

BALLYCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Controlled Secondary School

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Principal: Mr I R J Williamson B.Ed, DASE, PQH

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Rev Patrick Barton BA, BTh

Age Range of pupils: 11-18

Admissions Number: 92

Enrolment No: 460

Arrangements to Visit

The school will be open for visits by prospective parents and pupils on **Tuesday 6th January 2026 at 7.00pm**. Arrangements can also be made to visit the school at a mutually convenient time by telephoning the school office.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria, punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 27 January 2026 at 12 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 19 February 2026 at 12 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on 19 February 2026 will be treated as a late application.

Children resident in N. Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be selected before any child not so resident. Applicants should note that they may be required to produce documents verifying their address.

The school will follow the procedure below in processing the Year 8 Intake. Places will be allocated in the following order:

1. To pupils who have a sibling currently attending the school.
2. To pupils from contributory primary schools*, irrespective of academic attainment.
3. To pupils from any other primary schools in the historic catchment area of a 10 mile radius of Ballycastle High School.
4. To pupils from other primary schools beyond the catchment area.
5. To pupils whose surname begins with the same initial letter in the same order as those below:

S A C W E G O H L Z M N R F X Mac U J Mc B P D Q K V I T Y

(The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters)

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letter of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order.

***Contributory Primary Schools:** Armoy Controlled Primary School, Ballycastle Controlled Integrated Primary School, Dunseverick Controlled Primary School, Bushvalley Controlled Primary School, Straidbilly Controlled Primary School, Knockahollet Controlled Primary School, Kilmoyle Controlled Primary School, Ballytober Controlled Primary School, Wm. Pinkerton Mem. Controlled Primary School, Bushmills Controlled Primary School.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or submitted with the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or submitted with it.

Duty to verify

Applicants should note that they may be required to produce documents verifying their address or information pertinent to the school's admission criteria.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2026

Parents who wish to have their child considered for admission after 1 September 2026 should write to the Principal clearly stating this. If over sub-scribed, the above criteria will be applied to these applications only.

Applications and Admissions to Year 8

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/24	92	51	51
2024/25	92	69	69
2025/26*	92	63	65

****The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 includes all Year 8 children admitted to the school including those who have a statement of special educational needs and/or may be attending SPiMS.***

(SPiMS = Specialist Provision in Mainstream School)

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 9 - 12**A pupil will be considered for entry where:**

1. Pupils and parents support the aims, and agree to abide by all rules and conditions, of the school.
2. It can be shown that the Educational/Vocational needs of the pupil seeking admission will be fulfilled by the education provided in the school.
3. Admission of a pupil will not place unreasonable demands on the resources of the school in terms of teacher time, accommodation or supervision.
4. The school's curricular provision matches that in the source school to the degree that a full course in keeping with the statutory requirements can be fulfilled.

Admission of the pupil would not result in the school's approved enrolment being exceeded.

Reports and information from previous schools or other relevant agencies must be made available to inform a decision based on the above criteria.

The criteria for transfer may be applied by the Principal on behalf of the Board of Governors.

In the Event of Over-Subscription

Preference will be given to those:

- (1) Who have a sibling relationship with the school.
- (2) To those living in closest proximity to the school.
- (3) Children resident in N. Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be selected before any child not so resident.