. They have the opportunity to perform in our Orchestra, Choir and stage productions, or to work behind the scenes building sets and creating costumes.



Walking around the School on any given day, you will see student art work displayed all around the School, you might hear a rock band practicing in

one of the music rooms, and you might encounter a student taking photographs of another student's costume for her portfolio.

The regular and varied exposure to the Arts ensures a well-rounded education for Sutton Park students.



An Academic School Committed to Excellence



Young Science Project

Sutton Park School prepares students for entrance to major universities around the world.

The School strives to provide the maximum educational experience to support academic achievement and personal development, leading to successful participation at some of the finest universities and colleges in the world and to a purposeful and satisfying life.

Sutton Park School is committed to the belief that, at its most effective, the education of young people is a collaborative enterprise involving teachers, parents and the pupils themselves.

Good communication amongst teachers, parents and students is essential to assuring a successful experience for each student. Parents and guardians know a great deal about their children and have insight into their strengths, skills, interests, preferences, aspirations,

anxieties and difficulties. On an on-going basis we invite parents to share your knowledge with us, and to share your thoughts, ideas, concerns, and observations.

As an academic school, emphasis is placed firmly on high standards of scholastic achievement. The School presents a challenging academic curriculum, which aims to foster in its students the curiosity and love of challenge that are the hallmark of a life-long learner.



The success of Sutton Park School's academic programme is well known, with our recent graduates going on to major universities, including Trinity College, Dublin, Dublin City University, University College Dublin, Harvard University and Cambridge University.



ADMISSIONS



Sutton Park School is committed to building a co-educational and international learning community. The current school roll is 450. Applications are welcomed from all parts of Ireland, mainland Europe and from all other nations. Approximately twenty percent of our students are from an international background, representing twenty two different nationalities.

Sutton Park provides English as a Foreign Language support in both the Junior, Intermediate and Secondary School. The school is fully accredited by the NEAC and ECIS.

There are a small number of boarding places available on the site. These are usually allocated to students in the Fourth Year of the Secondary School and above. The school also enjoys a close relationship with a number of International placement agencies who can organise host family accommodation in the locality. Many of our international students chose this type of accommodation.

Sutton Park school follows the Irish curriculum in both the junior and secondary divisions. In the senior school we adopt the Junior Cycle from Years 1 – 3. All subjects are examined at the end of this cycle. The Leaving Certificate takes place in the last two years of the Senior Cycle – Years 5 and 6. The 4th Year is a Transition Year.

All students sit the State examinations at age 13 and 18. Many of our students also opt to sit the SATs in English and Mathematics during the Transition Year.

Application Forms can be obtained electronically through our website www.suttonparkschool.com or in hard copy form with this information booklet by contacting our Main Office for one to be posted out to you. All applications will be acknowledged in writing and you will be then contacted in due course to be invited in for an interview and given a tour of the school. For all applications supporting documentation is required in the form of academic reports (if over age 6 years) along with any Psychological Assessment Reports (if learning support is required) The school will notify you if further supporting documentation for your application is required.

POINTS OF ENTRY INTO SENIOR SCHOOL

Entry Into First Year [Age 12/13]

The Head of School interviews all prospective candidates in the October prior to entry. Scholarships are available at this point. Interested candidates are entered for our Lighthouse Scholarship papers in November.

This is a full scholarship and lasts for the full 6 years of the Secondary division [conditional on obtaining excellent reports and high grades]. These Scholarships are reviewed annually by the Head of School.

Transition Year [Age 15]

Interviews for entry at this point take place throughout the year. This is a major point of entry for both International students and Irish students seeking a change of environment or looking to take advantage of our small group sizes and carefully planned TYR programme.

Extensive English as a Foreign Language support is available for our international students. We timetable EFL lessons against Irish and English classes giving almost 8 hours of language support at this level. This programme is continued into the 5th Year should students want to stay on to study the Leaving Certificate.

Leaving Certificate Programme [Ages 16/18]

Many families chose Sutton Park School at this point to take advantage of our extended study facilities. Students at this level can use our Library and Resource Centre from 8am-8:45 pm. Study is supervised and the Library contains every available research tool. In essence we offer a boarding school facility for all our day pupils. Parents with busy working lives know that their sons and daughters have the opportunity to study in a quiet, supervised setting.

If places become available entry can be considered for places in the 2nd and 3rd Years. In exceptional circumstances places can be considered in our 6th Year. Please ring and make an appointment to see the Head of School. He will also organise a tour of the school for you.

ENTRY INTO JUNIOR & INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

The Junior School has a roll of 100 pupils and the Intermediate school has 80. Class sizes are small and applications are considered for all grades and classes throughout the year. Special consideration is given to siblings and every effort is made to ensure that there is a balance between boys and girls in the classes.

Arrangements can be made for your child to spend a day in the school with his/her class in order to familiarise themselves with the class teacher and their fellow pupils.



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The European Council of International Schools (www.ecis.org)