



RATHFRILAND
HIGH SCHOOL



Rathfriland
High School

2021
Prospectus



Rathfriland High School's

MISSION STATEMENT

'To instil, through the teaching and learning within the school, the pursuit and realisation of excellence alongside values, attitudes and beliefs which foster self growth, self confidence and an appreciation of cultural identity coupled with an understanding and acceptance of diversity.'

Contents

Contents	1	Extra Curricular Activities	13
Welcome From The Principal	2	Admissions Criteria	14
Head Boy and Head Girl	3	Admissions Table	15
Our School Aims	4	Examinations Results	16
Governors and Staffing	5	Examinations Entry	18
Pastoral Care	6 - 7	Charging and Remissions Policy	19
The Curriculum	8	School Uniform	20 - 21
Special Needs Education, Homework and Religious Education	9	Behaviour Expectations	22
Banbridge Area Learning Community	10	Drug Education and Child Protection Arrangements	23
Careers, Reporting and Leavers Destinations	11	Anti Bullying	24
Sport	12		

The content of the Prospectus is accurate as of January 2021.
The school reserves the right to make alterations as it sees fit.

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Primary 7 Pupils,

Rathfriland High is a special place, a school which delivers high quality education in a caring and supportive environment. Located at the heart of the community, we welcome pupils of all abilities and have a proven record of delivering academic outcomes consistently above the N. Ireland average together with excellent pastoral care, in a family-like atmosphere.

The school prides itself on being 'Big Enough to Deliver, Small Enough to Care'. This means we are able to offer a diverse curriculum of over 30 subjects at GCSE or equivalent level. We are proud of our pupils' achievements in public examinations, performing on average 13% higher than the N. Ireland average over the last 4 years (2016-2019). This maintains our status as a top flight non selective school with GCSE results among the best for schools of our type.

Although our enrolment has grown significantly in recent years to our current 359 pupils, our size ensures your child will quickly become known to our dedicated staff and they will receive first class pastoral care from subject teachers, year tutors and senior staff. They will also have access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities (subject to public health advice) from football, hockey, athletics and cross country to coding club, Scripture Union, choir, school band and our equestrian club. There is truly something for everyone and pupils are encouraged to participate in order to broaden their skills, make new friends and develop as individuals.

Our mission statement highlights the pursuit of excellence in our learning and teaching, but recognises the importance of values, attitudes and beliefs in reaching this goal. These are instilled through forming close partnerships with our parents and setting high expectations for engagement, conduct, respect and tolerance. This ensures a safe and orderly environment, which fosters academic and personal development.

Rathfriland High School is a community in which staff, pupils, parents and governors work together to enable each child to realise their potential. In 2015 our provision was quality assured by the Education and Training Inspectorate and was assessed as 'Very Good'.

I hope this prospectus is useful in providing you with further information about our school. Please view our 'Interactive Virtual Tour', which can be found on our website at www.rathfrilandhigh.co.uk

Alternatively, please feel free to contact me at the school to discuss any issues relating to your child's transfer to post-primary education.

Kind regards,
I Matthews
PRINCIPAL



Head Boy and Head Girl

To be appointed Head Girl of Rathfriland High School has been a great honour and privilege of mine. For me, being given this position has become a great opening to give back to the school as it has given me countless opportunities to learn and grow.

Thinking back on my early years here at Rathfriland High School, I thoroughly enjoyed the wide variety of new subjects which I found fascinating and had not been given the chance to study in primary school. These included subjects such as Science, Home Economics and French. Since joining, Rathfriland High School has always made me feel incredibly welcome and accepted given that it has a warm, friendly and embracing environment which is still maintained even in these highly unusual and unpredictable times.

Rathfriland High School offers a wide range of extracurricular activities through its sporting clubs which include netball, football, rugby, hockey and other educational projects. Throughout my time, I have taken great pleasure in representing my school through sport in captaining our netball team in regular matches and tournaments and having participated in cross country running and athletics at the Mary Peter's track. I have also had the terrific experience of representing the French Department in Franco fest - a French enterprise event at Queens University Belfast.

Rathfriland High School has not just been a school to me, it has been a family. I have been so fortunate to attend this school and will be forever grateful to have had the chance to meet friends that will last a lifetime, have been taught by the most incredible teaching staff who have helped create precious memories that I will undoubtedly cherish forever.

Rachel Barlow - Head Girl 2020 - 2021

I was given the amazing privilege of being able to represent Rathfriland High School as Head Boy this year when I was appointed in October 2020.

It has been an honour to have been selected by my teachers for this role and it gave me the opportunity to give back to the school. Throughout these past five years I have had great support from the staff within this school. They always made me feel welcome from the first moment I walked through the doors.

At Rathfriland High School there are many options for trips and clubs to attend and there is something for everyone, whether you are sporty, dramatic, musical or an ICT whizz.

My time here at Rathfriland High School has been brilliant and I will leave here with many happy memories of such a great time in my life. It is hard to believe that I am in my final year. When I leave I will miss it a lot.

Ethan Hanna - Head Boy 2020 - 2021



Our School Aims . . .

To enable each pupil to develop his or her potential to the full – mentally, intellectually, emotionally, physically, morally and socially, thus equipping each pupil to awwhich he or she lives;



To motivate pupils and make learning a worthwhile and enjoyable experience;



To promote tolerance of the views and opinions of others and to be aware of other people's needs and be positive contributors to the community;



To enhance pupils' self-esteem, self-discipline and self-confidence, thus encouraging them to take responsibility for themselves and their activities;



To encourage life-long learning;



To encourage pupils to adopt a healthy lifestyle by involving them in activities and interests which promote mental and physical well-being.



Governors and Staffing

Board of Governors 2019 - 2023

Mr I McConnell Chairman | Mr A Kinley Vice-Chairman | Mr I Matthews Secretary
Mrs H Wilson | Rev P Cleland | Mr W Walsh | Mr W Cochrane | Mrs D McCartan

Teaching Staff 2019 - 2020

Mr I Matthews (Principal) MEd, BEd (Hons), PQH(NI)
Mrs R Chalmers (Vice Principal) MSc, BEd, PQH(NI)
Mr D Barron (Senior Teacher) BSc(Hons, PGCE, PQH(NI)
Mr P Robinson (Senior Teacher) MEd, BSc, PGCE, PGCert.
Mrs D Wilson-Elias (Senior Teacher) BEd
Mrs L Annett (4 day) BEd (Hons)
Miss R Annett (3 day) BSc (Hons), PGCE
Ms J Aschettino (3 day) BA(Hons) French, BA(Hons) Language, PGCE
Mrs L Budde (4 day) BEd (Hons)
Mrs V Fitzpatrick (4 day) BSc(Hons), PGCE
Mrs L Gough (4 day) BEd
Ms S Groves (4 day) BSc (Hons), PGCE
Mrs C Hanna BSc(Hons), PGCE
Mrs L Hare BA(Hons), PGCE
Mrs L Hawthorne (4 day) BMus, PGDE, DipLCM
Mrs L Martin (3 day) BSc(Hons), PGCE
Ms C McAllister BA(Hons), PGCE
Mr J Percy (Hons), PGCE
Mr J Richardson MSc, BSc(Hons), PGCE

Mrs C Stevenson BA(Hons), PGCE
Mrs J Taylor (3 day) BA(Hons), PGCE
Mrs C Tumilty (4 day) BA(Hons), PGCE
Mrs E Wallace (2 day) BSc(Hons), PGCE
Mrs H Wilson BA (Hons), PGCE
Mss E Woods (2 day) BA(Hons), PGCE

Clerical Staff:

Mrs J Cantley
Mrs J Stoops

Technicians:

Mr T Donaldson
Mr S Heenan
Mrs A Kidd
Mrs A McDowell

Classroom and Domestic Assistants:

Mrs L Butler
Mrs J Heenan
Mrs L Johnston
Mrs A Kidd
Mrs D Kinley
Mrs L Laffin
Mrs S Sloane
Mrs A Rogers

Building Supervisor:

Mr S Heenan

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants:

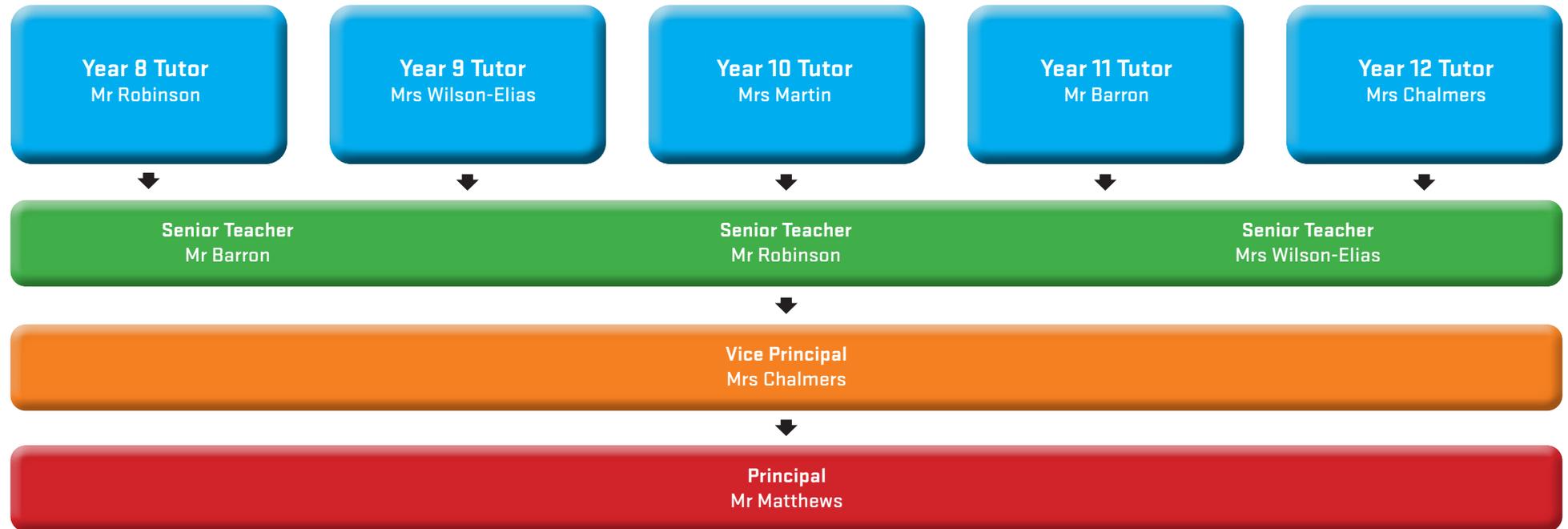
Mr S Heenan
Mrs L Johnston
Mrs A Kidd
Mrs L Laffin
Mrs A Rogers
Mr R Stoops

Rathfriland High School is a Controlled Secondary School catering for Boys and Girls aged 11 - 16 years of age. The expected enrolment for September 2021 is 361

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Organisation

Pupils are placed in a Form Class with a Form Teacher and a Year Tutor. The Year 8 Tutor is Mr P Robinson, Senior Teacher.



Parents with concerns regarding their child's welfare or progress should first make contact with the Year Tutor.

If concerns continue then contact a Senior Teacher who may inform the Vice Principal and/or the Principal if further action is needed.

During time with Year Tutors and Teachers school rules are highlighted, the reasons behind them explained and why they are important in contributing to an ordered and safe school community. Academic progress, Merit Awards, Attendance, Behaviour and Uniform are also monitored.

Rathfriland High School adopts a positive approach to behaviour, expecting pupils to behave in a responsible manner both to themselves and by showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people. This standard of behaviour is expected from all pupils at all times, both inside the school as well as on their way to and from school.

Pastoral Care

School Counsellor

The pastoral guidance given by Year Tutors and the Senior Teachers is supported by the School Counsellor. The Counsellor is fully qualified and works in school one day a week.

Working with Parents

The co-operation of parents is sought actively in relation to maintaining high standards of behaviour with regard to pupil attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, and the correct wearing of full school uniform. They should also ensure that their child is properly equipped for school including school bag, pens, pencils, PE kit and that they supervise homework.

The following policies help support Pastoral Care in our school:

- Anti-Bullying
- Child Protection
- Attendance
- Positive Behaviour and Discipline
- Pastoral Care
- Substance Abuse
- Special Educational Needs
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Health and Safety
- Health and Wellbeing

The Anti-Bullying and Child Protection Policies are sent, in summary form, to all parents but if you wish to receive a copy of any of the other policies, please contact the school.



The Curriculum

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Table

Subject	Year 8	Number of Periods	Year 9	Number of Periods	Year 10	Number of Periods
Art & Design	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Careers Education					✓	1
Drama	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1
English	✓	6	✓	6	✓	6
Geography	✓	2	✓	3	✓	2
History	✓	3	✓	2	✓	2
Home Economics	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
ICT	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Learning For Life & work	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1
Literacy	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1
French	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Music	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Mathematics	✓	6	✓	6	✓	6
Numeracy	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1
Physical Education	✓	4	✓	4	✓	3
Personal Development	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1
Religious Education	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Science	✓	5	✓	5	✓	5
Technology & Design	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Economic Awareness					✓	1

For the first three years in Rathfriland High School pupils follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Classes are streamed in Year 9 for core subjects and practical sets. After parental, pupil and teacher consultation, choices are made towards the end of Year 10. All pupils in Rathfriland High School follow examination courses to GCSE, BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate, BTEC Level 2 First Award and Essential Skills. Pupils, depending on choices made, have the opportunity to study up to 9 GCSEs or equivalent. Results are consistently well above Northern Ireland averages for a school of our type.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Table

Subject	Years 11 & 12 Statutory	Option Choice	Number of Periods
Art & Design GCSE		✓	4
Business & Communication Systems GCSE		✓	4
Business Studies GCSE		✓	7/4
BTEC First Certificate in Children's Care, Learning & Development		✓	7
BTEC Level 2 Extended Cert. Countryside and Environment		✓	7
BTEC Level 1 Level 2 First Award Engineering		✓	7
BTEC Level 1 Level 2 First Award in Creative Digital Media		✓	7
BTEC Level 1 Level 2 First Award in Sport		✓	7
BTEC Level 1 Level 2 First Award in ICT		✓	4
Careers Education	✓		1
Construction GCSE		✓	6
English GCSE/Essential Skills	✓		5
English Literature GCSE		✓	4
Games	✓		2
Geography GCSE		✓	4
Health and Social Care GCSE		✓	4
History GCSE		✓	4
Home Economics: Food and Nutrition GCSE		✓	4
Taught Personal Development	✓		1
French GCSE		✓	4
Music GCSE		✓	7
Mathematics GCSE/Essential Skills	✓		5
Further Maths GCSE		✓	4
Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies GCSE		✓	4
Occupational Studies Single/Double Award		✓	9
Prince's Trust Award		✓	4/3
BTEC Public Services		✓	7
Religious Education GCSE		✓	4
Statutory Requirement Religious Education	✓		1
Science - Double Award		✓	8
Science - Single Award		✓	4
Science - Occupational Studies	✓		4
Technology & Design GCSE		✓	4
Technology - Occupational Studies		✓	3/4
Vocational Skills		✓	4

Special Needs Education, Homework and Religious Education

Special Needs Education

The progress of all pupils is monitored throughout the year through a process of formal testing, assessment, reviews and reports. Our aim is to ensure that prompt intervention strategies are put in place when deemed necessary.

Those pupils identified as having a Special Educational Need will benefit from Individual Education Plans drawn up according to their statement of need.

Staff provide help and support as required to meet the individual needs of the pupil and facilitate teaching and learning in the key areas of reading, writing, communication skills and mathematics, enabling pupils to achieve.

Emphasis is placed on the skills in which the pupil already has confidence and these are built on in a caring atmosphere to encourage each child to overcome particular difficulties.

The School follows the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

Homework

An annual Key Stage 3 Homework Timetable is drawn up and each pupil is provided with a homework diary to enable an accurate record to be kept for both the pupil and parents.

The school sees homework as an integral part of the learning process and to this end homework is regularly set and marked.

Homework provides an opportunity for pupils to:

- Develop good work habits and study skills
- Complete work done in class
- Extend work done in class
- Practice skills learned in class

Homework may take any of these forms:

- Oral work • Reading
- Writing • Practical
- Research • Projects • Coursework

How can parents help?

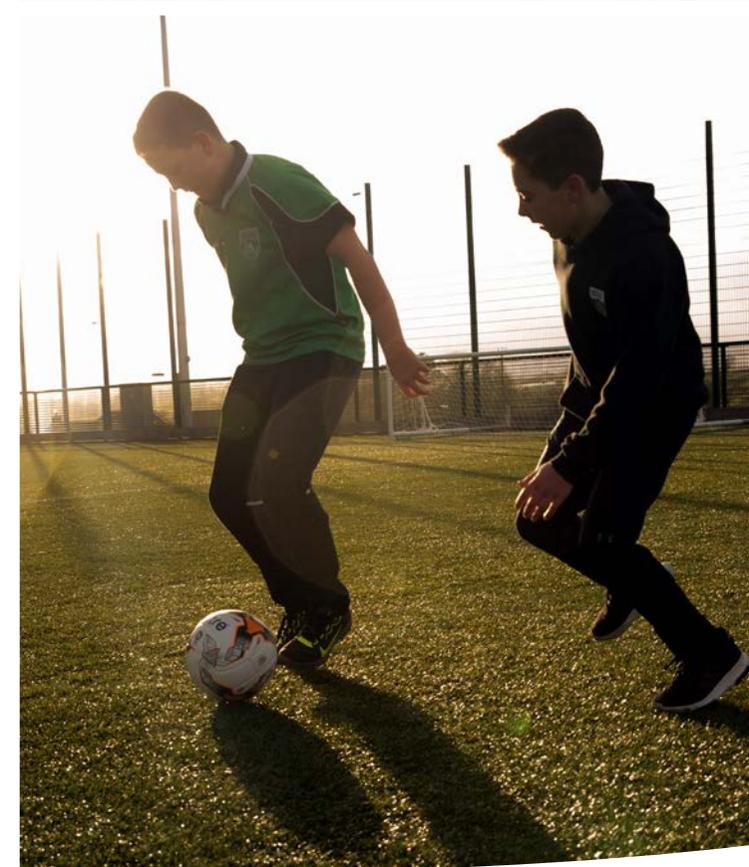
- Parents are asked to encourage pupils by checking that homework set are completed and handed in on time.
- Provide a quiet place to work.
- Encourage a routine for homework.
- Sign Pupil Planner weekly.

Religious Education

During the week pupils attend collective acts of worship in the morning conducted by Senior Staff supported by local clergy. The content of the morning assembly is centred on Christian teaching thus supporting the ethos of the school.

Religious Education is taught to all classes with Years 8 to 10 following the guidelines set out in the core syllabus for Religious Education in Northern Ireland. In Years 11 and 12 pupils follow external examination courses as appropriate and a course ensuring compliance with the statutory requirements.

Any parent wishing to absent their children from collective worship and/or Religious Education classes should arrange to meet with the Principal.





Banbridge Area Learning Community

Rathfriland High School works in partnership with 6 other schools in the Banbridge area and the local Southern Regional College to provide a broader curriculum offer compliant with the Entitlement Framework. This allows the school to offer subjects to BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate level, equivalent to 2 GCSE passes A* - C grades, in a range of subjects. BTEC Level 2 First Awards are the equivalent to 1 GCSE pass at A*-C level. Double Award Occupational Studies is also available and carries an equivalence of 2 GCSE subjects. The current curriculum offer to pupils is 11 general subjects and 19 applied subjects.

Careers and Reporting

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Young people leaving Rathfriland High School are faced with challenges and choices that are, in many ways, very different from those faced by previous generations.

The high quality programme at RHS enhances effectiveness and raises achievement by maximising an individual's potential, promoting positive attitudes to learning, raising aspirations, increasing motivation and linking learning to the world of work.

CEIAG provision consists of 5 core components:

1. Careers Education

Discrete Careers Education takes place at Key Stage 3 and 4.

2. Development of Employability Skills

Meaningful learning opportunities are provided which give the pupils the skills that they will be able to use in their lifelong learning process.

3. Work Related Learning Experiences

All Year 12 take part in work experience for 1 week which enhances employability skills and gives relevance to their learning programme.

4. Careers Information

High quality careers information enables pupils to make informed decisions regarding their careers planning and management. Pupils can avail of various resources such as ICT, the school library, guest speakers and external visits.

5. Careers Advice and Guidance

The Careers Service NI provides direct support to pupils in school.

Reporting

Parents are informed of their child's progress through regular class assessments and homework marking and will receive 3 Tracking Reports outlining progress throughout the year. A full report is available in June of each year.

These assessments are used to ensure that pupils are placed in classes appropriate to their needs and ability. Pupils may be transferred to a more appropriate class depending on their performance and needs. December assessments in Year 10 are particularly significant for forthcoming GCSE class formation. Levels of Progression in Communication and Using Maths will be reported at the end of Year 10.

Communication with parents

The SIMS parent App allows parents to access information on their child's conduct/achievements/attendance and academic performance. Up to date information on school dates, letters and events is also available. This information can be accessed by mobile phone/ App or an online portal.



Leavers Destinations





Sport

Aims

Physical Education at Rathfriland High School provides a broad and balanced educational experience which seeks to promote the “spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils at the school.” It is the desire of the PE Department to provide a PE curriculum which is both exciting and challenging and contributes towards sporting ability at all levels. Through this it is hoped that pupils will continue to participate in physical activity once they leave school.

Sports Curriculum

Key Stage 3 PE - 1 or 2 periods for PE and 2 periods games

Key Stage 4 PE - 2 periods for games

Option at GCSE level to study BTEC First Level 2 in Sport

Sports Offered

Athletics | Badminton | Basketball | Cross-Country
Dance | Gymnastics | Hockey | Netball
Rugby | Soccer | Table-Tennis | Tennis | Volleyball

Sports Facilities

1 3G pitch
1 Gymnasium
1 Fully equipped Fitness Suite
1 Football pitch
1 Hockey pitch
1 Athletics track
1 Netball court
4 Tennis courts



Extra Curricular Activities

There is a wide range of clubs and activities in Rathfriland High School which pupils are encouraged to join including:

- Athletics and Cross Country
- Choir
- Cultural Visits
- Dance
- Drama
- Equestrian Club
- Football - boys and girls
- Homework Club
- Music Tuition - brass, woodwind, guitar, voice, piano, strings, drum-kit
- Netball
- Rugby
- School Band
- School Newsletter
- Ski Trip
- Scripture Union
- Theatre Trips
- European Trips
- Various Subject Support Sessions
- Science Events
- Coding Club

Disclaimer: The above Extra Curricular Activities are subject to the Public Health Authority (PHA) advice at that time.



Admissions Criteria

The lodging of an application is interpreted by the Board of Governors as an indication that the parents and the child concerned accept and are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school including any code of conduct or discipline policy of the school. Information in relation to these may be obtained from the school.

Admission to Year 8

(either in September 2021 or during the course of the 2021 – 2022 school year)

In selecting children for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected before any child not so resident.

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

1. Pupils who attend one of the following primary schools:-
Iveagh | Bronte | Ballydown | Drumadonnell | Newcastle | Cumran | Windsor Hill
2. Pupils for whom Rathfriland High School is the nearest controlled secondary school.

3. Other Pupils.

In the event of over-subscription within any of the above 3 criteria the following sub-criteria will be applied as appropriate, in the order indicated, to determine which children should be admitted:

- i. Pupils who have or had a brother or sister enrolled at the school and children of present permanent members of staff;
- ii. Pupils who have had a parent enrolled in the school;
- iii. Pupils who are the eldest child of a family or are the brother or sister of an eldest child whose admission to Year 8 at the time of the Transfer Procedure was refused on a previous year due to oversubscription;

- iv. Those pupils who live closest to the school (as the crow flies) measured by Spatialest using door to door measurements.

Sub-criterion (iv) will also be used as the deciding factor should over-subscription occur within sub-criterion (i) or (ii) or (iii).

Applicants should note that where an address contained within a Transfer Form qualifies it for admission, then the information may be verified. The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Transfer Form. Applicants will be notified directly by the school should any such verification be required.

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by the school 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 Form.



Admissions Table

Year	Number of Applications	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions *
2018 - 2019	66	74	68
2019 - 2020	66	78	66
2020 - 2021	86	87	85

Annual Attendance Rate
 In 2019 - 2020 the Average Daily Attendance rate was 91.2 %

EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATIONS RESULTS

GCSE RESULTS SUMMARY	2020
Pupils achieving 5+ A* to C in at least 5 subjects	97 %
Pupils achieving 5+ A* to E in at least 5 subjects	100 %
% of pupils gaining no grades at A* to G	0 %

Exam Board	Subject	Number Entered	Number Successful
OCN	Mathematics Essential Skills Levels 1/2		9
OCN	English Essential Skills Levels 1/2		10
CCEA	Occupational Studies Single Award	58	53
CCEA	Princes Trust Achieve Award Level 2	15	15

Performance in Public Examinations 2016 - 2017 to 2018 - 2019

Performance Indicator	2017 - 2018		2018 - 2019		2019 - 2020	
	School	NI Average	School	NI Average	School	NI Average
% Achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grades A* - C (or equivalent)	80	72	93	80	97	Not Available



Examinations Entry

2020 GCSE RESULTS BY SUBJECT Number of pupils entered and achieving grades:

Subject	Total	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U	X
Art & Design	16	2	3	3	3	4	1	0	0	0	0	0
Business Studies	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Business & Communication Systems	16	0	4	6	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
English Literature	25	3	10	6	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
English	57	1	14	13	13	15	2	0	0	0	0	0
French	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Geography	16	2	8	2	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
History	11	5	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home Economics	11	1	6	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Maths	56	1	9	14	11	18	3	1	0	0	0	0
Further Maths	10	1	2	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
Music	11	1	3	3	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies	18	0	1	2	0	10	5	0	0	0	0	0
Religious Studies	14	1	1	2	4	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Single Award Science	30	2	3	1	10	12	2	0	0	0	0	0
Technology	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

Subject - AQA	Total	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	U	X
Technology	18	0	0	5	5	0	5	2	1	1	0	0

	Total	**	*A	AA	AB	BB	B1	C1	C2	CC	CD	DD	DE	EE	U
Double Award Science	24	1	2	6	5	4	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

BTEC First Level 2 Certificates

Subject	Total Entries	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Level 1
BTEC Sport	15	3	1	3	5	2
BTEC IC&T	26 & 6	1	5	6	18	2
BTEC Media	1	0	0	0	1	0
BTEC Childcare	16	12	0	2	0	0
BTEC C&E	25	3	1	5	16	0

Total Entries	% achieving A*	% achieving A	% achieving B	% achieving C
69	39	9	19	28

Charging and Remissions Policy

Education in Rathfriland High School is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order. Payment may be required for board and lodging on an overnight trip, though charges will be remitted to those parents on Income Support or Family Income Supplement.

In Technology and Home Economics, pupils may purchase completed products or produce. The charge made will reflect school provided components or ingredients. The school will, as it has done in the past, appeal to parents from time to time for voluntary donations but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged in any way if parents choose not to make a contribution.

The School may take part in 'optional extras' which are not connected with the School's formal curriculum, such as visits to the theatre or trips abroad. Charges will be made for these but it is again stressed that failure to participate in these will not affect a child's performance at school. Written parental consent will be required before a child participates in school trips.

School Fund

This is a voluntary contribution which we hope parents will support. The rate is £25 per family for 2021 - 2022.

This money helps us to meet expenses which are not fully paid for by the Department of Education or the SELB. Such items include travelling expenses of sports teams, running costs of the school minibus, subsidising the cost of school outings and/or educational visits and supplementing the purchase of books and equipment. A copy of the School Charging Policy is available from the school.





School Uniform

The wearing of school uniform is compulsory and develops equality of self-esteem whilst assisting in the promotion of good order and discipline.

Girls

Blazer	Black blazer with school badge
Skirt	Black skirt with double inverted pleats
Shirt	White long-sleeved blouse
Tie	School Clip on tie or prefect tie
Jumper	Black v neck jumper (optional)
Shoes	Black shoes, low heeled
Socks or Tights	Black knee socks or black tights
Coat	Plain black coat
Scarf	School scarf or plain black scarf

PE

Blouse	School PE shirt
Skort	School skort
Socks	Black socks or white ankle socks
Shoes	Gym shoes

Outdoor Jackets

Please note that coats should be worn over school blazers and they should be BLACK and not have large or coloured logos emblazoned on them.

- Jewellery - Girls may wear one stud in the lobe of each ear. In the interests of Health/ Hygiene & Safety, dangling earrings are not permitted. Nose and brow piercing are forbidden and boys are not permitted to wear earrings.
- Make-up and nail varnish must not be worn.
- Hair style and general appearance should be of a standard traditionally acceptable to the school.
- Girls must wear regulation school skirts. These must not be altered - shortened, taken in etc.
- Girls must wear flat heeled black shoes.

School Uniform

Boys

Blazer	Black blazer with school badge
Trousers	Black trousers
Shirt	White long-sleeved shirt
Tie	School Clip on tie or prefect tie
Jumper	Black v neck jumper (optional)
Shoes	Black shoes
Socks	Black socks
Coat	Plain black coat

PE

Shirt	School rugby shirt
Shorts	Black shorts
Socks	Emerald green hooped socks
Shoes	Gym shoes
Boots	Football boots

Suppliers

Uniforms can be purchased from retail outlets in Banbridge and in S.M. Shoes Rathfriland. School badges for blazers and jumpers are available from the school. Rugby shirts, rugby socks and sweatshirts may also be purchased. A school tracksuit may also be purchased from Donaghys, Banbridge and is an optional addition to the PE Uniform.

Clothing Grant

The Southern Education & Library Board is prepared to give assistance with the purchase of school uniform to those parents who are eligible. Forms are available from the school office.

It is very important that all articles are clearly marked with pupil's name in indelible ink.



Behaviour Expectations

Ethos

This is the distinctive character and atmosphere of our school. The nature and concept of ethos is demonstrated in all aspects of school life.

Rathfriland High School is co-educational, non-selective and non-denominational with a Christian ethos which respects the rights and beliefs of the individual. Traditional values which are transmitted include:

- Tolerance
- Respect
- Honesty
- Industry
- Integrity

Rights and Responsibilities

Everyone in the school community has rights but they also have responsibilities:

Rights

Pupils and Staff have a Right:

- To be safe
- To be heard
- To be able to learn and teach without unnecessary interruption
- To fair treatment
- To be treated with respect

Parents have a Right:

- To be heard
- To have their child taught in a safe, supportive environment
- To fair treatment
- To be treated with respect
- To be informed of their child's progress

Responsibilities

Pupil Responsibilities

- To respect the rights of teachers to teach and other pupils to learn
- To accept direction and correction by staff in the classroom and elsewhere
- To arrive properly equipped to school each day
- To arrive on time each day and for each class wearing the correct uniform
- To bring completed homework to school on time
- To allow other pupils to get on with their work
- To abide by school rules
- To treat with respect all school property and that of others

Staff Responsibilities are:

- To be fair and consistent
- To have high expectations of pupils in all respects
- To use appropriate learning and teaching strategies
- To reward pupil achievement
- To maintain good classroom management
- To promote a climate of mutual respect
- To maintain a stimulating learning environment
- To exhibit professionalism and integrity
- To implement school policies and rules

Parents' Responsibilities are:

- To ensure their child comes to school on time every day, wearing the correct uniform and fully equipped
- To ensure their child has homework and coursework completed and delivered on time
- To support the school in it's expectations of pupil behaviour
- To provide absence notes
- To attend parent/teacher meetings
- To treat school staff with respect

Sanctions regarding unsuitable behaviour

Any action taken will be guided by the following aims:

- To bring about an improvement in the behaviour of the pupil(s) concerned for their own benefit
- To maintain the right of other pupils to learn and teachers to teach

The following strategies and/or sanctions may be used depending on the degree or extent of misbehaviour:

- Verbal warning
- Additional work
- Detention – break, lunch or after-school
- Report – Daily, Weekly, Homework, Subject, Individual
- Meeting with parents
- Counselling and assistance from outside agencies
- Supervised withdrawal from class
- Suspension
- Expulsion

The cost of repair or replacement of items damaged will be charged to parents.

Drug Education and Child Protection Arrangements

Drug Education

The school's pastoral care system, the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and the school policy on Substance Abuse ensures that the well being of our pupils is paramount. Through our teaching, pastoral procedures and specific health related events; our pupils are enabled to make healthy, informed choices by providing them with knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.

The school takes seriously its responsibility with regard to the issue of drugs awareness and in line with Department of Education advice and regulations we are continually developing our policies and strategies in this area of the School Curriculum. Drugs related issues are built into the curriculum through the school's Learning for Life and Work classes whilst the teaching programmes of Science, Religious Education and Home Economics in particular highlight specific topics.

Child Protection

Rathfriland High School aims:

- To seek to provide a safe, pleasant and regulated environment for all children.
- To ensure the safety and welfare of pupils.
- To foster a caring atmosphere where pupils feel valued and able to voice their concerns.
- To develop an awareness amongst all school staff of potential signs of abuse in children.
- To establish clear procedures to be followed in a case of suspected abuse.
- To comply with relevant legal requirements and implement relevant DE guidance.

Mrs Chalmers the Vice Principal is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection in school. Mr Matthews , Mr Barron and Mr Robinson all Deputy Designated Teachers for Safe Guarding.



Anti Bullying

Rathfriland High School believes that its pupils have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied.

This school has a clear policy on the promotion of good behaviour where it is made clear that bullying is a form of anti-social behaviour. It is wrong and will not be tolerated.

It is important that pupils and parents are fully aware that any bullying complaints will be dealt with firmly, fairly and promptly. Bullying is not an inevitable part of school life or a necessary part of growing up, and it rarely sorts itself out. It is clear that certain jokes, insults, intimidating/threatening behaviour, written abuse and violence are to be found in our society. No one person or group, whether teacher or pupil, should have to accept this type of behaviour. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed, will a child be able to benefit fully from the opportunities available at Rathfriland High School.

What can Pupils do if they are being Bullied?

- Remember that their silence is the bully's greatest weapon
- Tell themselves that they do not deserve to be bullied, and that it is wrong!
- Be proud of who they are; it is good to be an individual
- Try not to show that they are upset, it is hard but a bully thrives on someone's fear
- Stay with a group of friends/people, there is safety in numbers

- Be assertive shout "No", walk confidently away, go straight to a teacher/member of staff/Year Tutor
- Do not fight back - it may make things worse
- Always try to tell an adult they trust straight away - they will get immediate support

What action is taken by Rathfriland High School when Bullying is suspected?

- Talk to the suspected victim, the suspected bully and any witnesses. If any degree of bullying is identified, the following actions will be taken:
- Help, support and counselling will be given to both the victim and the bully.
- When bullying is identified the incident is recorded in the Bullying Log and Pastoral Records for future reference and disciplinary steps are followed as required.



Year 8 Impressions of RHS



Hi, my name is Erin McNeill and I came to Rathfriland High School from Cumran PS in Clough. I was very happy to be going to RHS because my big brother and sister go there and my little sister will be coming soon. When it was my first day at Rathfriland, I was a bit scared but I had nothing to worry about and I am very happy here. So I think that if you are looking for a good High School then look no further than RHS.



Hello, my name is Ethan Hillis and I went to Drumnadonnell PS. It has been a strange year as I have had to move schools during Covid - 19. I was disappointed when I found out that practical tasks in certain subjects were not going to take place. However, I am glad that RHS has made it as safe and as enjoyable as possible. My favourite subjects are Geography, English, Maths and Science.



My name is Maisy Ellison and I am in 8A1. I went to Windsor Hill Primary School in Newry. On my first day in Year 8 I was a bit nervous, the school seemed very big but due to Covid - 19 we remain in the same classroom all day and do not have to move around the school. I have made some very good friends; the teachers are very friendly and we are like one big happy family! I enjoy the variety of new subjects the RHS has to offer. My favourite subjects are French, Science and English. I am looking forward to taking part in some after school activities but it may be later on in Year 8 before this happens. I am so glad that I chose Rathfriland High School.



abc

Hi, my name is Nina Sneddon and I went to Bronte Primary School. I started RHS IN September 2020. I have loved it so far and all the teachers are nice. My favourite subjects are PE, Art and Maths. Unfortunately, the virus came so we didn't get the chance to move around the school, I am really looking forward to doing the practical subjects of Science, HE and Technology. We get to do PE and Games which is fun. You will really like Rathfriland High School and should enjoy your time here. Oh, and the canteen food is yummy too!



Hello, my name is Billy Bennett, I went to Iveagh Primary School and I now attend Rathfriland High. I really enjoy the variety of subjects that you have each day. I have also met lots of new friends since I have joined this school. It has been a difficult year with Covid - 19 but we all get through it together. I hope that you make the right decision, like I did, to move to RHS.





RATHFRILAND HIGH SCHOOL

76 Newry Street | Rathfriland | Newry | County Down | BT34 5PZ | Tel: 028 4063 0374 | Fax: 028 4063 1309

Email: info@rathfrilandhigh.rathfriland.ni.sch.uk | Web: www.rathfrilandhigh.co.uk

