

Teaching Ministry in school – Mary Gough



There is a long history of SHM presence in Ferrybank (founded 1879) – teaching at both Primary and Secondary level, parish ministry etc. The SHM Convent Secondary School educated girls for over 120 years. In 2000 it amalgamated with Slieverue Vocational school to form Abbey Community College – a co-educational second level college.

I teach Religious Education and Personal Development in this College. For me it is a way of living out the RSHM charism – **‘that all may have Life’**.

Teaching offers a great opportunity to be involved in the formation of young people in today’s church and world. The young people have hope, enthusiasm and much to offer to the church and world. I think they need support, encouragement and guidance as they try to discern their own purpose in life. I find it a very life-giving and worthwhile ministry and, as many teachers would say, I often think I have learned as much, if not more, from my pupils as they have learned from me. While high standards of work and good results are important I am much more interested in the quality of respect that pupils show to each other and to their teachers. In the end it is **who** we are that is the important not what we do. At this stage of my teaching career I know that who we are and the way we relate is more important than what we say.

