

**Friends of St Louis, Ballymena**  
**Trustees Annual Report for Financial Year**  
**1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 - 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025**

(Friends of St Louis, Ballymena became a charity on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2014,  
Registered Charity No NIC100223)

Report approved at AGM of Friends of St Louis, Ballymena on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September  
2025 held at St Louis Grammar School.

- The charity's main activities to further its purposes for the public benefit are as follows:

The main charitable purpose of Friends of St Louis, Ballymena (FOSL) fall-into 'The Advancement of Education' category. The group will undertake the advancement of education for the public benefit by promoting, sustaining and increasing individual and collective knowledge and understanding of specific areas of study, skills and expertise.

The charity aims, as outlined in our constitution, to support the educational establishment St. Louis Grammar School, Ballymena. The direct benefits which flow from our purpose shall be the advancement of the education of the pupils of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena and the enhanced knowledge and understanding in our young people through receiving an education which will be supported through such things as bursary awards for our students and availability of funding for facilities not otherwise available through the school budget. Pupils will also benefit from the increased networking opportunities facilitated by the improvement in relationships among the interested parties.

The benefits of Friends of St Louis, Ballymena will be demonstrated through an annual report of our activities submitted to the Board of Governors of the school for inclusion in their annual report to parents. Continuous monitoring of the applications for awards from Friends of St Louis, Ballymena will take place and be evidenced through both the application for and feedback from the students and teachers following an award. Regular independent evaluation of our services shall be measured via the applications and feedback from the student population which will be kept on record.

The beneficiaries of Friends of St Louis are the students who are currently attending the school at present and those enrolled in the future. The purposes of Friends of St Louis are all of direct benefit to the students attending the school presently and in the future. There will be a wider benefit to society due to the young people having availed of opportunities provided to them while attending St Louis Grammar, Ballymena as a result of it being supported by FOSL. None of the purposes of FOSL are harmful. There is no private benefit flowing from our purposes.

## **2024-2025 - Main achievements this financial year**

With the above in mind, alongside the activities that FOSL may be involved in which are listed on the CCNI website, FOSL carried out the following activities in the 2024/25 financial year.

- 2024 marked the Centenary of the founding of St Louis Ballymena and FOSL held several additional events during the 2024/25 financial year. Some of the highlights were:
  - Centenary 5K Run / Walk at the Ecos Centre, Ballymena, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June
  - Centenary Gala Ball at Tullyglass House Hotel, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November
  - Centenary Book Launch and Coffee Morning, Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> December
- Driven by the Centenary, income for this year was an outstanding £127,882 and meant that FOSL were delighted to be able to support the school significantly with a number of projects including:
  1. £24,995 towards a new school minibus this year to enable students to attend a wide variety of extra-curricular events.
  2. £13,064 towards the new Centenary Garden at St Louis. The Centenary Garden is a special space within St Louis grounds where the Sisters of St Louis were originally laid to rest. During the school's centenary year the garden has been renewed as a quiet area for reflection and prayer. Our aim for the garden is that it will not only promote prayer and reflection, but also foster a deep spiritual connection between pupils past and present, staff, parents, alumni, the parish and our wider school community.
- Thank you to Michael McCloskey for his work on the garden and kindly sourcing and donating the statue of Our Lady. Thanks also to The Benefact Trust for their kind support of £2,000 towards the garden.
- We are delighted to have received such strong support from past pupils. The Centenary Ball included sponsorship of over £23,000 from companies run by alumni and a further corporate event in March 2025 raised another £9,000.
- We also received donations from families and friends of St Louis of £14,000 towards projects at St Louis including the new minibus and the Centenary Book. 'Our First Century at Kintullagh' is a wonderful piece of work and provides an unparalleled record of the first 100 years that will be a resource for future historians of the school. Our sincere thanks to all involved in producing the book.



- FOSL continues to promote the charity through the school app and through members' participation in various school events.
  - FOSL has also strengthened and advanced the school's alumni connections by being a platform to enable past pupils to remain in contact with St Louis.
  - In line with our aim of promoting the well-being of the student population of St Louis Grammar, FOSL continues to encourage the students to become more involved in contributing to wider society and carried out some fundraising activities for a variety of organisations throughout the school year.
  - FOSL is currently supporting the school with its goal to develop new Science facilities in St Louis.
- In preparing this report the trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission of NI's Public Benefit Requirement Statutory guidance outlined on their website in Document CCNI PBR1 and also to Document ARR08 regarding accounting and reporting regulations around the Trustees' Annual Report.
  - At the end of the financial year stated above FOSL is in a financial position of surplus to the amount of £40,008. A breakdown of this is outlined in the Receipts and Payments Accounts Document. There are no funds held by FOSL that are materially in deficit at the end of the year.

Principal Address of the Charity:

Friends of St Louis, Ballymena  
 St Louis' Grammar School  
 Cullybackey Rd  
 Ballymena  
 BT43 5DW

- The Trustees of Friends of St Louis are: Mrs F McGuigan, Mrs P Doherty, Mrs M Henry, Mrs J O'Neill, Mrs S McCarry, Mrs H McToal and Mr M Cooper. No further individuals have served as trustees in this financial year.
- Friends of St Louis, Ballymena is governed by a constitution adopted at an EGM on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014. This document has been approved and accepted by the Charity Commission for NI as part of the process of becoming a registered charity. The said document is held on record by the Commission and outlines our charity's purposes and how our charity is administered.

- The purpose of 'Friends of St Louis, Ballymena' is to advance the education of the pupils of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena. This will be carried out through:
  - Promoting the well-being of the student population of St Louis Grammar School Ballymena.
  - Developing effective relationships between the families and friends of past and present students and teachers and others associated with St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena.
  - Engaging in activities that will help establish and provide a stream of funding to help with the school community development in both curricular resources and extra-curricular activities in order to support the school and advance the education of the pupils.
  
- The process for appointing new trustees to the charity is outlined in the constitution and is as follows:
  - The Association may appoint and may terminate the appointment of not less than three people to act as Trustees. The Trustees shall act under the instructions of the Committee who shall, subject to the approval and consent of the Association as determined by a General Meeting, have power to fill vacancies among the Trustees.

Signed Margaret Henry (Trustee) Date 29-1-26

Signed [Signature] (Trustee) Date 29/1/26

Signed [Signature] (Trustee) Date 29/1/26