

**Derrychrin Primary School**  
30 Drumenny Road  
Coagh  
Cookstown  
BT80 0BX

**Maintained Primary School**

**Enrolment Number: 206**  
**Admissions Number: 29**

**Telephone No: (028) 8673 7456**  
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**Website: [www.derrychrinps.org](http://www.derrychrinps.org)**

**PRINCIPAL: Mr. Ciaran McElroy**  
**CHAIR OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Mr. Colm McElroy**

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

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes the Principal appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the admissions criteria.

### ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 7 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 21 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 21 January 2026 and up to 4 pm on 26 January 2026 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 26 January 2026 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 23 March 2026.

### COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

Any child who reaches their 4th Birthday on or before 1st July 2026 is of Compulsory School Age. Under the School Age (NI) Act which became law in Northern Ireland in April 2022, 'compulsory school age' also includes those children who deferred commencing Primary 1 in September 2025 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).

Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school before those who are not so resident.

### The following children will be eligible to apply for Year 1 in September 2026:

Parents of these children can apply for Year 1 or they may decide to defer and apply for pre-school. They are not permitted to apply for both a pre-school and Year 1 place.

The Principal will apply the following criteria in the order indicated to identify which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education or on transfer from another school.

1. Children who reside in Ballinderry Parish at the date of the application.
2. Children who have a child of the family enrolled at the school at the date of the application.
3. Children who reside in Ballinderry Parish at the date of the application and for whom Derrychrin PS is the nearest Catholic Maintained primary school. For purposes of measuring, we will use Google Maps and measurement will be by way of walking distance.
4. Children for whom the school is the Catholic Maintained primary school nearest to their normal place of residence at the date of the application. For purposes of measuring, we will use Google Maps and measurement will be by way of walking distance.

**\*Ballinderry Parish map available on request**

### TIE-BREAKER CRITERIA

In the event of over-subscription after the above criteria has been applied, children will be selected using the following tie-breaker criteria in the order of **Method B** and then **Method A**.

**Method B:** - Random selection of Letters: applicants will be ranked based on the initial letters of their surname as recorded and verified by the entry on the Birth Certificate in the order set out below:

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

This order was determined by random selection.

In the event of surnames beginning with the same 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 initial of the forename will be used, and if necessary, the subsequent letters of the forenames.

**Method A:** - Age: children will be ranked by age moving from oldest to youngest as established and verified by the date of birth recorded on their Birth Certificate.

### DUTY TO VERIFY

Applicants should note that they may be required to produce documents verifying their address. This is in addition to the standard requirement to provide a birth certificate in order to demonstrate whether or not a child is of compulsory school age. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide verifying documents according to the required deadline may result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of a primary school to offer a place.

**Any 2 of the following documents can be used to verify address at which child is resident:**

- *Bank or building society statement;*
- *Utility bill (for instance Electricity, Gas, Television Licence, Telephone);*
- *Addressed payslip;*
- *Letter awarding Child Benefit to the child or another letter relating to this benefit;*
- *Mortgage statement;*
- *Land and Property Services rates demand.*
- *Financial statement such as ISA, Pension or Endowment.*
- *Current Driving Licence;*
- *Rental agreement*

### WAITING LIST POLICY

For the admission of Year 1 children with the appropriate age after the beginning of the school year, and when the school does not exceed its enrolment number, the criteria used for selecting between applicants will be the same as Year One entry.

### ADMISSION TO P2 – P7

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down 1-2

1. A pupil will be considered for enrolment provided that the school will not exceed its enrolment number determined by the Department of Education and
2. In the opinion of the Board of Governors their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

## Admissions Criteria for entry September 2026

### APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1

Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/2024	23	23
2024/2025	26	26
*2025/2026	22	22

*\*The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 includes all P1 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)*