

BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE

12 Old Belfast Road

Downpatrick,

BT30 6SG

Telephone No: 028 4461 2115

Fax No: 028 4461 3116

Email: info@blackwateric.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.blackwateric.org

Principal: Mr Stephen Taylor, BA Hons, PQH

Chairperson Board of Governors: Mrs Ann Toman

Grant Maintained Integrated College

Age Range: 11-16

Admissions Number: 80

Enrolment Number: 400

FURTHER INFORMATION

Open Night for prospective students is on Tuesday 13th January 2026 from 7.00 – 9.00pm
It is possible to arrange 1-1 meetings with the Principal between December 2025 and February 2026
Please call the College on 02844612115 for more information and to make an appointment.

Further information regarding the College is available on our website www.blackwateric.org

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the admissions criteria set out herein.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 2026/2027

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.

The legal responsibilities under which the Board of Governors in the integrated sector have operated, were derived from the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989. The Board of Governors of Blackwater Integrated College also acknowledge the introduction of the new Integrated Education Act 2022. Our aim is to achieve as even a balance as possible in the intake with regard to religious denomination, gender and academic ability. The College will reserve a maximum of 20% of places for students from 'other traditions'. 'Other traditions', for the purposes of these Admissions Criteria, is defined as tradition other than the Catholic or Protestant traditions. The criteria as set out below will first be applied to members of "other traditions"; the additional places will be allocated to the main tradition having the lesser number of applicants. The criteria set out below will be applied separately to Protestant and Roman Catholic applicants. In the event of there being fewer applicants from either tradition than there are places available for that tradition, the balance of places will be firstly available to the "other traditions" and secondly to the remaining tradition.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will take into account information supplied on the Transfer Application. The Board of Governors reserves the right to request such supplementary evidence as it may require in order to support or verify information on any applicant's Transfer Application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the College's admissions criteria is stated on the Transfer Application or attached/uploaded to it.

In the event that there are more applicants than places available, the Board of Governors has determined that the following criteria shall be applied in the order set down:

1. Siblings

Applicants who have a brother(s) or sister(s) or half-brother or half-sister enrolled in the College.

2. Eldest Child

Applicants who are the first child in the family to transfer from primary education or, in the case of a family recently arrived in the area, the first to reach transfer age since arrival.

3. Integration

Applicants who are transferring from a controlled integrated or a grant-maintained integrated primary school, as defined in the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989.

4. Mixed Relationships

Applicants from a mixed relationship, which is here defined as one parent being Catholic and the other parent being Protestant or one parent being of any other religion outside the main traditions in Northern Ireland.

5. Other Applicants

If following the application of the above criteria in order there comes a point where there are more pupils who meet a particular criterion than there are places then selection will be on the basis of initial letter of the surname in the order set out below:

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

The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters and will be changed each year.

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used. If applicants are still tied after this, then priority will be determined amongst them by random selection on computer.

The religious affiliation of an applicant will be determined by reference to the following in the order given:

- 1) Information supplied on the Transfer Application.
- 2) The type of primary school which the pupil attended (i.e. controlled or maintained) will be used to determine the religious affiliation.
- 3) In the case of students transferring from an integrated primary school or the preparatory department of a voluntary grammar school, the school may be asked to supply such information as it can concerning the religious affiliation of the applicant.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on the Transfer Application.

Applicants should note that the provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post-primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's Transfer Application.

Waiting List Policy

The criteria relating to the initial admission of students into Year 8 before the commencement of the 2026 academic year will also be used for entry into Year 8 should admission become possible after the commencement of the 2026 academic year.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications	Total Admissions*
2023/24	80	63	63
2024/25	80	63	63
2025/26	80	56	56

****Total Admissions for the years above 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

Pupils will be considered for enrolment provided that:

1. Their admission will not cause the school to exceed its enrolment number;
2. Their admission will not cause the year group to exceed the admissions number set for it, at their time of entry.
3. In the opinion of the Board of Governors, their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

Applications for admission during the school year will be considered as soon as possible after the application is received.