

DALRIADA SCHOOL, BALLYMONEY

Enrolment Number: 815

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO YEAR 8 IN 2015-2016

Dalriada School, as a co-educational grammar school, provides secondary education for girls and boys in the upper band of the range of academic ability. The School draws its pupils from a wide geographical area and from the full range of social, religious and cultural backgrounds.

The School's Board of Governors determines Criteria for Admission. The Education Committee of the Board of Governors considers applications to Year 8 and selects pupils for admission in the light of the criteria set out below.

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

Please note that it is expected that all those seeking admission to Dalriada School should sit the Common Entrance Assessment for admissions in 2015-2016, conducted by the Association for Quality Education Limited (hereinafter referred to as the AQE CEA).

Children resident in Northern Ireland, at the time of their proposed admission, will be selected for admission before any other child.

If the number of applications for Year 8 in September 2015 exceeds the number of places available, pupils will be selected for admission according to the following criteria. They are set out in order of priority.

1. Academic ability as indicated only by the result awarded in the AQE CEA. Children will be admitted in rank order according to their result with higher scores preceding lower scores. The score in the AQE CEA should be entered in Section C of the transfer form in the following format: AQE CEA score, followed by the score.

Application for Special Circumstances/Special Provision will be considered by the Education Committee of the Board of Governors. Where it is accepted the Education Committee will determine, on the basis of the information available, a score for the pupil. The pupil will then be considered with all other pupils who have received an AQE CEA score and the Admissions Criteria applied. In both Special Circumstances and Special Provisions the School will be looking at other relevant factors, as explained below, in assessing those qualifying candidates. It is important that those seeking such qualification make sure that the relevant material and evidence is submitted, setting out clearly why the criteria for this consideration should be applicable.

(a) Special Circumstances

An exception may be made where there is documentary evidence that a child's overall AQE CEA result may have been adversely affected by medical or other problems.

Parents who wish to claim Special Circumstances should:-

- (i) read carefully Dalriada School's Admissions Criteria. The Education Committee of the Board of Governors will consider claims and decide on the validity of each case.
- (ii) obtain Form SC14 from either AQE or Dalriada School.
- (iii) provide the appropriate documentary evidence to validate the claim.
 - Where the problem is a medical one, the school will require the production of evidence that the pupil was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness at the time of the assessment.
 - Where the problem is of a non-medical nature, appropriate evidence should be provided.
 - Objective documentary educational evidence must be provided. This should include where they exist, the results for the pupil of any standardised test conducted in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7 and the results in any end of year tests in English and Maths.
 - Complete form SC14 and then attach it, along with the supporting evidence to the transfer form. It is essential that all evidence is provided at the time of application.

(b) Special Provisions

If the child has not taken the AQE CEA for one of the reasons below, other evidence of academic ability and aptitude will be considered in deciding whether the applicant should be admitted:

- (i) transfer from a school outside Northern Ireland after the closing date to register to sit AQE CEA tests.
- (ii) more than half of primary education received outside Northern Ireland.
- (iii) children were entered for the AQE CEA, and because of unforeseen and serious medical or other problems were unable to participate in all of the three AQE CEA tests.

Parents who wish to apply to the school under Special Provisions should contact the School as soon as possible.

Parents who wish to claim special provisions must:-

- read carefully the requirements set out in Dalriada School's admissions criteria. The Education Committee of the Board of Governors will consider claims and decide on the validity of each case.
- obtain Form SC14 from either AQE or Dalriada School.
- provide the appropriate independent documentary evidence required to validate the claim. It is essential that all the evidence is provided at the time of application.
- complete Form SC14 and then send it to Dalriada as your first choice school along with the appropriate independent documentary evidence in support of the claim.
- attach a copy of the SC14 Form along with the appropriate independent documentary evidence to the transfer form.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's Transfer Form.

Where it is necessary to distinguish between children who have been awarded the same score in the AQE CEA, criteria 2-6 will be used.

2. Children who, at the date of their application, are members of a family with a child currently enrolled in Dalriada School.

3. Children whose family previously had a child enrolled in the Secondary Department of Dalriada School.
4. Children who, at the date of their application are the eldest child (including twins and other multiples) of the family are eligible to apply for admission to Dalriada School.
5. Children who are entitled to free school meals*.
6. The age of the child, preference being given to an older child.

* “entitled to Free School Meals” will mean applicants who are listed on the Education and Library Board/ESA register as entitled to Free School Meals at the date on which their parent or guardian has signed their post-primary Transfer Form, or at any date up to and including 14 May 2015.

If the School’s Admission’s number has not been reached consideration will be given to the pupils according to criteria 2–6 and applied in order of priority.

Note: The criteria above will be applied to applications for admission to Year 8 throughout the 2015-2016 school year.

Applicants may be required to provide original documentation verifying their home address.

19.09.14