

THE HOUSES OF STAR OF THE SEA COLLEGE

The four Houses - Ave, Fay, Nagle and Stella – have been integral to the life of the College and each has developed its own identity over the years. The history of each House offers an insight into the values and the spirit on which Star’s foundations were laid. The House System at Star dates back to the late 1930s when Principal, Mother Angela Johnston, formed and named the first two Houses: Nagle (blue) and Stella (red). In 1948, Principal, Sister Leonard Gartlan, extended the number of Houses to four. She named these Houses Fay (green) and Ave (yellow).

All students enrolled at the College will have an understanding of their House and its spirit. As a valued and active member of a specific House, students develop a sense of belonging to the school community and an appreciation for the history of Star.



Ave

The crest for **Ave** combines the two elements of the original name of the House. It features a series of hands clasped in a continuous circle of friendship and unity. This symbolizes the warm and inclusive nature of the school to all members and its community. The rose represents the original Marian Rose. Throughout the ages Mary has taken on different guises and one of these was the five-petalled rose which was a symbol of her inner beauty and fragility. A small star in the centre of the crest ties all the elements of welcome, Mary and Star of the Sea together.



Fay

The crest for **Fay** incorporates a Celtic cross with a layering of shamrocks, and a star. The traditional Irish symbol of the Celtic cross signifies our historic links to Ireland through Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Order of Nuns and Mother Paul Fay, the co-founder of the College. The shamrocks represent the close links that continued to be fostered with Ireland and our Catholic heritage. The small star that adorns the top of the cross ties our Irish history with the present and the name of our school Star of the Sea.



Nagle

The crest for **Nagle** combines the symbol of the lantern with that of a book. The lantern has come to represent the determination and endeavour demonstrated by Nano Nagle, the founder of the Presentation Order of Nuns, as she sought out the poor to be educated in the darkest corners of her city. Her lantern became a symbol of light and hope. The open pages of the book signify a willingness to learn and to continue to be open to education. The book is lit by the lantern and shows an openness to the light of knowledge and wisdom. A small star adorns the spine of the book to link in with the present and the name of our school Star of the Sea.



Stella

The crest for **Stella** House combines the symbols of Star in the form of a starfish with that of the sea. The original name of the House was ‘Stella Maris’ which is Latin for Star of the Sea. Our Lady, Star of the Sea, is one of the many titles given to Mary and represents the strength, guidance and sanctuary the Mother of Christ has provided to all Christians. The Sea in the Crest represents the ebb and flow of life, the good times and the bad that are there for all of us.