

CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Headmaster: Mr J. A. Maxwell BA (Hons) PGCE MSc PQH (NI)

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr M Smith BSc MBA CEng MIET

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

Est 1962

Age Range of pupils: 11-18

Admissions Number: 116

Enrolment Number: 800

An Open Night for P6 / P7 pupils and their parents / guardians will be held in school on Thursday 15 January 2026 from 6:30pm-9:00pm. The Principal will speak in the Assembly Hall at 6:30pm and 8:30pm. The prospectus will be placed on our school website.

To parents/guardians naming Carrickfergus Grammar School (herein referred to as 'the School') as a preference on your child's Transfer Application

Entrance Assessment Results

Please ensure that you enter the Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) awarded by the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG), together with the SEAG Unique Pupil Number, on the Transfer Application and please note it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make sure that the original Statement of Outcome received from SEAG, indicating their child's SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS), is uploaded with the Transfer Application.

SEAG is very clear that its Entrance Assessment consists of two papers. A pupil who only takes one paper (i.e. either Paper 1 or Paper 2 but not both) will not have completed the full Entrance Assessment. Such pupils will, however, have their "single paper" marked and will receive a Statement of Outcomes. Outcomes for pupils who only sit one paper will have the designation "e" (for estimate) immediately after the Outcome, e.g. Total Standardised Age Score TSAS 196e; Band 4e. Such pupils may be considered for admission by Carrickfergus Grammar School under Special Provisions.

Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions

If you are making a claim for your child to be considered under Special Circumstances and / or Special Provisions, please read carefully the information given in the relevant section overleaf. **Please note that you are required to upload with the Transfer Application all such material as you consider will assist the Admissions Sub-committee in determining if Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions apply.**

Claims for consideration for a child under Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions will be examined and decided upon **before the application of any of the Admissions Criteria.**

Parents/Guardians who wish to apply to the School under Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions should complete SC Form and/or SP Form obtainable from the School and upload it with appropriate documentation described in section 2.

Parents/Guardians should note that they are required to produce documents verifying information pertinent to the School's Admissions Criteria. If the documents are not uploaded with the Transfer Application, as detailed below, they will be requested after notification of an offer of a place at the school.

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

Carrickfergus Grammar School is a co-educational, non-denominational controlled grammar school. The Board of Governors of Carrickfergus Grammar School has approved the criteria for admission described below, and have delegated to an Admissions Sub-Committee and the Principal the responsibility of applying its admissions criteria to identify which children are to be admitted to Carrickfergus Grammar School. This includes decisions in respect of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions.

1. ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY OF PUPILS TO YEAR 8 IN SEPTEMBER 2026

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on **Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 12 noon (GMT)** and an application submitted by the closing date of **Thursday 19th February 2026 at 12 noon (GMT)** will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on Thursday 19th February 2026 and up to 4pm on Tuesday 24th February 2026 will be treated as a late application.

The Board of Governors will not use as a criterion the position of preference given to the school by the applicant on the Transfer Form. When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will take into account **only** information which is detailed on or uploaded with the Transfer Application, including the Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) provided by the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG) as a result of the child's performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment (or the score assigned as a result of consideration of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions). It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make sure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the School's admissions criteria, as outlined below, is stated on, or uploaded with, the Transfer Application. Parents/Guardians should note that they are required to produce documents verifying information pertinent to the School's Admissions Criteria.

If the number of applications is greater than the Admissions Number determined by the Department of Education, the following criteria (to include sub-criteria) shall be applied in the order listed below until the point where the admissions number is reached.

If there are fewer applicants complying with a particular criterion or sub-criterion than there are places available or remaining, those applicants complying with that criterion or sub-criterion will be admitted and the next criterion or sub-criterion will be applied to the remaining applicants.

If there are more applicants complying with a particular criterion or sub-criterion than there are places available or remaining, those applicants complying with that criterion or sub-criterion will go forward to be considered under the next criterion or sub-criterion and those not complying with that criterion or sub-criterion will be eliminated.

- 1.1 Children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be selected for admission to the School before any child not so resident.

The child's Birth Certificate and proof of address should be uploaded with the Transfer Application. Proof of address – any TWO of the following recent (within the past 6 months) documents with sensitive information redacted: Bank/building society statement; Utility bill (e.g. electricity, gas, TV 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.

- 1.2 The Board of Governors will consider children who have taken the Entrance Assessment administered by the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG). The Board of Governors will use the Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) as awarded by SEAG to a pupil in the Entrance Assessment, subject only to the consideration of parent/guardian(s) claiming 'Special Circumstances' and / or 'Special Provisions' as defined overleaf. Places will be allocated in strict rank order of the scores, starting with the highest score and working in descending rank order, up to the Admissions Number (116). The TSAS in the SEAG Entrance Assessment should be entered, along with the SEAG Unique Pupil Number, on the Transfer Application.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make sure that the Statement of Outcomes received from SEAG, indicating their child's SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS), is uploaded with the Transfer Application.

1.3 Places will then be allocated using the following sub-criteria, in the order listed:

- I. Children who, at the date of their application, have another child of the family¹ currently enrolled at the school *[state name(s) and Registration Group(s) on the Transfer Application]*;
- II. Children who are the eldest eligible child² to be eligible to be accepted for enrolment in the School in September 2026. *Proof of eldest child should be uploaded with the Transfer Application – a letter on headed note paper, stating that the child is the eldest eligible 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.*
- III. Children attending one of the School's contributory Primary Schools as defined below or attending another school which is closer as the crow flies³ than any of the School's contributory Primary Schools;
- IV. Children will be selected for admission on the basis of a random selection process. Each application to be considered at this stage will be allocated a random number electronically generated within "Microsoft Excel"; the applications will then be ranked in numerical order, with higher numbers having preference over lower numbers.

The School's contributory Primary Schools are:

Abbots Cross	Acorn	Ashgrove	Ballycarry	Carnmoney
Carrickfergus Model	Central Integrated	Earlview	Eden	Glengormley Integrated
Greenisland	Islandmagee	King's Park	Mossley	Oakfield
Silverstream	St Nicholas	Straid	Sunnylands	Victoria
Whiteabbey	Whitehead	Whitehouse	Woodburn	Woodlawn

If there are still places available after consideration of all the children who have taken the SEAG Entrance Assessment and been awarded a Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) by SEAG (or a score assigned by the Admissions Sub-committee in accordance with the arrangements for Special Circumstances and Special Provisions as set out below), the School will consider for admission any children who have not taken the SEAG Entrance Assessment. Such children, if they satisfy Criterion 1.1, will be allocated to the remaining place(s) up to the School's Admissions Number using the sub-criteria listed in section 1.3 in the order set out.

2. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES and SPECIAL PROVISIONS

General

The purpose of a claim for special circumstances and/or special provisions is so that a child can be assigned a Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) equivalent to that which he or she would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal conditions. Consideration of a claim for special circumstances and/or special provisions consists of two parts: the first requires the consideration of whether there is sufficient material to permit a child to be considered as having special circumstances or attracting special provisions, or both; if a child is permitted to be considered as having special circumstances or as attracting special provisions or both, the second part of the consideration requires an educational judgement to be made on the totality of the material presented to the

¹ Child of the family covers: a child born to a married couple or to a couple in a civil partnership; a child born to a co-habiting couple; a child born to a single parent; a child of either/any of those people by a previous marriage, civil partnership or relationship; a child living with a couple who has been treated as a "child of the family" whether there is a marriage or a civil partnership or not; a child living with an individual, who has been treated as a "child of the family"; an adopted or fostered child; a situation where for example an orphaned cousin is being brought up with a family or individual.

² 'Eldest eligible child of the family' includes applicants who, although not chronologically the eldest in the family, are to be treated as the 'eldest eligible child of the family' in the following circumstances: where the applicant is more than seven years younger (by birth date) than the next eldest sibling; where the applicant is the eldest child of a reconstituted family; where the applicant is the first in the family to transfer to a mainstream post primary school in Northern Ireland due to an elder sibling being statemented or attending a special school; where a family has relocated to Northern Ireland. Twins and other multiple birth applicants will be regarded as joint eldest.

³ 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 Carrickfergus Grammar School to individual schools.

Admissions Sub-committee so that a Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) equivalent to that which the child would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal conditions can be assigned.

Please note, parents/guardians are required to upload with the Transfer Application all such material that will assist the Admissions Sub-committee in performing both parts of the consideration described above. It should be noted by parents/guardians that both parts of the consideration referred to involve an exercise in educational judgement and not precise calculation.

Educational Evidence to be provided in support of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions

In reaching the educational judgement needed to assign a Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) that the child would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal circumstances, the Admissions Sub-committee will consider any material uploaded with the Transfer Application by the parents/guardians. This material should include all of the following:

- i) The Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) score awarded by SEAG in the Entrance Assessment (if the child sits both SEAG Entrance Assessments) or the TSAS estimate provided by SEAG (if the child sits only one of the Entrance Assessments, due to the child's illness or other unforeseen circumstances);
- ii) The results for the child of any standardised tests conducted in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7;
- iii) Comparative information from the Primary School, including the results, without names, for other children in the child's Year 7 class of any standardised tests conducted in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7 and, where available, the respective SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) awarded;
- iv) Any other relevant material. Parents should be advised that comparative standardised data as outlined in the points above will carry greater weight.

Special Circumstances

Carrickfergus Grammar School has academic performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment as one of its criteria, subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment and which are supported by documentary evidence of a medical or other appropriate nature. These 'medical or other problems' are commonly referred to as 'special circumstances'.

Please note that if a claim for the consideration of Special Circumstances is made in respect of matters for which Special Access arrangements were granted for a child, the Admissions Sub-committee will take into account the fact that the child was granted Special Access arrangements for those matters.

Parents/guardians who wish to apply to the School under Special Circumstances should complete Form SC, obtainable from the School, stating the precise reason why they believe the child should be considered for Special Circumstances. The SC Form and appropriate documentary evidence should be uploaded with the Transfer Application.

The Admissions Sub-committee will consider each application for Special Circumstances. Where a Special Circumstances claim is upheld, the Admissions Sub-committee will assign, on the basis of the information available, an equivalent Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) for the child. Such children will then be considered with all other children who have received a SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) score and the Admissions Criteria applied.

Details of Medical or Other Problems

Where it is claimed that a child's performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessments has been affected by a medical or other problem, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to set out in the Form SC precise details of the problem and upload with the Transfer Application the evidence to corroborate its existence.

Where the problem is a medical one of short-term duration which affected the child only at the time of the SEAG Entrance Assessments, parents / guardians should be aware that the Admissions Sub-committee will attach greater weight to evidence indicating that the child was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness at the time of the assessments.

Where the problem is of a non-medical nature, the parents/guardians should set out in the Form SC precise details of the problem and upload appropriate documentary evidence with the Transfer Application. It should be noted that independent evidence will carry greater weight.

Special Provisions

Special provisions will apply for:

- (a) children whose parents/guardians wish them to transfer from schools outside Northern Ireland;
- (b) children who have received more than half their primary education outside Northern Ireland;
- (c) children who due to a serious medical issue supported by appropriate documentary evidence or for a demonstrably valid reason also supported by appropriate documentary evidence were either unable to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment OR have estimated Outcomes from SEAG because they only sat one of the two Entrance Assessment Papers.
- (d) religious observance whereby faith precludes from sitting tests on the designated SEAG Assessment days.

Note: It is expected that all those seeking admission should sit the SEAG Entrance Assessments, with the exception of those children who take up residence in Northern Ireland after **25 September 2025**.

Parents/Guardians who wish to apply to the School under Special Provisions should contact the School as soon as possible. In addition, they should complete Form SP, obtainable from the School, stating the precise reason why they believe the child is eligible for consideration under Special Provisions and upload appropriate documentary evidence with the Transfer Application including any educational evidence as detailed under Special Circumstances above that might assist the panel to determine an appropriate score. A copy of Form SP and all the documentary evidence should be uploaded with the Transfer Application.

The Admissions Sub-committee will consider each application for Special Provisions. Where Special Provisions are accepted, the following procedure will apply:

- a) The applicant will have the opportunity to sit a standardised independent assessment of ability in English, Mathematics and/or Verbal Reasoning, chosen by the School; and
- b) The Admissions Sub-committee will assign, on the basis of the information available, an equivalent Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) for the child. Such children will then be considered with all other children who have received a SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) and the Admissions Criteria applied.

3. NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that the Transfer Application is completed in full and that all relevant information is uploaded with the Transfer Application.

If the Board of Governors becomes aware of any irregularity in the details uploaded or included on the Transfer Application, it reserves the right to reject the application made on behalf of the child for admission to the School.

4. DUTY TO VERIFY - THE VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION PROVIDED

Those making applications should note that the information contained within an application that qualifies the child for admission will be verified. The Board of Governors therefore reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Transfer Application. Those making applications should also note the provision of false information 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 the School to offer a place.

5. ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 FOLLOWING THE CONCLUSION OF THE TRANSFER PROCESS

Carrickfergus Grammar School operates a separate waiting list for Year 8. All applications for admission to Year 8 that were unsuccessful in obtaining a place in the school will be automatically added to the waiting list. New applications and applications where new information has been provided will also be added to the waiting list. The Year 8 waiting list will be in place until **30 June 2027**. Please contact the School if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list. Should a vacancy arise after the date upon which placement letters have been issued from the Education Authority, the procedure outlined above in the Admissions Criteria for entry of children to Year 8 will

be followed in relation to those applications on the Year 8 waiting list. The School will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the School by this method.

Should the Admissions Sub-committee of the Board of Governors determine that a child, who has arrived in Northern Ireland after the Transfer Process has been concluded, is suitable for admission, it will seek approval from the Department of Education to admit the child through the allocation of an additional place.

Applications and Admissions to Year 8

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023-2024	116	169	116
2024-2025	116	158	116
2025/26*	116	151	118

**The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 includes all Year 8 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)

6. ADMISSIONS TO YEARS 9-11

The school operates a waiting list for places in Years 9-11. If parents wish their child to be added to the waiting list, they should contact the school and complete form AP1 available from the School. Admission will only be considered if there are vacant places in the Year Group, if the school's overall enrolment number is not exceeded and if admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

If the number of applications is greater than the school's Admissions Number, the following conditions shall be applied progressively in the order set out below:

- Children will be placed in rank order of their aggregate score in tests completed in the year prior to entrance to the school, which will be set by the Board of Governors of this school incorporating English and Mathematics;
- If children are tied on the same aggregate score, then pupils shall be selected by the application of Criteria as set out in the current Transfer Booklet until the school's admissions number has been reached.

Applicants will then be interviewed as part of the application process and this interview will form part of the selection process. Prior to interview, parents/guardians of applicants will be required to provide copies of their child's most recent school report from their current school.

School reserves the right at discretion not to award a place to an applicant if the academic reports and / or behavioural information from the applicant's previous school are not satisfactory.

The parent or guardian of the pupil and the pupil themselves must also commit to abiding by the protocols, high standards of behaviour and school routines as have been adopted by all pupils and their parents/guardians who are currently enrolled in the school.