



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing to you to launch the OLS Sports Facilities Fundraiser. We have a strong tradition of promoting physical activity for all in Our Lady's School. We are proud of how much our students benefit from our vibrant and inclusive sporting and extracurricular culture and it is imperative that we plan ahead to maintain and develop our facilities to enable this.

The aim of our fundraising strategy is to drive the improvement of the sporting facilities used by our students every day. Our initial target is to replace the astroturf sports pitch which, built in 1999, is fast approaching the end of its lifespan. This will cost in the region of €300,000.

The astroturf pitch is critical to school life because it is the only outdoor playing area for Physical Education and extracurricular activities on the school grounds. Every single student in the school uses it regularly whether during the school day for Physical Education classes or at lunchtime or after school for extracurricular activities. It is home to our 15 hockey teams playing in the Leinster League. It is also the venue for our Inter House sports competitions and other whole-school events like our annual Céilí Mór during Wellbeing Week. In short, the astroturf is absolutely central to the active life of the school.

At our core, Our Lady's School has an ethos that is focussed on student wellbeing and the promotion of active and healthy living. In 2017 we were awarded the National Health Promoting Schools flag in recognition of this. As a school we are taking on the 20x20 national challenge recently launched by the Federation of Irish Sport. This initiative aims to increase girls' participation in sport by 20% by 2020, a goal that fits naturally with the focus on wellbeing in our school's vision. In order to protect and grow our ethos of healthy and active living, we must plan to ensure we have the facilities necessary to respond to our students' needs.

We have a significant fundraising goal. It is envisaged to run a number of fundraisers within the school and through the assistance of the Parents' Council. We also aim to apply for a Sports Capital Grant which, if awarded, would make a small contribution towards the overall cost.

The first part of our fundraising strategy is to appeal directly to you, the parents, to assist us in reaching our target of €300,000. We ask you, where financially possible, to make an individual donation to help improve the school's sporting facilities, which will have a significant impact on your daughter's opportunities to pursue a healthy and active lifestyle while in school and beyond.

We are making a special appeal to each family, who is in a position to do so, to make a once-off family contribution of €200. For those who are able to make a larger contribution to the fund, we would be delighted to receive those and any other donations.

All donations will be gratefully received and can be made in a variety of ways, for whatever amount you deem appropriate:


- There is a facility on Easy Payments Plus (link on the school website) to make your donation, whether it be €200 or an amount you wish to determine yourself.
- There is also a link to a GoFundMe page on our school website (click on the fundraising logo for the link).
- Alternatively, cheques may be made payable to 'Our Lady's School' and returned to Reception in the enclosed envelope.

In making this appeal we are conscious of the difficulties both financial and otherwise placed on parents and we therefore do not wish to pressurise people who simply cannot afford to make a contribution. However, to those of you who can help, we appeal to you to do so now.

With your financial assistance we will see the students of OLS using a new astroturf pitch within the next two years fulfilling the Our Lady's vision of offering each student the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and we look forward to your support.

Yours faithfully,


Principal
Marguerite Gorby

Donations can be made directly to the school via the "Pay Now with Easy Payments Plus" button or through "Go Fund Me" using the OLS Sports Facilities Fundraiser button, both of which are located on the Home page of Our Lady's School website (olschool.ie).





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Click on easi-payments or the icon above to donate to the OLS Sports Facilities Fundraiser