



St Louise's

Comprehensive College, Belfast

A Specialist College



CRED POLICY

(Community Relations, Equality and Diversity)

The Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) Policy underpins and complements the Catholic, Vincentian, Comprehensive ethos of St Louise's Comprehensive College

"Equality and inclusion are one of the cornerstones of an education system which enables every learner to fulfil his or her potential."

(CRED Policy DE 2011)

ST LOUISE'S MISSION STATEMENT

'In partnership with parents, guardians, staff, governors and students St. Louise's promotes excellence in learning and teaching within a Catholic, Vincentian, comprehensive ethos'

OUR VISION

All students liberated to:

- ✓ Achieve their full potential through high quality teaching and learning
- ✓ Value their God-given dignity and worth
- ✓ Make informed and responsible, personal, social, moral, spiritual, economic, aesthetic and environmental choices and decisions throughout their lives

OUR VINCENTIAN VALUES THAT UNDERPIN OUR DAILY MISSION IN ST LOUISE'S

HOLISTIC

Educates heart as well as head

INTEGRATED

Blends the humanistic and the professional, the abstract and the practical

CREATIVE

Ever seeking new or renewed ways to meet changing needs among the student population while maintaining a clear "sense of the possible"

FLEXIBLE

Makes the effort to adopt to the needs of the non-traditional student

EXCELLENCE

In teaching and learning

PERSON ORIENTATED

The institution must be one in which all are respected and valued

COLLABORATIVE

Seeks to work and co-operate with all

FOCUSED

Ever viewed as central to the Vincentian mission of service to the poor

INTRODUCTION TO CRED

As our communities and schools become more diverse our young people need to be equipped with the skills and attitudes to ensure a society where equality and diversity are valued and our relations within and between communities are strong. This is illustrated in our CRED Aims and Objectives.

"I want to ensure our children and young people have the skills and attitudes to ensure a society where equality and diversity are valued and relations within and between communities are strong."

(CRED Policy 2011)

AIMS OF OUR CRED POLICY

St Louise's is a learning, faith community in which all students achieve their full potential in a compassionate, caring ethos. Our vision, values and mission statement embed the aims of the CRED policy. By providing many opportunities in both formal and non-formal settings, inside and outside St Louise's, we promote equality and strive to eliminate discrimination by educating young people to develop self respect and respect for others. As a school we contribute to improving relations between communities by providing the young people with opportunities to build relationships with those of different backgrounds and traditions within the resources available.

OBJECTIVES OF OUR CRED POLICY

The key objectives are as follows:

- ✓ to ensure that all our students, at each stage of their development, have an understanding of and respect for the rights, equality and diversity of all without discriminating
- ✓ to educate our young people to live and participate in an ever changing world, so that they value and respect difference and engage positively with it, taking account of the on-going inter-community divisions arising from conflict and increasing diversity within our society.
- ✓ to equip our young people with the skills, attitudes and behaviours needed to develop mutual understanding and recognition of, and respect for, difference.

"Community relations within education should help young people to gain an appreciation and understanding of their own tradition, a respect for others, and an appreciation of the importance of equality by enabling learners to look for and celebrate their similarities as well as understanding and respecting difference."

(CRED Policy DE 2011)

CRED IN ACTION IN ST LOUISE'S

Community and International Work Overview

CRED funded - Girls Model project

Year 8 students from St Louise's work collaboratively with Year 8 students in Girls' Model school and the adults with learning disabilities on a project focused on LLW, Dance and Drama. The young people meet in each others schools and work towards a Performance which examines Equality and Diversity.

Adults with Learning Disabilities form the Belfast North and West Trust

The adults have been attending St Louise's from 2007 and work alongside our students in Year 11 and 12 on a Drama project. Some of our A Level Drama students teach the adults Drama once a week.

Confucius Project

A Chinese teacher, comes into St Louise's once a week to teach Mandarin to our Year 13 and year 14 students. Some of our Year 14 students will sit the HSK test in December 2014. The specialist teacher has also visited some of our KS3 classes to discuss Chinese life and culture. Four members of staff have visited China as part of the Confucius Institute Programme.

Celebration of Culture Day—One World Day

For the past three years St Louise's has hosted a celebration of culture day when our students from different ethnic minorities have the opportunity to dress in their traditional dress and cook food from their native countries. All of our Year 8 students and Primary 6 and 7 pupils from our local primary school have the opportunity to experience this event.

For the past 4 years St Louise's have hosted sixth year students and two teachers from a school in Sweden. They have a tour of St Louise's, visiting classes and asking questions about peace and reconciliation.

European Studies

St Louise's is involved in the Junior and senior European Studies Project. Our students have the opportunity to communicate with students from different international schools and work on a project together through the use of ICT.

International Schools Award

St Louise's was awarded the full award in September 2012 for three years and will reapply for full accreditation in January 2015.

OTHER CRED INITIATIVES IN ST LOUISE'S

- ✓ Spirit of Generosity
- ✓ Extended schools
- ✓ Student Council
- ✓ Pupil Voice in the Learning and Teaching and Pastoral Domain
- ✓ Class Charters
- ✓ Assemblies
- ✓ Links with the community (YPI)
- ✓ Reaching out Team
- ✓ Healthy School
- ✓ Anti Bullying (anti bullying ambassadors sixth form)
- ✓ Successful Pastoral Programme (lessons)
- ✓ Reading buddies
- ✓ Language Assistants at GCSE and 'A' Level
- ✓ European Day of Languages
- ✓ International students from Universities

