



Marie Lindsay

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Our Excellence journey, part of our DNA

St Mary's has been striving to exceed world class standards since 1991 when former Principal Dame Geraldine Keegan put in place management structures based on Total Quality Management. As a result School Improvement programmes were put in place to better meet the needs of the pupils and encourage them to access further and higher education. St Mary's introduced other standards such as Charter Mark, Investors in People and the Balanced Score card. That translated into St Mary's going beyond compliance and becoming a Centre of Excellence in Education recognising the link between its Quality journey and its commitment to developing every pupil to their full potential.

St Mary's recognised that the pupils are the best promoters of their standard of service and pupils are involved in reviewing their own learning in every class. The school's commitment to customer service is now part of their DNA and has been externally validated through a detailed process of self evaluation, ethical procedures, audit and inspection reports and standards such as Investors in People, the ICT Mark and the Inclusion Quality Mark.

St Mary's culture is a 'can do' attitude. Staff are clear about their roles and responsibilities and the role they play in planning for and achieving the overall school objectives and targets. Everyone has a great sense of pride in the work of the school.

"It is clear that the passion, dedication and commitment of hard

working staff, placing pupils at the heart of everything is a key factor for St Mary's College in adding value for their customers, enabling successful implementation of their approaches. "

EFQM Feedback Report 2013

"St Mary's boasts several inspirational leaders and many very inspirational people at all levels in the organisation. St Mary's College has a galaxy of stars and leadership is demonstrated at all levels. "

IIP Feedback report April 2013

As a result of their Excellence journey and their track record of using EFQM to improve organisational performance st Mary's has achieved regional, national and international recognition, including

Recognition for Quality

EFQM Quality Award 2001, 2006, Prize winner 2013
UK Quality Award 2000
N-Ireland Quality Award 1998, 2001, 2006, 2008, 2012; NI EFQM Hall of Fame 2008
Ireland Excellence Award 2013
(First educational establishment to win the NI, UK and EFQM Quality Awards)

Recognition for People development

Investors in People 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013
(First organisation in NI and first public sector organisation in UK to achieve this)
IIP Champion Award Gold status 2004, 2007, 2009 2012
UK Millennium Excellence Award for people development



2009 Irish News Training & Employment Award 'Managing Talent'
 2013 Irish News Workplace Excellence Award

Recognition for customer Service
 5 CHARTER MARKS for customer focus from 1994

Recognition for social awareness
 2010 Fair Trade School status,
 2010 Inclusion Quality Mark
 2009 Deaf Awareness

Recognition as a Science Technology Engineering & Maths (STEM) Centre of Excellence
 2006 Science Specialist School Status
 2006 Microsoft Academy
 2010 Microsoft Pathfinder School status
 2011 Microsoft Mentor School status
 2010 Becta ICT Mark
 2012 BT Young Scientist 'Best School in Northern Ireland'

Benefits of our Quality Journey

- Consistently oversubscribed despite the decline in the school age population and the existence of four large Grammar schools in the city.
- Successfully promoting STEM for girls helping to empower future generations and helping to grow a dynamic innovative economy.
- Focus on Digital Technology with innovative Digi-Tech curriculum at Key Stage 3 and 1:1 computing in junior school.
- Sustained improvement in Examination Results at both GCSE 2012-13 5+GCSE Grades A*-C 90% compared to 23% in 1993 2012-13 2+ A*-E A'level 100% compared to 93% in 2007-08 2012-13 3+ A*-C A'level 48% compared to 21% in 2007-08. (This is the Grammar school benchmark)

"Academic results demonstrate positive trends for more than 10 years including significant improvements in English and Maths since 2006 despite the increasing mixed ability levels of pupils and the socio economic deprivation many of them face "

EFQM Assessors' Feedback Report 2013

About St Mary's College

St Mary's College opened its doors in 1959 on its original site in the Creggan area of Derry, N. Ireland. It caters for almost 900 girls in the 11-18 age group. In 2010 St Mary's having just celebrated its Golden Anniversary it moved to its new hi-tech campus at the heart of the Digital Corridor on the Northland Road. Pupils now have access to state of the art facilities and vibrant learning spaces. St Mary's College aspires to create an open, happy, stimulating and mutually respectful community environment in which young people are able to develop to the full range of their abilities and talents in a balanced, integrated and generous way.



SUSTAINING OUTSTANDING RESULTS