



# Prospectus

**Notre Dame** Plymouth



"Educating girls: head, heart, hands"



# Welcome

Notre Dame is a comprehensive school for girls. Part of a worldwide network of schools founded by the Sisters of Notre Dame, it is a Catholic school and welcomes all those who want to learn in a supportive, caring and aspirational environment.



"Educating girls: head, heart, hands"







# Values

Notre Dame is a school that lives its mission statement:

- an optimistic school promoting Christian attitudes
- a school where every person belongs
- a school which values learning and high aspiration
- a school which rises to challenges and celebrates achievement

Notre Dame educates girls: head, heart and hands.



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# Background

There has been a Notre Dame in Plymouth for over 150 years. The school today is proud of its history but is forward looking.

In 1804, two French women, Julie Billiart, the daughter of a country draper, and Françoise Blin de Bourdon, an aristocrat, founded a Religious Congregation dedicated to the education of girls. From that time onwards, in Europe, America, Africa, Japan and other parts of the world, Sisters of Notre Dame have worked to keep alive the educational ideals of St. Julie. It is a truly worldwide family to which all our students belong.

St. Julie believed that education should be for all, whatever their ability. The first Sisters were encouraged to educate **“the whole child: head, heart and hands”** and they were urged to teach their pupils **“whatever is necessary for life”**.

The school continues this tradition today.



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# Support

Notre Dame is a comprehensive school and welcomes girls of **all** abilities. There is a wide range of support available to enable all our students to shine, whether by stretching and challenging the able or offering additional time and help to those who need it.

The vertical House system sees new students join mixed age tutor groups and benefit from the family feel of growing alongside older and younger students. Each House provide strong pastoral support, with the tutors at the heart.

Notre Dame also has an excellent reputation for its work with girls with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities. Girls are able to thrive in a supportive environment whilst parents can rest assured that needs are understood and catered for.

The Catholic ethos of the school means that everyone is cared for and our school Chaplain helps to ensure that the spiritual wellbeing of every member of our community is never forgotten.



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# Curriculum

Notre Dame offers a broad and balanced curriculum, with increasing choice and focus as students progress through the school. All students study a core curriculum of English, Maths, Science and Religious Studies. They also take a Modern Foreign Language, PE and Personal, Social and Health Education.

At Key Stage 3 this core is complemented by History, Geography, Art, Drama, Technology and ICT. There are also two subjects unique to Notre Dame. Ubuntu in Year 7 supports the transition of our newest children, focusing on their place in our school community whilst Kairos in Year 8 looks at ways in which they act to make a difference to others.

At Key Stage 4 students focus on core and options subjects whilst at Key Stage 5 they can choose from a range of vocational and academic pathways, leading to employment, apprenticeship or university.

All girls leave Notre Dame ready to embrace their chosen future.



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# Extras

Notre Dame offers a wide range of extra activities. From sports clubs and drama to music, art and science and technology there is plenty to choose from. Older students benefit from a vibrant Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme as well as a whole range of trips and visits.

The school runs a biannual Challenge Week, regular Dimension Days when normal lessons give way to new approaches to learning, and there is an exchange programme for students with Notre Dame Academy near Boston, USA.

The school also provides a strong faith life. Retreats, reflections, liturgies and Mass are all part of the pattern of the school year.



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## Links

Notre Dame has strong links with other local schools, colleges and employers. These include the Plymouth Learning Trust, Devon Education and Business Partnership and Plymouth University.



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# Opportunities

Notre Dame works best when students make the most of every opportunity available to them.

Students get involved in all aspects of school life. They compete for their Houses, stand for election as House or Sports Captains, raise money for charity and participate in surveys and interviews. They run clubs, volunteer and represent the school in sports and academic events.

Notre Dame also has a strong tradition of student involvement in local and regional activities such as Plymouth Youth Parliament and, in the 6th Form, students successfully applying for Nuffield Research Placements and Oxbridge Summer Schools.



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# Facilities

Notre Dame is set in acres of land, providing a beautiful backdrop to school life and learning.

An ongoing commitment to providing students with the best of facilities can be seen in the modern 4-court sports hall, fitness suite and library complex. In the new Stang block, named after Notre Dame sister and environment campaigner Dorothy Stang, there are 10 modern and well-equipped classrooms.

Notre Dame also benefits from dedicated drama studios as well as specialist technology and art workshops. Technology is always at the forefront of daily life, with school-wide wi-fi providing 'anytime anywhere' access to a wide variety of mobile devices.

The school Chapel, with its Angelus Bell ringing twice a day, reminds everyone of the importance of faith at the heart of all we do.



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## Find out more

There are several ways to find out more about Notre Dame.

Check out the school website at [www.ndonline.org](http://www.ndonline.org)  
or follow us on Twitter [@ndplymouth](https://twitter.com/ndplymouth), Instagram [@NotreDamePlymouth](https://www.instagram.com/NotreDamePlymouth) or Facebook [NotreDamePlymouth](https://www.facebook.com/NotreDamePlymouth)

Contact us via email at [info@ndonline.org](mailto:info@ndonline.org)

by telephone on **01752 775101**

and find us at Looseleigh Lane, Derriford, Plymouth, PL6 5HN.