

COOKSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Coolnafranky Demesne

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Principal: Miss G. J. Evans, BA(Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mrs L Dripps BA

Controlled Secondary

Age Range: 11 – 18

Admissions Number: 180

Enrolment Number: 1100

Parents will be able to access via the school website a school promotional video.

There is a planned open day for Saturday 17th January 2026.

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. In the event of oversubscription the Principal, on behalf of the Board of Governors will apply the criteria in the order indicated to identify which children are to be admitted.

ADMISSIONS

In addition to lodging of an application for admission to any year group the Board of Governors will encourage parents and prospective pupils to accept and sign the school's code of conduct as an indication that they accept and are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school including any behaviour or discipline policy of the school. Information in relation to these may be obtained from the school.

ADMISSION TO YEAR 8

(either in September 2026 or during the course of the 2026/2027 school year)

At all times children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be admitted before children not so resident.

Priority will be given to those applicants:

1. Who are entitled to Free School Meals *(FSME): Priority to be given so that the proportion of such children admitted is not less than the proportion of first preference FSME applications received within the total number of first preference applications received. **

* "entitled to Free School Meals" will mean applicants who are listed on the Education Authority register as entitled to Free School Meals at the date on which their parent or guardian has signed their online post-primary Application Form, or at any date up to and including 24 February 2026 no later than 4pm.

** The calculation of this proportion will be on the basis of first preference applications received by the post-primary school in 24 February 2026.

2. Children attending the following feeder primary schools;

Ballycraigy (Antrim)

Coagh

Donaghmore

Howard Memorial

Moneymore

Phoenix Integrated

Stewartstown

Spires Integrated(Magherafelt)

Walker Memorial (Castlecaulfield)

Ballytrea

Cookstown

Dungannon

Magherafelt

Newmills

Pomeroy (Queen Elizabeth II)

St Malachy's (Drummullan)

Tobermore

Woods

Churchtown

Donaghey

Holy Trinity

Maine Integrated

Orritor

St Joseph's (Antrim)

(In the preceding five years children attending these schools have transferred to Cookstown High School).

3. Other children.

In the event of over-subscription occurring when a criterion is applied the following sub-criteria will be applied as appropriate.

- (i) Applicants who have a sibling currently attending Cookstown High School.
- (ii) Applicants who are the eldest child.
- (iii) Applicants for whom the school is the nearest suitable school from the front door of the Morrison Building.

These sub-criteria will be applied in order of priority as listed. Sub-criterion (iii) will also be used as a deciding factor within any other over-subscribed sub-criterion.

In the event of over-subscription in any criterion then selection will be determined as below:

- Applicants will be selected for admission on the basis of initial letter of surname (as entered on Birth Certificate) in the order set out below.

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

- In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surname 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.

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 and up to 4pm on 24 February 2026 will be treated as a late application.

DUTY TO VERIFY

1. The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicants online Application Form.
2. Inaccurate or misleading information provided on or attached to an online Application Form may prejudice an offer of a place and may lead to withdrawal of a place awarded to an applicant who has thereby gained an improper advantage.

WAITING LIST

Details of the school's procedures for operating a waiting list can be found on the school website or obtained upon request from the school reception.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/2024	180	140	140
2024/2025	180	140	140
2025/2026*	180	164	164

****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 TO COOKSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL FOR YEARS 9 TO 12

A pupil will be admitted provided that the following conditions are met:-

- (a) The school's enrolment number is not exceeded.
- (b) The admission of the pupil would not prejudice the efficient use of the resources in the school.

The school will accept:

1. Children for whom Cookstown High School is the nearest controlled post-primary school to their home.
2. Other children.

In the event of over-subscription in any one of the criteria above, priority will be given, in order, on the basis of:-

- (i) Brothers or sisters attending the school.
- (ii) Brothers or sisters previously attending the school.
- (iii) Those living nearest to the school measured 'as the crow flies' on an Ordnance Survey Map measured from the front door of the Morrison Building.

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO COOKSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL AT YEAR 13 (SIXTH FORM)

Admission will be given to those who fulfil all of the following criteria:

- i. Clearly demonstrate an unambiguous commitment to the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school;
- ii. Clearly demonstrate previous good attitudes to learning commensurate with the high standards at Cookstown High School. This includes a high attendance record, a record of good behaviour and a good academic work ethic. The Principal, on behalf of the Board of Governors, will determine the standards expected;
- iii. A total of 12 points or more will allow students to make a free choice of subjects (subject groups permitting). Pupils are also expected to have achieved at least a grade B in the relevant subject to progress to A level study;
- iv. A total of 8 points enables entry into 1 or more BTEC subject. A levels that are selected must have at least a grade B at GCSE or Merit at BTEC level 2;
- v. A total of 8 points is required for a combined BTEC Double Award Diploma in Health and Social Care along with an additional course. A Merit at BTEC level 2 is required in Health and Social Care, along with a grade B in the GCSE or Merit at BTEC level 2 of the additional course to be followed;
- vi. Students require at least a grade C in GCSE English Language OR GCSE Mathematics. These subjects must be repeated in Sixth Form if a grade C or higher has not been achieved in Year 12.

Points:

Grade A*/A = 3 points

Distinction*/Distinction = 3 points

Grade B = 2 points

Merit = 2 points

Grade C = 1 point

Pass = 1 point

In the event of oversubscription the following sub-criteria will be applied as appropriate:

- (i) Children who have a brother or sister already attending Cookstown High School.
- (ii) Children whose brothers or sisters previously attended the school.
- (iii) Children living closest to the school measured 'as the crow flies' on an Ordnance Survey Map from the front door of the Morrison Building.

These sub-criteria will be applied in order of priority as listed. Sub-criterion (iii) will also be used as a deciding factor within any other over-subscribed sub-criterion.