

**SAINT CATHERINE'S COLLEGE**

Convent Road

ARMAGH BT60 4BJ

**Telephone:** 028 3752 2023

**Email:** info@stcatherines.armagh.ni.sch.uk

**Website:** www.stcatherinesarmagh.com

**Principal:** Mrs Noeleen Tiffney

**Chairperson of the Board of Governors:** Mrs T Campbell

**Maintained Comprehensive  
Girls**

**Age Range:** 11-18+

**Admissions Number:** 155\*

**Enrolment Number:** 1072\*

**Open Evening: 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**\*Admission Number: 155 of which 12 places are in Coláiste Chaitríona**

**\*Enrolment Number: 1072 of which 162 are in Coláiste Chaitríona**

The school has had a pattern over the past number of years of receiving more applications to Coláiste Chaitríona than the 12 allocated places. The practice has been that the Department of Education have, in response to the school's request, increased the school's enrolment number to allow additional places to be made available for pupils applying for admission to the school's Irish Medium Stream.

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

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term Board of Governors includes any Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the Admission Criteria set out herein.

The lodging of an application is interpreted by the Board of Governors as an indication that the parents and children concerned are in agreement with the philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school including any Code of Conduct or Discipline Policy.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR YEAR 8**

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 30 January 2024 at 12 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 22 February 2024 at 12 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on 22 February 2024 and up to 4pm on 4 March 2024 will be treated as a late application.

In selecting children for admission, only children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be considered for admission.

In the case of the school being oversubscribed the Governors have determined that pupils will be admitted to the school according to the following criteria and in the order indicated. In the event of there being oversubscription within any of the Criteria the subsequent Criterion in the order indicated will be applied to determine which pupils within the oversubscribed Criterion should be admitted, e.g. if there is oversubscription within Criterion 4, Criteria 5, 6, 7 and 8 are then applied in that order to determine which children satisfying Criterion 4 should be admitted.

In the case of pupils who have special circumstances (medical, social or security) the Board of Governors will determine the merits of individual cases and may offer a place without regard to the Admissions Criteria. Written evidence will be required to support any such request and must be given on or included with the application.

**CRITERIA**

1. Sisters/half-sisters of pupils, present and past whose Transfer Form expresses a 1<sup>st</sup> preference for Saint Catherine's College.
2. Daughters of members of the school staff whose Transfer Form expresses a 1<sup>st</sup> preference for Saint Catherine's College.
3. Applicants who attend any of the Primary schools in the Parish of Armagh who are the eldest female child in the family and whose Transfer Form expresses a 1<sup>st</sup> preference for Saint Catherine's College.
4. Applicants from any other primary school who are the eldest female child in the family and whose Transfer Form expresses a 1<sup>st</sup> preference for Saint Catherine's College.

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5. Applicants who attend any of the primary schools in the Parish of Armagh and whose Transfer Form expresses a 1<sup>st</sup> preference for Saint Catherine’s College.
6. Applicants who attend any other primary school and whose Transfer Form expresses a 1<sup>st</sup> preference for Saint Catherine’s College.
7. Those pupils who live nearest the school measured as ‘the crow flies’ measured by a data agency using mid-point of postal code whose Transfer Form expresses a 1<sup>st</sup> preference for Saint Catherine’s College. Should a data agency not be available, this will be done using Google Maps.
8. Preference will be given to older children starting with the oldest established by date-of-birth as entered on a Birth Certificate whose Transfer Form expresses a 1<sup>st</sup> preference for Saint Catherine’s College. Where 2 or more children (apart from twins or multiple births) have the same date of birth final selection will be based on the alphabetical order of the child’s surname. Where 2 or more children have the same surname the alphabetical order of first (and subsequent forenames) shall be used as necessary.
9. Those pupils whose Transfer Form expresses a 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> preference for Saint Catherine’s College, with admission being granted in that order, after the above criteria have been applied.

**NOTES: IMPORTANT**

1. Full responsibility rests with Parents/Guardians to provide sufficient and full details on the application to allow the Admissions Criteria to be fairly administered.
2. Inaccurate or misleading information provided on or included with an application may prejudice an offer of a place and may lead to the withdrawal of a place awarded to an applicant who has thereby gained an improper advantage.

**DUTY TO VERIFY**

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.

All applicants for places in Saint Catherine’s College should note that 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 and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated in the applicant’s Transfer Form.

**APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8**

Year	Admission No Main School	Admission No IMU	Total Applications Main School	Total Admissions Main School	Total Applications IMU	Total Admissions IMU
2021/22	143	12	156	148	34	34
2022/23	143	12	173	167	39	39
2023/24	143	12	173	164	39	39

**ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR YEARS 9–12 (and Year 8 post 31 August each year)**

A pupil may be accepted into the school provided that this would not prejudice the efficient use of the school’s resources and that the school is in a position to provide a curriculum appropriate to the applicant’s needs. The pupil’s previous school report, attendance, work record and behaviour will be considered and admission will be dependent on a favourable report.

In situations where the Governors have considered an application for enrolment an application may be made to the Department of Education to increase the school’s enrolment number in order to allow a pupil to enrol.

If at the time of the consideration of the application, there are more eligible applicants than places in a particular year group available, then the admission criteria to Year 8 will be applied to select pupils to fill available places.

**Saint Catherine’s College does not operate a waiting list for pupils who apply for a place to any year group and are unsuccessful. Each application is considered upon receipt.**

### ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR YEARS 13 AND 14

1. A pupil's application for admission to Years 13 and 14 indicates that they are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school including any Code of Conduct or discipline policy of the school.
2. Pupils taking an Advanced programme of study in Years 13 and 14 in Saint Catherine's College must achieve SIX GCSE PASSES at grade C or above. These must include GCSE English or Maths. Courses offered are at the discretion of the school, according to GCSE profile **and subject specific requirements**.
3. Sixth Form programmes of study/individual A level subjects have specific GCSE entrance requirements. Details of these may be obtained on request from the school.
4. Year 12 pupils seeking admission to Year 13 must present a satisfactory Pastoral Record. Year 12 pupils will be rank ordered on a point score according to agreed pastoral criteria which include attendance, punctuality and a pupil's behavioural record. Full details on the pastoral criteria, their relative weighting and application in terms of a satisfactory admission to Year 13 are available on request from the school.
5. The provision of Sixth Form courses of study for students who have been educated through the medium of Irish in Coláiste Chaitríona is conditional upon their continuing their Irish studies within the school in a Post-16 designated Irish class.

#### **Criteria for any extra places made available by the Department of Education (DE) 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.

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in Saint Catherine's College.
2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at Saint Catherine's College has been agreed by the Department of Education\*.

\*Parents should note how the Department of Education will, in response to a school's request, increase the school's enrolment number in order to allow an extra post-16 pupil to enrol. DE will first check whether there is another school or schools of a type suitable for that pupil within an hour's journey of where the pupil lives. If there is, DE will then check whether this other school or schools may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue. If these checks find that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue – then the DE will agree a school's request for an extra place.

What is a school of a type that is suitable for a pupil? To determine this, DE first considers all schools to be one of 4 types: (1) Denominational (2) Non-Denominational (3) Integrated and (4) Irish Medium. A school requesting an extra place for a post-16 pupil will belong to one of these 4 types and DE will consider any other school or schools from this same type as suitable for the pupil. DE will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school from the same type as the type of school that the child attended in Year 12.

#### **Criteria for entry to Year 14 from Year 13:**

1. Entry to Year 14 from Year 13 is dependent upon a satisfactory academic performance and pastoral record in Year 13 as determined by the Sixth Form Pastoral Team in consultation with the relevant Advanced level teachers. A pupil's pastoral record will include attendance, punctuality, application to study and the pupil's behavioural profile.

**Coláiste Chaitríona Ard Mhacha**

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**Maintained Comprehensive**

**Age Range:** 11-18+

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

The Board of Governors of Saint Catherine's College draws up the admissions criteria for the school and delegates to the Principal responsibility for applying the criteria.

**Admissions Criteria for pupils transferring to the Irish Medium (Coeducational) Unit Saint Catherine's College, henceforth known as Coláiste Chaitríona, Ard Mhacha**

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 30 January 2024 at 12 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 22 February 2024 at 12 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on 22 February 2024 and up to 4pm on 4 March 2024 will be treated as a late application.

In selecting children for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected before any child not so resident.

In the case of the school being oversubscribed the Governors have determined that pupils will be admitted to the school according to the following criteria and in the order indicated. In the event of there being oversubscription within any of the Criteria the subsequent Criterion in the order indicated will be applied to determine which pupils within the oversubscribed Criterion should be admitted, e.g. if there is oversubscription within Criterion 5, Criteria 6 and 7 are then applied in that order to determine which children satisfying Criterion 5 should be admitted.

In the case of pupils who have Special Circumstances (medical, social or security) the Board of Governors will determine the merits of individual cases and may offer a place without regard to the Admissions Criteria. Written evidence will be required to support any such request and must be given on or included with the application.

**CRITERIA**

1. Pupils who have had their primary education through the medium of Irish.
2. Sister/half sister, brother/half brother of pupils present or past (Saint Catherine's College or Coláiste Chaitríona IMU).
3. Daughters/sons of members of the school staff - Saint Catherine's College, Coláiste Chaitríona.
4. Pupils who attend an Irish Medium primary school in the Parish of Armagh, namely Bunscoil na mBráithre Críostaí, Ard Mhacha.
5. **Pupils from other bunscoileanna.**
6. Children who live nearest to the school measured 'as the crow flies' by a data agency using mid-point of postal codes. Should a data agency not be available, this will be done using google maps
7. Preference will be given to older children starting with the oldest established by date-of-birth as entered on a Birth Certificate. Where 2 or more children (apart from Twins or multiple births) have the same date of birth final selection will be based on the alphabetical order of the child's surname. Where 2 or more children have the same surname the alphabetical order of first (and subsequent forenames) shall be used as necessary.

**NOTES: IMPORTANT**

1. Full responsibility rests with Parents/Guardians to provide sufficient details at the time of application to allow the admissions criteria to be fairly administered.

- Inaccurate or misleading information provided on or attached to an application may prejudice an offer or a place and may lead to the withdrawal of a place awarded to an applicant who has thereby gained an improper advantage.

**DUTY TO VERIFY**

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.

All applicants for places in Coláiste Chaitríona should note that 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 and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated in the application.

**Coláiste Chaitríona Ard Mhacha  
APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Applications All Preferences</b>	<b>Total Admissions</b>
<b>2021/22</b>	34	34
<b>2022/23</b>	39	39
<b>2023/24</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>39</b>