

**CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

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**Website:** www.carrickfergusgrammar.com

**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 pupils of P7 and their parents will be held in school on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

**A virtual tour, prospectus and brochure will also 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 score awarded by the Association for Quality Education, together with the AQE Candidate Number, on the Transfer Application and please note it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make sure that the original Statement of Result received from AQE indicating their child’s AQE CEA score is uploaded with the Transfer Application.

**Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions**

If you are making a claim for your child to be considered under Special Circumstances or Special Provisions, please read carefully the information given in the relevant section. **Please note that you are required to upload with the Transfer Application all such material as you consider will assist the 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 Form SC23 obtainable from AQE or the School and upload it with appropriate documentation described in section 2.

**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 2023**

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 only take into account information which is detailed on or uploaded with the Transfer Application, including the score provided by the Association for Quality Education (AQE) as a result of the child’s performance in the Common Entrance Assessment (CEA) (or awarded 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 may be 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 Common Entrance Assessment (“CEA”) administered by the Association for Quality Education (“AQE”). The Board of Governors will use the ‘score’ as awarded by AQE to a pupil in the CEA, subject only to the consideration of parent/guardian(s) claiming ‘Special Circumstances’ or ‘Special Provisions’ as defined below. 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 score in the AQE CEA should be entered, along with the AQE Candidate Number, on the Transfer Application.

*It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make sure that the original Statement of Result received from AQE indicating their child's AQE CEA score 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 family<sup>1</sup> currently enrolled at the school [state name(s) and Registration Group(s) on the Transfer Application];
  - II. Children who are the eldest eligible child<sup>2</sup> to be eligible to be accepted for enrolment in the School in September 2023. 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 overleaf or attending another school which is closer as the crow flies<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> ‘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.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

The School's contributory Primary Schools are:

Abbots Cross	Acorn	Ashgrove	Ballycarry	Carnmoney
Carrickfergus Central	Carrickfergus Model	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 AQE Common Entrance Assessment and been awarded a score by AQE (or a score determined 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 AQE CEA. 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 score equivalent to that which he or she would have obtained in the AQE CEA 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 Admissions Sub-Committee so that a score equivalent to that which the child would have obtained in the AQE CEA under normal conditions can be awarded.

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 award the score that the child would have obtained in the AQE CEA 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 score awarded by AQE in the CEA (if the child sits two or three AQE CEAs) or the 'raw score' provided by AQE (if the child only sits one of the AQE CEAs, due to the child's illness, the child's need to self-isolate 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 AQE CEA score 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 AQE CEA as one of its criteria, subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected performance in the AQE CEA 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 SC23, obtainable from the School or AQE, stating the precise reason why they believe the child should be considered for Special Circumstances. The SC23 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 determine, on the basis of the comparative, standardised information available, an appropriate AQE CEA score for the child. Such children will then be considered with all other children who have received an AQE CEA score and the Admissions Criteria applied.

### Details of Medical or Other Problems

Where it is claimed that a child's performance in the AQE CEA has been affected by a medical or other problem, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to set out in the Form SC23 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 AQE CEA, 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. For children who have tested positive for COVID-19, documentary evidence such as a positive PCR test result should be uploaded with the Transfer Application, where available.

Where the problem is of a non-medical nature, the parents/guardians should set out in the Form SC23 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 entered for the AQE CEA, who because of unforeseen and **serious** medical or other problems which are supported by appropriate independent documentary evidence, were unable to participate in any of the assessments; or
- (d) religious observance whereby faith precludes from sitting tests on the designated AQE CEA days.

Note: It is expected that all those seeking admission should sit the AQE CEA, with the exception of those children who take up residence in Northern Ireland after Friday 23 September 2022.

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 SC23, obtainable from the School or AQE, 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 SC23 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 determine an appropriate AQE CEA score for the child. In determining a score, the panel will consider all of the academic information presented, with greater weight being placed on standardised data. Such children will then be considered with all other children who have received an AQE CEA score, 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 2024**. Please contact the School if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list. Should a vacancy arise after the completion of the Transfer Procedure and should there be more applications than places available, the procedure outlined above in the Admissions Criteria for entry of children to Year 8 will be followed. 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.

#### Year 8 Applications and Admissions

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
<b>2020-2021</b>	116	142	117
<b>2021-2022</b>	116	230	116
<b>2022-2023</b>	116	128	116

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

## 6. ADMISSIONS TO YEARS 9-11

The school operates a waiting list for places in Years 9-11. The waiting list is reviewed twice a year (in December and March). 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.