

# ADMISSIONS POLICY



Year 8  
Years 9-12  
Years 13 & 14 (Post 16)

## Year 8 Admissions Criteria

If the number of children seeking places in the school is greater than the admissions number, then children will be selected for admission using the following criteria, applied in the order of priority set down below:-

- (a) Pupils who are transferring from the school's traditional contributory primary/preparatory schools, ie Ardstraw Jubilee, Aughnacloy Regional, Christ the King, Carnall, Cooley, Denamona, Dromore, Fivemiletown, Gibson, Gillygooley, Gortin, Holy Family, Kesh, Lack, Langfield, McClintock, Newtownstewart, Omagh County, Omagh Integrated, Queen Elizabeth II Kilskeery, St Mary's Killyclogher, St Patrick's Gortin and Richmond Ballygawley.
- (b) Pupils with special medical, social or other circumstances. Such claims must be supported by written evidence. If the parents/guardians of a pupil wish to make a claim for a place in the school based on special medical, social or other reasons, then these reasons will be considered by the Board of Governors together with supporting information submitted by the parents or guardians. In the light of the admissions criteria, and the other circumstances the Board of Governors will decide whether the child should be admitted.
- (c) Pupils who have an older brother/sister presently enrolled at the school.
- (d) Family connections with the school. (Father, mother, brothers or sisters attended the school).
- (e) Other pupils.

If there are more applicants than places remaining for the last criterion that can be applied, then the selection of pupils who satisfy that criterion will be on the basis of the closeness of the home from the school, as measured by the shortest walking distance. Admission to Year 8 after the beginning of the school year is the same as the normal Years 9 -12 criteria.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Application Form/Transfer Form. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post-primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place or the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's Transfer Form.

## **Years 9 – 12 Admissions Criteria**

**In the first instance, parents/guardians must make an appointment to meet with the Principal to discuss their child/children's application for admission.**

Pupils will be considered for enrolment provided that:

- (a) the school would not exceed its enrolment number
- (b) in the opinion of the Board of Governors their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources
- (c) the application is supported with the submission of up-to-date records, both academic and pastoral

If, at the time of the consideration of the applications, there are more eligible applicants than places available then the admissions criteria for entry to Year 8 pupils will be applied.

In making decisions about the admission of a pupil who has been suspended or expelled from another school or who has had an attendance problem at the previous school attended, the Board of Governors will expect that appropriate reports from the previous school and/or other agencies or professional persons will have been provided or sought and put before them, together with any case made by the parent. After consultation with the relevant officers of the Education Authority (EA) to ascertain what level of additional help or resources would be available, the Governors will subsequently make their decision.

## **Admissions Criteria Years 13 &14 (Post 16-Sixth Form)**

### **How to Apply**

1. Complete an application form (available from the school office) and send it to the school office.
2. Once you receive your GCSE results you will be invited to attend for interview with the Principal, Vice Principal or a Senior Teacher. Applicants from other schools will be required to provide evidence from their previous school of a positive attendance and behaviour record. References may be requested.
3. If accepted for Sixth Form, you may be requested to speak to individual Heads of Subjects to confirm your suitability for Post 16 Study in particular areas.
4. Sixth Form students and their parents/guardians must agree to and sign a Sixth Form Code of Conduct.
5. Students will be required to participate in induction activities.

### **Sixth Form Admissions Criteria**

A pupil will only be considered provided that the school will not exceed its enrolment figure as determined by the Department of Education. 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. For students to be considered for entry into Post-16 AS/A2 and BTEC Level 3 courses they must satisfy the following criteria:

- Have a minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above (including English and Maths).
- Meet the entry requirements to the Post-16 course set by the school for the subjects chosen.
- Have completed Year 12 at Omagh High School or at another post primary school.
- Have evidence of attendance and punctuality of at least 90% in Year 12. Students whose attendance rate falls below this level must produce medical evidence/special circumstances to explain their absences.
- Have a good behaviour record and should have demonstrated a positive attitude to work.
- Students requesting admission to Year 13 must attend for interview.
- Students wishing to enter Year 13 should be prepared to make a commitment to participate fully in the daily running of the school.
- If it is necessary to select between applicants, selection will be determined by academic achievement using the points system below
- Students with the highest GCSE score will be considered in descending order, an applicant's GCSE score being calculated on the basis of GCSE results as follows:
- A\* - 4 points / A - 3 points / B - 2 points / C - 1 point.

In the event of the school still not reaching its quota after the application of the above criteria, then the final place(s) will be offered to those applicant(s) who:

- 1) have the highest grade scores over their best five GCSE subjects
- 2) live closest to the main entrance of the school (Crevenagh Road), as determined by a straight line measurement on an Ordnance Survey Map

We especially welcome students from schools where there is no Post-16 provision and, also those whose course of choice is not on offer at their own school. A reference may be sought from the previous school as to the applicant's attendance, behavioural record and suitability for Post-16 study.

## **Entry to Additional Studies Courses**

Applications will be considered on an individual basis to ensure that these courses can be tailored to meet the individual needs of the students. However, applicants must show evidence of an acceptable level of commitment to achieve in previous examinations and courses of study and have acceptable attendance, achievement and behaviour records.

## **Omagh High School's criteria for any extra places made available by the Department of Education for admission into Year 13 (Sixth Form)**

The Department of Education may, on request, 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 (as above) and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down.

### **Entry to Year 14:**

Results/progress in Year 13 examinations and courses are important indicators of success Year 14. Progression into Year 14 remains at the discretion of the school and will be reviewed once the Year 13 AS results are published using the following scoring system:

A/Distinction	= 60 points
B	= 50 points
C/Merit	= 40 points
D	= 30 points
E/Pass	= 20 points
U	= 0 points

Pupils who achieve a total score of 120 points or less will be reviewed. Their return to study at Year 14 will not be guaranteed - a meeting will take place with the Principal, Vice Principal or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Pupils must be accompanied by a parent/guardian in order to review progression into Year 14. The purpose of this meeting is to determine the best way forward for the pupil. Some of the following strategies may be implemented:

- A discussion with parents about the best way forward.
- Regular meetings with Post 16 Pastoral Leader and subject teachers to discuss progress and targets, will be arranged.
- A decision to leave Omagh High School and pursue an alternative course of study.

If performance in one or more subjects has been poor, pupils must consult with subject teachers about the feasibility of studying the same subject(s) at A2 level in Year 14. In some cases, if an AS subject is only just passed at grade E, pupils may be advised not to continue with that subject at A2 level in Year 14.

A pupil's attitude and commitment to his/her school studies and to the school community (high levels of attendance and punctuality form part of a student's commitment to his/her work) will also be considered for entry to Year 14.