

**RATHFRILAND HIGH SCHOOL**

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**Principal:** Mr I Matthews MEd, BEd. (Hons), PQH(NI), CTeach(Leadership)

**Chairperson of the Board of Governors:** Mr W J S McConnell, FCA

**Controlled Secondary**

**Age Range:** 11-16+

**Admissions Number:** 76

**Enrolment Number:** 380

**Parents and prospective pupils will be invited to visit the school during 'Open Evening' on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 at 7pm.**

**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. The Principal, on behalf of the Board of Governors, will apply the criteria in the order indicated to select pupils for admission.

**ADMISSION 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 2025 or during the course of the 2025/2026 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 submitted with the application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application or submitted with it.**

1. Children who attend one of the following primary schools:

Abercorn, Ballydown, Bronte, Cumran, Dromara, Drumadonnell, Edenderry (Banbridge), Fairhill, Iveagh, Newcastle, Poyntzpass, Windsor Hill

2. Children for whom Rathfriland High School is the nearest controlled secondary school.

3. Other children.

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) Children who at the date of application, have a **child of the family\*** currently enrolled at the school and children of present permanent members of staff.
- (ii) Children who, at the date of their application, are the eldest child of the family eligible to apply for admission to the school; are the sibling 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; are 5 years younger than their next sibling; where the family has moved residence from another area; or where an older sibling cannot attend a mainstream school.
- (iii) Those pupils who live closest to the school (as the crow flies) measured by Google Maps, using door to door measurements.

Sub-criterion (iv) then (v) then (vi) will be used as the deciding factor should oversubscription occur within sub-criterion (i) or (ii) or (iii).

- (iv) Children who, at the date of application, are the eldest as established by date of birth as entered on a Birth certificate.

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

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

This order was determined by random selection. 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.

- (vi) Children will be ranked for acceptance on the basis of a computer-based process, which will make use of the names as entered on the online application.

\* Please note the board of governors consider a **‘Child of the family’** to cover:

- A child born to a married couple or to a couple in a civil partnership;
  - A child born to a co-habiting couple;
  - A child born to a single parent;
  - A child of either/any of those people by a previous marriage, civil partnership or relationship;
  - A child living with a couple who has been treated as a “child of the family” whether there is a marriage or a civil partnership or not;
  - A child living with an individual, who has been treated as a “child of the family”;
  - An adopted or fostered child;
  - A situation where for example an orphaned cousin is being brought up with a family or individual;
- The child should be a child of the family as at the date of application.

**During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 12 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 at 12 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and up to 4pm on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 will be treated as a late application.**

#### **DUTY TO VERIFY**

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.

#### **WAITING LIST**

The school does not operate a waiting list.

#### **APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8**

| <b>Year</b>    | <b>Admissions No</b> | <b>Total Applications All Preferences</b> | <b>Total Admissions *</b> |
|----------------|----------------------|---|---------------------------|
| <b>2022/23</b> | 66                   | 73  | 74                        |
| <b>2023/24</b> | 76                   | 73  | 76                        |
| <b>2024/25</b> | 76                   | 70  | 76                        |

\* Includes pupils with a statement of educational need.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR YEARS 9 – 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, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, would not prejudice the efficient use of resources in the school.