

Sandford Park School

OPEN DAY





Welcome to Sandford Park School

We are delighted to open our doors and share a glimpse of life at Sandford Park School. Today is an opportunity to explore our campus, meet our dedicated staff, and experience the warmth and spirit of our community. We hope you enjoy discovering what makes Sandford unique and inspiring for every student.

www.sandfordparkschool.ie

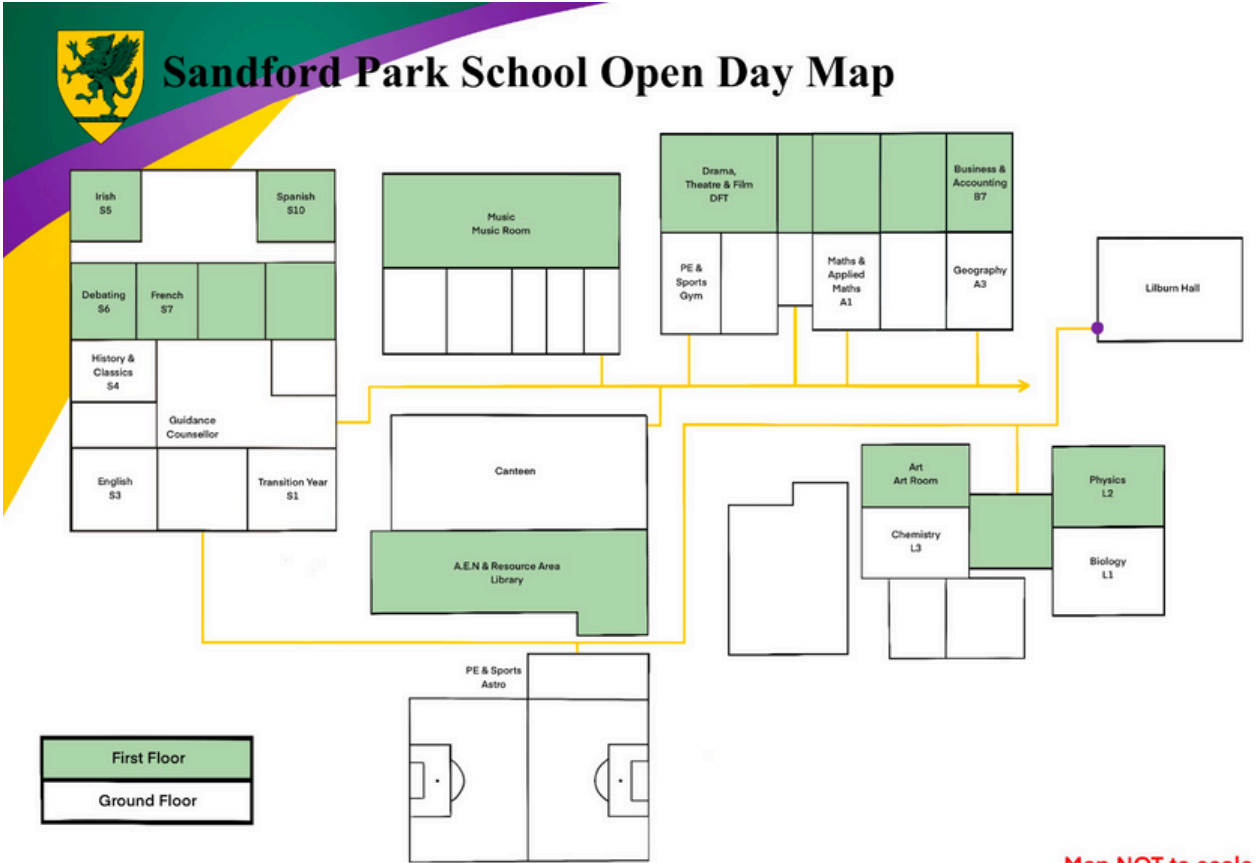


Schedule

 Time	 Activity
10:00 – 11:30	Arrival & Registration in Lilburn Hall → Rolling tours with Student Ambassadors. Explore facilities, meet teachers, discover activities.
11:30 – 12:15	Information Session in Lilburn Hall → Hear from our Principal and students.
12:15 – 14:00	Registration & Rolling Tours Recommence → New arrivals register in Lilburn Hall before joining a guided tour.
14:00	Closing

MAP

As you explore Sandford Park School today, please use this map to help guide you around our campus. Key areas such as classrooms, sports facilities, performance spaces, and social areas are clearly marked to help you get a true sense of student life here. Our staff and student ambassadors will also be on hand throughout the day to answer questions and ensure you feel at home. We encourage you to take your time, visit the spaces that interest you most, and imagine how your child might learn, grow, and thrive as part of the Sandford Park community.



WELCOME

It is a pleasure to welcome you to Sandford Park School. Choosing the right school is a big decision, and at Sandford we pride ourselves on being a warm, inclusive community where every student is known, valued and inspired to succeed. Founded in 1922 by Alfred Le Peton, we carry forward his belief that education should embrace the whole person, challenging students academically, nurturing their character and encouraging responsibility and community. Our academic programme is designed to challenge and engage, while a wide range of sporting, artistic and cultural opportunities ensures every talent can flourish. Above all, it is our dedicated staff and strong relationships with families that make Sandford unique. Together, we cultivate an environment where students grow in confidence, curiosity and character, ready to thrive both in school and beyond.

JIM MURPHY
PRINCIPAL



OUR MISSION AND VISION

Sandford Park School's mission is to educate its pupils in a safe, disciplined and caring environment. Our aim is to prepare them to be responsible citizens.

We equip our pupils with the skills to enable them to think creatively, reason critically and communicate effectively. We accomplish this by fostering a love of learning, respect for cultural diversity and a strong home/school partnership. Our emphasis is on outstanding teaching, which is the core of Sandford Park School's philosophy.

We focus on the needs of each individual pupil and encourage them to fulfil their potential both inside and outside the classroom so that they will acquire the self-confidence and personal attributes necessary to succeed in all walks of life.



WHY CHOOSE US



- 1.** Sandford Park School is a non-denominational school, which welcomes pupils of all religious backgrounds or none.
- 2.** We recognise the individuality of all of our pupils and our staff, and of their right to the enjoyment of their roles within the school.
- 3.** We understand our responsibility to the community as well as to the individuals who comprise that community.
- 4.** We recognise that all learning is based on a relationship which is humane and caring without being over-indulgent, casual or selective.
- 5.** We acknowledge that we each bear a shared responsibility for the reputation of the school.
- 6.** All staff recognise their participation in a total educational process, which is guided by a desire to maintain the highest possible standards. To this end, we are conscious of acting as role models of adult behaviour for the young people we deal with, who are at a formative stage of development.
- 7.** We strive to create an atmosphere that is calm and reflective and to allow our pupils to acquire these traits.
- 8.** In the exercise of our authority as teachers, we recognise the principle and practice of natural justice.

PHOTO GALLERY



CURRICULUM

Sandford Park School offers a broad-based, challenging and liberal education. Each year group consists of three class groups, and we place a strong emphasis on academic excellence as we prepare our students for the Irish State Examinations: the Junior Cycle and the Leaving Certificate.

JUNIOR CYCLE

While the Junior Cycle syllabus is important in its own right, it is also a key stage in a student's development when they begin exploring their options and opportunities for the future. To support this, Form 1 introduces students to a wide range of subjects, enabling them to make informed choices about those they wish to carry forward to the Junior Cycle examinations. Along the way, students complete Classroom-Based Assessments (CBAs)

which allow them to demonstrate their skills and understanding in different ways. The Junior Cycle also places strong emphasis on key skills including Managing Myself, Staying Well, Communicating, Being Creative, Working with Others and Managing Information and Thinking. This is where the seeds of academic excellence are sown and where ambition and interest in a subject take root.

SENIOR CYCLE

Transition Year

Transition Year is a compulsory part of the curriculum at Sandford Park School, forming an essential stage in each student's education. The programme combines academic, personal, vocational, social and cultural activities, drawing on the wealth of skills and talents among teachers to provide students with challenging and stimulating experiences. Excellent resources and effective co-ordination create a superb learning atmosphere and foster both enjoyment and engagement in learning.

Throughout Transition Year, students continue their studies in the core subjects: English, Irish, Maths and French.

This helps them maintain momentum towards the Leaving Certificate. In addition, they sample options outside the standard curriculum. In recent years these have included architectural studies, debating, film studies and philosophy.

The programme also promotes active citizenship and community involvement through participation in fundraising and work with a nominated charity, work experience placements and the President's Award (Gaisce) at bronze level. Students are encouraged to continue this award to gold level.

Continuous assessment is a key feature of Transition Year and reporting to parents is comprehensive. The programme is continually evaluated to ensure the learning experience is enhanced year after year.

LEAVING CERTIFICATE

The Leaving Certificate is a two-year programme. From the outset, teachers, students, the guidance counsellor and parents or guardians work together as a team on subject choices, career guidance and ongoing progress, ensuring each student is best placed to achieve their full potential. Teachers are available to parents throughout the year for discussion and advice.

The majority of Leaving Certificate exam papers are taken at higher level. As our goal is a fully rounded education, a careful balance is struck between the rigours of academic study that prepare students for future careers and the co-curricular activities that equip them for life.

As the Leaving Certificate is recognised by universities worldwide, Sandford Park School attracts a strong international contingent, further broadening the experience and perspective of both students and teachers.



SPORT



Sport and exercise in Sandford forms an integral part of school life where students have a platform to develop away from the classroom through our extensive range of sporting activities, centred around the five core pillars of Sandford sport.

Participation: We strive to provide a varied programme and inclusive culture in which every student is motivated to actively participate in Physical Education (PE) and co-curricular sport and exercise throughout their time in Sandford.

Enjoyment: The core of all Sandford sport is fun for all, led by both players and coaches. We promote and foster a sense of pride, ownership and responsibility, leadership and hard work which we hope will provide endless enjoyment and lifelong memories.



Communication: Students, coaches, staff, and parents will proactively communicate and listen to the best of their ability for the greater growth of individuals, teams and the success of sport in Sandford.

Realising Potential: Each individual will see a pathway to reaching their potential, developing the skills and attitudes to maintain a lifelong interest in sport and exercise. Those wishing to excel will develop a range of qualities that go far beyond the classroom.

Many of our coaching staff in Sandford come from an elite background and as such bring well developed ties with national and regional governing bodies as well as strong links to local sporting clubs, providing additional playing pathways beyond the school gates.

MUSIC



Music is at the heart of the Sandford Park School experience, and we are proud of our strong tradition of choral work, instrumental tuition, and classroom teaching.

In Form I, all students study Music, and they can also choose from a wide range of instruments, taught on a one-to-one basis by specialist teachers. Our facilities include acoustically designed practice rooms and a state-of-the-art music centre, providing students with the best environment to develop their skills. Music encourages students to develop their imagination and curiosity, where individuality and personality are given the opportunity to grow and have a voice. Studying music nurtures emotional intelligence, cognitive skills, and resilience.

The work of the department is guided by five core pillars: Participation, Enjoyment, Creativity, Community, and Excellence. These values shape every aspect of musical life at Sandford Park, from ensemble performances and solo recitals, to collaborative projects, trips abroad, and competitions. They ensure that all students, whether beginners or experienced musicians, find inspiration, connection, and the opportunity to achieve their best.

A vibrant programme of choirs and ensembles gives students numerous opportunities to perform and compete at local, national, and international levels. The choirs include the Senior Choir, Junior Boys' Choir, Junior Girls' Choir, and Chamber Choir. Instrumental ensembles include the Orchestra, Jazz Band, and a Traditional Irish Music Group. These groups have enjoyed great success in competitions such as Feis Ceoil and the Wesley Interschool Music Festival, showcasing the talent and dedication of our students.

The Music Department also runs memorable trips abroad, with recent choral projects taking students to Chicago, Washington D.C., New York, Toronto and Boston.



DEBATING



Structured debate is an entertaining and highly effective way of developing eloquence and communication skills, and is an activity which has always been close to the heart of the School.

Both junior and senior teams have, in recent times, represented Sandford Park with great distinction in a variety of national championships. In the Concern competition, the most prestigious tournament in the English language on this island, Sandford teams were runners-up in 2019 and 2025, took the All-Ireland Shield trophy in 2022, and won the All-Ireland Cup title in 1994, 2009 and 2011, the greatest number of such titles won by any school in the country.

In the Gael Linn competition, the premier national championship in the Irish language, the School secured All-Ireland titles in 2011, 2016, 2017, 2020(jointly), 2022 and 2025, again the largest number of titles attained by any school in the land.

We participate every year in the Leinster Schools competition, a contest which operates under the auspices of the debating societies of UCD and Trinity College, and have made innumerable final and semi-final appearances in that event.

We have also been very successful in the International Observer Mace competition, becoming in 1999 the first Irish school to win the overall title, the Mental Health competition, the European Council invitation event and the Model European Parliament.

Our speakers are now, as they have always been, a great source of pride to their coaches, to their peers, and to the greater school community. Nár laga Dia a lámha go deo!



DRAMA



While drama is an integral part of the English curriculum, as well as the new Leaving Certificate Drama, Film and Theatre Studies course, it is the annual school production that gives many students the opportunity to be part of one of the truly special events of the school year. The school has an outstanding reputation for its highly professional and entertaining productions.

In Sandford Park, the productions are open to students from all year groups. Auditions are conducted at the start of the school year, and we rehearse throughout the first term leading up to the performance in the spring term.

Past productions have included Broadway showstoppers *West Side Story*, *My Fair Lady*, *The Sound of Music* and *South Pacific*; Hollywood classics *The Wizard of Oz*, *Twelve Angry Men* and *A Man for All Seasons*; and Shakespeare masterworks *Midsummer Night's Dream*, *King Lear* and *Much Ado About Nothing*.

Students are encouraged to become involved in all aspects of the productions, from on-stage acting parts to production design, costuming, set building, lighting and sound.

The school also provides on-going support for students working towards accredited drama examinations including the Leinster School of Music and Drama, the Royal Irish Academy of Music and the Irish Board of Speech and Drama, as well as students who will be auditioning for theatrical universities and conservatories.



CAMPUS



ADMISSIONS AND REGISTRATION

Students usually join the school in First Year at the age of 12, but applications are also accepted for other years when places are available. To apply for a place, parents should complete the application form available on the school website.



Location

Prospective parents and students are encouraged to visit Sandford Park and to experience the grounds, the facilities and the vitality of the school itself. Please don't hesitate to contact us to make an appointment with the Principal.

We operate a school bus pick-up and drop-off service for students, morning and afternoon, from Lansdowne Road DART station during term time.

