

DROMORE HIGH

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Website: www.dromorehighschool.co.uk

Principal: Mr I McConaghy

Chairman of the Board of Governors: Mr A Poots

Controlled Secondary

Co-educational

Age Range Key stages 3,4 & 5

Admissions Number: 160

Enrolment Number: 1000

Open Day for pupils seeking admission to year 8 –Sep 2022	Friday 7th January 2022 (provisional – to be confirmed)	By invitation via Primary Schools
For accepted pupils	Intake Day – Monday 13 June 2022 (pupils only) Intake Night – Thursday 16 June 2022 (pupils and parents)	By invite
Open Evening – Year 13	To be confirmed	

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

ADMISSIONS

The lodging of an application is interpreted by the Board of Governors as a commitment by the parents and the child concerned to accept and remain in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies, rules 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.

DUTY TO VERIFY

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or uploaded with the Transfer Application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information/documents pertaining to their child and relevant to the school’s admissions criteria is included. Examples of such information include whether the child is the eldest child of the family, presently has a sibling at the school or has in the past had a sibling at the school. If a sibling previously attended Dromore High, dates of admission and leaving should be included.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Transfer application. If required parents will upload or deliver to the school office additional documents to verify information material to the offer of a place. If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEAR 8

The Board of Governors have confirmed their admissions criteria as follows:

Applications for admission to Dromore High will be divided into three categories A, B and C as shown below

Category A	Applications from pupils who were enrolled on 01/09/21 in our category A primary schools and who remain enrolled in our category A primary schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dromore Central; • Fairhill PS and • St Colman’s PS Dromore.
Category B	Applications from pupils who were enrolled on 1/9/21 in our category B primary schools and who remain enrolled in our category B primary schools: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annahilt PS • Ballydown PS • Donaghcloney PS

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Downshire PS • Dromara PS • Meadowbridge PS • Riverdale PS • Rowandale Integrated PS
Category C	Applications from all other pupils.

The Board of Governors of Dromore High after due consideration of the Department of Education Post-Primary Transfer Policy and in association with the Final Guidance on Transfer 2010 and having reviewed DE Circular 2016/15 (reissued 16/11/21) has determined that, in the event of the number of pupils applying for places in year 8 in September being greater than the admissions number, the following criteria shall be applied in the order set down below. Pupils fulfilling criterion 1 will be admitted before those fulfilling criterion 2 and so on until all places have been filled.

- 1 Pupils from Category A whose transfer form expresses a first preference for Dromore High schools
- 2 Pupils from Category B whose transfer form expresses a first preference for Dromore High schools
- 3 Pupils from Category C whose transfer form expresses a first preference for Dromore High schools
- 4 Pupils from Category A whose transfer form expresses a second preference for Dromore High schools
- 5 Pupils from Category B whose transfer form expresses a second preference for Dromore High schools
- 6 Pupils from Category C whose transfer form expresses a second preference for Dromore High schools
- 7 Pupils from Category A whose transfer form expresses a third preference for Dromore High schools
- 8 Pupils from Category B whose transfer form expresses a third preference for Dromore High schools
- 9 Pupils from Category A whose transfer form expresses a fourth preference for Dromore High schools
- 10 Pupils from Category B whose transfer form expresses a fourth preference for Dromore High schools
- 11 Pupils from Category A whose transfer form expresses a fifth preference for Dromore High schools
- 12 Pupils from Category B whose transfer form expresses a fifth preference for Dromore High schools
- 13 Pupils from Category A whose transfer form expresses a sixth preference for Dromore High schools
- 14 Pupils from Category B whose transfer form expresses a sixth preference for Dromore High schools
- 15 Applications from children not meeting any of the above

Should over subscription occur within any of the above criterion the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down below to decide which pupils will be admitted. If oversubscription occurs within any of the sub-criteria below, the tie breaker will be used to decide which pupils are admitted.

- i. Pupils who have a sibling*, living at the same address, currently enrolled in Dromore High and for whom the school is the Controlled Secondary school nearest to their home.
- ii. Pupils who have a sibling*, living at the same address, currently enrolled in Dromore High
- iii. Pupils who are either the eldest child of the family** and for whom the school is the Controlled Secondary school nearest to their home

OR

pupils whose parent is currently, permanently employed in Dromore High.

- iv. Pupils who are the eldest child of the family.**
- v. Pupils who have previously had a sibling* attending Dromore High for a period of at least three consecutive academic years and for whom the school is the Controlled Secondary school nearest to their home.
- vi. Pupils who have previously had a sibling* attending Dromore High for a period of at least three consecutive academic years.
- vii. Pupils who do not qualify under i, ii, iii, iv, v or vi above.

TIE BREAKER

In the event of the school being oversubscribed priority will be given to pupils whose permanent place of residence is closest to Dromore High as measured using the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland (OSNI) online Distance Measuring Tool, using 6-figure northings and eastings grid references to identify distance from the front gates of school nearest to Dromore Square to individual houses.

In the unlikely event that the (OSNI) Distance Measuring Tool is not available, a hard-copy 1:50000 Ordnance Survey map will be used instead to measure distance.

In the event of equal distance between two permanent places of residence and the school, applicants will be selected for admission on the basis of the initial letter of the surname (as it appears on the Birth Certificate) using a list of randomised letters in the order set out below:

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

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order to establish priority.

In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forename (as it appears on the Birth Certificate) will be used to establish priority.

Where the forename begins with the same letter, the second and if necessary, subsequent letters will be used to establish priority for admission using alphabetical order.

Where no priority can be established by means of this direct alphabetical comparison the child with the shorter first forename will be prioritised for admission (e.g. "Robert", "Roberta").

* The term sibling includes adopted children and half-brother/sister.

** Eldest child of the family includes applicants who, although not chronologically the eldest in the family will be treated as the eldest child in the family in the circumstances below.

- i. The applicant is the first in the family to transfer to a mainstream post primary school in Northern Ireland
- ii. Where the applicant's family has moved residence so that the applicant is the first child of the family to have an opportunity to apply to the school.

The Board of Governors requires evidence to support or verify information as regards 'eldest eligible child of the family'. Proof of eldest child should be uploaded with the Transfer Application – a letter on headed note paper, stating that the child is the eldest child and that the family is known to the verifier, from one of the following who is not a family member of the applicant: a Primary School Principal, a medical practitioner, a solicitor, an elected public representative, a member of the clergy or a police officer.

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

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Admissions No	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2019/20	148	220	177*
2020/21	148	203	160*
2021/22	148	211	157*

*** Includes stated pupils, those admitted after appeal or those admitted at the direction of the Exceptional Circumstances Body.**

NOTE: Inaccurate or misleading information provided on or attached to a Transfer 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.

ADMISSION TO YEARS 9 – 12

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, rules 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.

The school will admit all children whose parents wish them to attend the school provided that: -

1. The enrolment number of the school will not be exceeded by the child's admission;
2. The admission of the child will not, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, be prejudicial to the efficient use of resources.
3. The enrolment of the child will not result in an increase in class size beyond that which is consistent with the school's curriculum policy.

Please note:

4. The pupil's previous school report, attendance, work record and behaviour will be considered.
5. An interview between the parents/guardians of the child and the Headmaster must take place before the child is admitted.
6. Parents/guardians must sign the enrolment form agreeing to abide by the school policies, rules and regulations.

Dromore High does not operate a waiting list for students who apply for a place to any year group and are unsuccessful. Each application is decided upon at the time of receipt.

POST-16 ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Admission Criteria for Year 13

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down:

1. A pupil will only be considered provided that the school will not exceed its enrolment figure as determined by the Department of Education and that places are available in the school in Year 13 and in the particular subjects.
2. Pupils will be considered for admission provided that in the opinion of the Board of Governors, they would not prejudice the efficient use of resources.
3. All applicants for places in Year 13 must provide evidence of a positive behavioural record, good attendance and punctuality and contribution to the extracurricular life of their school.
4. Prior to admission pupils and parents/guardians must sign a written contract and agree to adhere to the school policies, rules and regulations.
5. All applicants into Year 13 will be required to attend for interview.
6. Students will be required to have achieved a minimum of 5 A*- C grades at GCSE (or equivalent) to be considered for post 16 study. In all cases a grade B is needed in the targeted post-16 subject or in an associated cognate area. In Double Award Science individual subject marks including tier of entry may be considered. Pupils should also have at least grade 'C' in English and Maths or be willing to undertake a course in them to secure a grade 'C'. For a pupil to be considered they must be able to make an appropriate course selection (a minimum of 3 subjects or equivalent) from three of the four option blocks.
7. Applicants must have sufficient points to enable them to access subjects and achieve at post-16 and to provide a pathway thereafter.

8. If it is necessary to decide between applicants, selection will be determined by academic achievement using the point system below and in association with criteria 6 above.

GCSE	BTEC	Points
A*	D*	4
A	D	3
B	Merit	2
C*		1.5
C	Pass	1

In the event that 2 or more applicants have the same points score, priority will be given to pupils according to chronological age, starting with the youngest.

9. If there are more applicants than the number of places available in the year group or desired subject group(s) priority will be given to students presently attending the school.

The school will hold an open afternoon/evening in Year 12 when more information on Dromore High Sixth Form will be given.

Addendum A

The Department of Education may, in response to a request from a school, increase the number of pupils that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for sixth form study and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down.

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in Dromore High.
2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at Dromore High has been agreed by the Department of Education.*

*Parents should note how the Department of Education (DE) will, in response to a school's request, will temporarily increase the school's enrolment number in order to allow an extra post-16 pupil to enrol. DE will only increase the school's enrolment number if it is content that each external pupil for whom a place is requested would not be able to pursue their post-16 course-choices at a suitable school without undertaking an unreasonable journey (ie a journey that by public transport would be over an hour from where the young person lives or is further than 15 miles distance). If DE finds that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue – then DE will agree a school's request for an extra place.

What is a school of a type that is suitable for a pupil? To determine this, DE first considers all schools to be one of 4 types: (i) denominational (ii) non-denominational (iii) Integrated and (iv) Irish-Medium. A school requesting an extra place for a post-16 pupil will belong to one of these 4 types and DE will consider any other school or school's from this same type as suitable for the pupil. DE will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school from the same type as the type of school that the child attended in Year 12.