



Bellerive FCJ Catholic College

Strong in action, gentle in manner



Our Mission Statement

The aim of Bellerive is:

- To help everyone within a caring community to grow in faith
 - To respect and value other cultures and faiths
 - To make the most of every given ability
 - To enjoy and achieve personal growth and academic excellence
 - To prepare pupils for their adult life, playing a full part in a modern global society
-

Welcome

from our Headteacher
Mrs Niamh Howlett MSc, NPQH



Welcome to Bellerive and thank you for taking the time to find out more about us.

Bellerive is a popular and oversubscribed Catholic school for girls. We are conveniently located in a pleasant area of the city, adjacent to two parks. Our pupils join us from over 40 primary schools throughout the city and beyond. We are an inclusive and diverse school and our Bellerive family includes pupils from a wide range of different cultural and religious backgrounds.

At Bellerive, we value achievement in its widest sense: academic, personal, social and cultural. The heart of the school is rooted in a strong Catholic tradition and we seek to nurture the spiritual development of each individual pupil.

Bellerive was founded in 1844 by the FCJ Sisters led by an inspiring French woman Marie Madeleine D'Houet. Her aim was to provide Catholic education for girls so that they had the same educational opportunities as boys.

Our Catholic mission is lived out each and every day in school where our pupils and students are encouraged to be their best self, to embrace life and all its opportunities. We seek to inspire our pupils and students to have the courage and confidence to go out into the world, inspired by the values of the Gospel, and make a positive contribution in all that they do.

We recognise that each young person is different but all are made in the image and likeness of God. Our education is person centred and embraces the holistic development of each and every young person.

We welcome pupils of all faiths into our school and 24 different languages are spoken. Much has changed over the years, especially our buildings and facilities that we continue to improve. However, our FCJ values and ethos are as strong today as they have ever been. Marie Madeleine's prayerful wish continues to be as relevant today as it was in 1830.

Courage and confidence, but above all great confidence

We are planning some renovations to our oldest building, Bellerive, in 2022 and we also hope to upgrade our Year 7 yard and play area ready for September 2022.

We know you will want to ask questions about Bellerive so please free to visit our website (www.bellerivefcj.org) or contact us at school and we can arrange a guided tour of the site.



Who we are

Bellerive FCJ Catholic College has been educating young women in Liverpool since 1844. We are proud to be under the trusteeship of the Society of the Faithful Companions of Jesus. The first FCJ school in Liverpool opened at number 3, Great George's Square in 1844 offering instruction in 'geography, use of globes, botany, history, writing, arithmetic and French and Italian languages.' The Foundress wished to establish a boarding school, partly to finance the work among the poor of the city and partly as a means 'of doing good among those who would be in a position to influence others later on.'

The original Bellerive convent building still remains and over the years we have continually improved the site to become the one you see today. 170 years on, we remain rooted in the values that inspired Marie Madeleine to found the school. We are proud of our history but equally determined to prepare our students for the challenges of the world as it is today.

The most recent Ofsted report remarked that Bellerive continues to be a **good school**. In particular, they noted that "pupils are well prepared for their role in a modern global society" and that "leaders have ensured that pupils are motivated and compassionate".

Our vision and aims

Inspired by the Gospel and true to Marie Madeleine's founding ideal, our vision is that FCJ schools are communities of personal and academic excellence.

Strong in companionship, the unique giftedness of every person in these faith communities is recognised, nourished and celebrated.

Our hope and expectation is that, through God's grace working in us all, each young person grows into their best self, with zest for life and the generosity and confidence to use their talents and gifts in the service of others.

Underpinning all that we do are the FCJ values of Companionship, Dignity, Excellence, Fairness, Gentleness and Hope.



The FCJ story

Marie Madeleine d’Houet became a religious sister and foundress of a group of Catholic sisters known as the Faithful Companions of Jesus, which was formed in France in 1820. The first companions worked with women and children in Amiens, and Marie Madeleine founded poor schools, day schools and boarding schools, orphanages, night classes for women and retreat centres.

As the Society developed, Marie Madeleine travelled extensively founding communities in France, England, Ireland, Italy and Switzerland, and today it is spread across the world, including Sierra Leone, Indonesia and Bolivia.

Bellerive FCJ is one of the family of schools run by the Faithful Companions of Jesus, which also includes Upton Hall School FCJ in Wirral. The Bellerive Mission Statement states we aim to be a “worshipping community”. We are lucky to have a beautiful school chapel for classes to use for meditation or guided prayer during the school day.

Morning Prayer takes place in the chapel during Advent, Lent and at times when issues in our world need prayer. School masses take place in the school hall and are one of the highlights of school life. These are prepared by the school Liturgy Group, which is made up of representatives from the vast majority of departments and our school chaplain.

In the Ignatian spirit that inspired Marie Madeleine, we endeavour to find God in all aspects of life and learning, using languages, art, drama, music and other diverse and creative methods to enable the pupils to reflect and pray.

Mass is not the only Liturgy pupils experience at Bellerive FCJ. Penitential services, reflections and even baptisms have been part of our faith experience. Liturgy is for everyone, prepared by everyone and we value the participation of all and the companionship of the priests who love working with our community.

Ofsted have written “Pupils within the school have different religious beliefs but work seamlessly together. They have a clear acceptance of other faiths. Equality and tolerance are strong threads throughout the school.”

“Pupils’ response to and participation in Collective Worship is outstanding. Many pupils are confident to participate and to lead. Formal and personal prayer are meaningful experiences for pupils. They appreciate the whole varied and creative expression of prayer, which in their judgement has something for everyone.” (Section 48 inspection)



The learning experience

Our aim is to enable each pupil to make the most of every given ability and enjoy and achieve personal growth and academic excellence. We will support and encourage them to succeed and prepare for their adult life, playing a full part in a modern global society. Our teaching staff work tirelessly with the students and as a result relationships for learning are very strong. Ofsted concluded that “Staff and pupils practise the school’s values: excellence, companionship, dignity, justice, hope and gentleness.”



Jane Tracy Forster
Barrister specialising
in medical law

Jane Tracy Forster attended Bellerive in the 1970's and then graduated from the University of Liverpool with a degree in law. Jane became a barrister and has built a very successful legal career specialising in medical and employment law. She has been rated as one of the top barristers in her field.

At Key Stage 3 we offer a broad and balanced curriculum, which aims to offer every girl the opportunity to maximise her potential. Bellerive builds on prior learning to help all girls to become confident, successful learners and be responsible citizens. Students study a full range of core and foundation subjects.

At Key Stage 4 students follow a curriculum which enables pathways appropriate to individuals and progression into the Sixth Form, university, further education, apprenticeships or training. We run a comprehensive support programme to prepare students to select their option subjects and work experience takes place during either Years 10 or 11. Students will have careers interviews and presentations from our Sixth Form team to prepare them for decisions affecting their education post-16.



We are committed to ensuring parents are fully involved in their daughter's learning so we report on progress on a regular basis. We are constantly working with our teaching and support staff to ensure that the experiences of all of our students are the very best that they can be.

Ofsted concluded that "Staff are keen to ensure that pupils have a clear moral compass and are equipped with the skills to become successful lifelong learners."

Students continue their learning out of school through regular homework and study. We offer students use of our resources before, during and after school to help them continue their studies.

Homework is set using the online 'Show My Homework' platform and is also recorded in the student journal, an essential tool in our communication with home. The journal is checked weekly by form tutors and we expect parents to sign it as well.

"There is a first class rapport between teachers and pupils. This ensures the atmosphere in class is stimulating and purposeful." (Section 48 inspection)

Our commitment to our students is seen in the ongoing building and improvement programme you will see around the school. We believe that the limits to learning are not set by intellect but by effort, the effort put in by pupils, teachers and parents.



Dame Julie Moore

Julie Moore left Bellerive in 1976. She is a graduate nurse and Chief Executive of University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust. She spent ten years in clinical practice before moving into nursing management. She became a director of Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust in 1998. In 2002 she moved to Birmingham, taking up her current post in 2006. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and received a DBE for services to healthcare in 2011.

Care and support



We want our students to face the future with courage and confidence. Essential to this is a strong and consistent system of pastoral support. We are very proud of the quality of the care we provide here at Bellerive. Our students are looked after by a dedicated team of form tutors, led by Year Heads and members of the leadership team. The form class is the core of Bellerive life and forging a form identity is one of the key aspects of the settling in process in Year 7. Students gather together as a form group at the beginning of every day and the form group takes the lead in collective worship, preparing assemblies about issues that affect them and the world, and in raising money for charities, amongst other activities.

Each year group has a Head of Year. The Heads of Year work very hard to ensure all the students in their year groups are happy, safe and make the right decisions to ensure they fulfil their potential. The Year Heads meet frequently with our senior leadership team to ensure we are providing the best possible care. This level of support has borne fruit and the most recent Ofsted inspection concluded that “**Relationships between staff and pupils are good and support pupils’ development.**”

To ensure the safety and learning of all students, we insist on the highest standards of behaviour at all times. We will not tolerate bullying of any kind and our students have this message reinforced on a regular basis. Equally, we pride ourselves on the excellent standards of uniform we maintain. We want all Bellerive students to feel proud to attend the school and wear our uniform. As the Ofsted team concluded: “**Pupils are overwhelmingly positive about their school experiences.**”



Enriching the learning experience

Bellerive offers a wide range of experiences outside the normal school day. We strongly encourage our students to take advantage of these to develop their cultural and social awareness of the world around them.

Music is a particular feature of Bellerive life. We have a range of choirs and orchestras in which students of all abilities can participate. Our students are also able to access instrumental lessons and are central to performances at celebration evenings, school liturgy and school concerts. Drama is also a growing feature of school life and students have the opportunity to participate in regular school productions.

We have many other opportunities available in sport, where a wide range of teams and clubs participate in netball, football and athletics amongst other sports. In addition to our own excellent facilities, we are fortunate to be able to use the 2 beautiful parks situated adjacent to our school.

Bellerive has run many exciting trips and visits in recent years. These have included visits to Europe and languages exchanges amongst many others. We are committed to ensuring the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme continues to thrive at Bellerive to encourage our students to become independent and resourceful young adults.

To deepen our students understanding of the FCJ values that underpin all we do, we run an FCJ club. Students have worked with many of the FCJ sisters in community and charitable events.



Rosie Cooper - MP

Rosie Cooper MP left Bellerive in 1968. After studying at the University of Liverpool she worked for local businesses including the Littlewoods Organisation. Rosie has been involved in health issues and the National Health Service for the past thirty years. In 1996 she became Chair of Liverpool Women's Hospital and was a trustee of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. During her 28 years as a City Councillor Rosie also became the Lord Mayor of Liverpool in 1992-93.

Sixth Form



Our Sixth Form is at the heart of the school. Bellerive's Sixth Form Centre is housed in a state of the art building overlooking Sefton Park.

Benefits to students include a purpose-built Learning Resource Centre, ICT facilities and the ground floor Bistro for socialising.

The Sixth Form Centre offers outstanding views of Sefton Park and beyond. During break and lunch times, students are able to relax and enjoy the friendly atmosphere.

Students are supported in their pathway to becoming part of modern British and international society through an enrichment programme, giving them the opportunity to join a debating society, learn sign language and other enriching experiences.



Students also make use of specialist facilities across the school site, which include the library and specialist Art, Technology and Science facilities.

Our students are supported every step of the way during the university application process and we are proud of the numerous Bellerive students who have progressed to university courses and workplace apprenticeships.

We offer Free School Meals to eligible students and have a generous Sixth Form Bursary Scheme to support those students in most need of financial support.



Companionship
Justice *Dignity*
Excellence
Hope *Gentleness*



Bellerive FCJ Catholic College

1, Aigburth Drive, Sefton Park, Liverpool L17 3AA
Tel: 0151 727 2064 www.bellerivefcj.org