

DALRIADA SCHOOL

St James Road

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Website: www.dalriadaschool.com

Headmaster: Mr T J Skelton, BEd (Hons), MA (Ed Man)

Chairman of Board of Governors: Mr B J Dillon, BA, MEd, DMS, Cert Ed, DASE

**Voluntary Grammar School
(Non-denominational)**

Age Range of Pupils: 11-18 years

Admissions Number: 125

Enrolment Number: 815

OPEN MORNING

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, a Virtual Open Day Presentation will be recorded and made available online to parents of P6 and P7 pupils from Wednesday 27th January at 7.30pm. Copies of the School Prospectus for 2021/2022 will be available online and also from the School office.

TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS naming DALRIADA SCHOOL as a preference on your child's Online Transfer Application

Entrance Test Applications

Please ensure that you provide the following information on your child's Online Transfer Application

- * All those seeking admission to Dalriada School must have entered for the Common Entrance Assessment (CEA) provided by AQE. The AQE candidate number must be entered on the online application.

Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions

If you are making a claim for your child to be considered under Special Circumstances or Special Provision please read carefully the relevant sections of Dalriada School's Criteria for Admission to Year 8 in 2021-2022.

FEES AND CHARGES: A capital Fee (currently £12 per annum) and a Consolidated Charge (Currently £178) are charged in relation to all pupils.

Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Headmaster in relation to Admissions to the school

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/uploaded to the Online Transfer Application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admission criteria is stated on the Transfer Application or attached/uploaded to it.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8

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.

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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/uploaded to the Transfer Application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admission criteria is stated on the Transfer Application or attached/uploaded to it.

All those seeking admission to Dalriada School must have entered for the Common Entrance Assessment for admission in 2021-22, conducted by AQE.

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 2021 exceeds the number of places available, pupils will be selected for admission according to the following criteria. The criteria are set out in order of priority.

1. Evidence of academic ability.

Evidence of academic ability, if available, from the candidate's primary school should include

- (i) the sum of the stanine scores achieved in PTE9 and PTM9 standardised tests.

Children will be admitted in rank order according to their stanine score with higher scores preceding lower scores.

- (ii) any other supporting evidence from tests conducted in the Primary School.

In the event that the requested evidence is not available for the pupil (as verified by the Primary School), the parents may apply for consideration under Special Circumstances/Special Provision.

The onus is on the parents/guardians to ensure that all the requested supporting evidence is attached/uploaded to the Transfer Form.

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 provided evidence of academic ability and the Admissions Criteria applied. In both Special Circumstances and Special Provisions, the School will examine other relevant factors, as explained below, in assessing those qualifying candidates. It is important that those seeking such qualification ensure 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 PTE9 and PTM9 scores 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 SC20 from either AQE or Dalriada School.
- (iii) provide the appropriate documentary evidence to validate the claim.
 - provide, as required by the school, where the problem is a medical one, including a Covid-19 related illness, the evidence that the pupil was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness at the time of the PTE9 and PTM9 assessments
 - provide appropriate evidence where the problem is of a non-medical nature.
 - provide objective documentary educational evidence. This should include, where they exist, the results for the pupil of any practice AQE tests conducted in the Primary School before 18th December 2020 and any other appropriate tests conducted in the Primary School.
- (iv) complete form SC20 and then attach/upload it, along with the supporting evidence to the Transfer Application. It is essential that all evidence is provided at the time of application.

(b) Special Provisions

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

- (i) transfer from a school outside Northern Ireland after the closing date to register to sit AQE CEA tests.
- (ii) where more than half of primary education has been received outside Northern Ireland.

Parents who wish to apply to the school under Special Provisions should contact the School as soon as possible. Children applying under Special Provisions will sit an independent test, administered by the School.

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 SP20 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 SP20 and then send it to Dalriada as your first choice school along with the appropriate independent documentary evidence in support of the claim.
- attach/upload a copy of the SP20 Form along with the appropriate independent documentary evidence to the Transfer Application.

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 Online Transfer Application.

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

2. Those children who have siblings (with a common parent) currently in attendance at Dalriada School.
3. Those children who have had a sibling (with a common parent) who previously attended the Secondary Department of Dalriada School (dates to be supplied).
4. Children who, at the date of their application are the eldest child (including twins and other multiples) of the family 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 Authority register as entitled to Free School Meals at the date on which their parent or guardian completed their post-primary Online Transfer Application, or at any date up to and including 12 April 2021.

NOTE: The criteria above will be applied to applications for admission to Year 8 throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2021

Parents who wish to have their child considered for admission in the event of a place arising after 1 September 2021 should write to the Headmaster clearly stating this. Should a vacancy arise, the above criteria will be applied to select pupils from our waiting list.

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

Number of Applications and Admissions

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2018/19	125	173	126
2019/20	125	162	130 **
2020/21	125	162	130 **

This table does not include children who were admitted to the school with a statement of special educational needs.

** Five admitted following Temporary Variation Requests

Details in relation to score/grades accepted are available in the school prospectus.