



BLACKWATER
INTEGRATED COLLEGE

2024
PROSPECTUS





PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

As Principal of Blackwater Integrated College, I am delighted you have taken the time to read our College Prospectus. I believe that Blackwater Integrated College truly offers an education that caters for students of all academic abilities. This is a very exciting time for the College and as we continue to go from strength to strength we remember our school motto of Building, Inspiring, Caring

Building for the future:

As an integrated College we are very proud of the fact that we accept students from the two main religions of Catholic and Protestant in Northern Ireland as well as other religions and none. Integration to us means respecting yourself and others, even when they have different beliefs from yours. This was highlighted in a Belfast Telegraph article earlier this year where Blackwater was shown to be one of the most diverse Colleges in NI with a representative balance of the community in our intake.

With a proposal just approved by the Department of Education to work with Mid Down Integrated College to form a new Integrated Post Primary school we literally are now 'Building for the Future'. The new College will open in September 2025 and any students enrolled in Blackwater IC will transfer across to the new College

and have access to an 11-18 education in an integrated setting which is an exciting opportunity for all of our students and staff.

Inspiring success:

Our accelerated learning groups are aimed at students who are more academically able, so they can be encouraged to progress with both stimulation and pace. The intention is to make sure that they are happy, that they are stretched and that they fulfil their potential. Our current Year 8 accelerated group consists of many students who narrowly missed out on grammar school places and I am very confident that the environment we provide will allow those students to excel in their studies through to Post 16 provision.

We are very proud of the fact that we cater for the needs of all of our students. We have an excellent Learning Support Centre for Stage 3 students and they also join mainstream classes for some lessons. We also provide vocational options at Key Stage 4 for students who are looking for a more practical pathway.

Caring for all:

Children will naturally achieve more and be successful if they are happy in their studies. Our pastoral team, from form tutors to Head of Junior and Senior School to Pastoral Coordinator, provides an environment and structure that allow students to be safe, very well cared for and happy. Small class sizes and the relationship developed with the form tutor allow each child to receive the care and attention they need to enable them to achieve their best throughout their time in the College. As an Integrated College parental involvement is very important.

I would like to thank you for considering Blackwater Integrated College as your choice of school for September 2024 and beyond. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me at the College or refer to our website at www.blackwateric.org for up to date news and information on College life. We are also very happy to welcome 1-1 visits to the College at any stage if you phone through to our office on **02844612115**.


Mr Stephen Taylor, Principal

WHY ATTEND AN INTEGRATED COLLEGE?

Why attend an Integrated College?

At Blackwater we are part of a strong group of an ever increasing number of Integrated schools bringing together children and adults from Catholic, Protestant and other backgrounds in each school. We have a religious balance of pupils, teachers and governors and acknowledge and respect the cultural diversity they represent.

Blackwater aims to educate children in an environment where self-esteem and independence are developed as priorities. Self-respect and respect for others are strongly encouraged. The integrated ethos is nurtured to ensure inclusion of people from different religions, cultures, genders, abilities and socio-economic backgrounds. Our integrated ethos at Blackwater is very clear to see on any visit to the College and we work closely with Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) and Integrated Education Fund (IEF) to facilitate this.

We were recognised in 2023 for our pastoral work and in particular were nominated for Families First Award for Best Post Primary School (County Down), and Best Principal - Post Primary (County Down). We are very proud of these nominations which came from parents.

Mid Down Integrated College Steering Group

In April 2019 a group of parents with children at Integrated Primary and Post Primary schools came together with the purpose of increasing the provision of integrated education in the local area. As a group we are working closely with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and the Integrated Education Fund. For the last 4 years we have been gathering support and developing our proposal for a new 11-18 integrated school in the Mid Down area. Engagements with the local community have highlighted the fact that there is a very substantial demand for a school of this type.

Mid Down Integrated College Steering Group worked with Blackwater Integrated College to establish a Post Primary Integrated College in the Downpatrick, Saintfield, Crossgar area. On Monday 19th October 2023 our plans (Development Proposals 667 & 668) were approved by the Department of Education.

The new College will open in September 2025, and with Blackwater IC, Mid Down Integrated College Steering Group will work to turn this proposal into a reality working alongside the Department of Education. All students enrolled in Blackwater at this date will automatically transfer across to the new College as stated in the proposal within an 11-18 College.

For any questions, or if you would like more information, please drop us an email to **MDICSG19@gmail.com**



COMMENTS FROM OUR NEW YEAR 8 STUDENTS ON LIFE AT BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE:



Holly Crane
St Patrick's Primary School, Legamaddy

I love secondary school, and although you have more work and more classes than primary school, it's still a lot better in my opinion. If you are worried about getting lost in secondary school, don't worry about it because I was the same and I kept thinking that the school was huge and that I would definitely not be able to find my way but it turns out on the first couple of days a teacher brought us round to all the classes we needed to go to and then after a while you just know the whole school. When I was told that at first, I didn't believe it but it's true! I love all the different subjects and it's a lot of fun learning a new language. I found that I fit in here just right and I hope it's the same for you. Good luck!



Lucas Kelly
Portaferry Integrated PS

Blackwater is a great school to go to because the teachers are friendly and I'm sure they will be glad to take you into their school. The canteen has lovely food. There is a football club for boys and girls plus an Art Club, and we need more people to go to the Rugby Club. There are nice pupils in the school as well and you'll make loads of friends if you come to Blackwater.



Maisie McFerran
St Colmcille's PS

Blackwater is a really good school; the teachers are nice and supportive if you ever have to say something that's bothering you in school. Personally, I'm doing great in Blackwater and I have made a lot of friends and they are all really nice. If you come to Blackwater, I'll look forward to seeing you!



Ollie Eaton
Killyleagh Integrated PS

Hello, I'm enjoying Blackwater Integrated College. I'm happy I came here out of all the schools I could have picked because it is suitable for everyone. The classes are really nice and fun. All the students and staff are really kind. Also, it's integrated so people from all over the world come to this school. So if there are any people considering what high school to go to, tell them that Blackwater is perfect!



Ruby McGimpsey
Killinchy PS

Hello, my name is Ruby and I would like to tell you some facts about Blackwater.

- Our lunches are 40 minutes long
- Our breaks are 20 minutes long
- We have morning and afternoon registration (10 minutes long)
- My favourite subjects are - Art, HE, Science, English, IT and Spanish
- Our canteen foods are delicious - drinks, desserts, all the food
- The canteen is open at break and lunch
- All of the Teachers, Classroom Assistants, PE teachers - and I can't forget our Principal - are so lovely.



Harry Williams
Killyleagh Integrated PS

Year 8 in Blackwater is great! It has good food, good people and a great Head Girl and Head Boy. My time here has been amazing. I enjoy the great stuff in this school but not the exams or assessments! I love the anime club I go to every Wednesday. I hope you enjoy your year 8 experience too if you come here.

COMMENTS FROM OUR NEW YEAR 8 STUDENTS ON LIFE AT BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE:



Amy Quinn
Killinchy PS

My name is Amy and I would like to tell you some things about Blackwater. I am happy that I got accepted into Blackwater Integrated College. I like their subjects, especially HE because I like cooking. Another is Art because the teacher, Miss McKee, is really nice. I also like Science because we do fun experiments and I love PE because we do netball and football.

We do lots of after-school activities. My favourite is on a Thursday afternoon because it is girls' football. Mrs Love takes it.



Cara Alexander
St Patrick's Primary School, Legamaddy

I think Blackwater is a great school. I have made lots of friends and they are good fun. My Form Teacher is really nice and I go to her room at break time with my friends. Most of my teachers are really nice and I enjoy almost every lesson.



Harry Simpson
Killyleagh Integrated PS

My name is Harry Simpson and my life at Blackwater is good as there is always a teacher or classroom assistant ready to answer your questions. Overall, the school is really good. I like the school as it is big enough in size and there are lots of classrooms. I chose this school as my first option because all the teachers are very nice and welcoming to your questions too.



FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM PARENTS

"We transferred our son from a grammar school to Blackwater Integrated College. Within a short period of time, a young man who believed himself to be a failure and unlikely to achieve, was transformed into a confident student. The credit for this lay with the staff of Blackwater, all of whom went well above and beyond the call of duty to help a young man reach his potential."

"I am glad that I chose Blackwater IC for both of my children. Both have been encouraged and nurtured at the school and the pastoral care has also been second to none. A great school all round."

"My child has enjoyed her time in the College so far and there is a great relationship between teachers and students. My child has come on leaps and bounds since she started the College. As a parent I am delighted with her progress and am very happy we chose Blackwater Integrated College and have recommended it to many people."

"My son really loves Blackwater. He is very happy at school and is determined not to miss any days. I know that the staff have helped to mould my son into a balanced young man with great respect for everyone. He aims to deliver his best and he has the utmost respect for all the staff. Blackwater is an excellent school and my son has thrived both educationally and as an individual and I am really glad that he has the opportunity to attend this brilliant school."

"A very special school that has developed by responding to the pupils as individual learners. An imaginative and flexible approach which believes every child has a gift to be nurtured."

"Staff are amazing, supportive, understanding and nurturing. My daughter has Autism and anxiety, she was a school refuser for years in primary, and now after 4 years attending Blackwater she has grown so much in confidence and loves going to school."

"Blackwater has gone above and beyond. An excellent school that is definitely not recognised enough. Pastoral care is second to none and every teacher knows every child inside out."

"Blackwater was certainly the right choice and we will continue to spread the word as to how wonderful you all are. Please pass on our praise and expression of thanks for all the hard work and dedication the team put in."



COMMENTS FROM FORMER STUDENTS



"My favourite things at Blackwater were the school ski trips to Bulgaria and Italy. I loved all of my teachers and they really helped me get excellent GCSE grades. I enjoyed how the college was so friendly and I didn't mind getting up every morning to come! I have really good memories and made good friends and it was a pleasure to attend Blackwater for 5 years. I am now at Down High doing 'A' level Sociology, Health and Social Care, Moving Image Arts and BTEC Business Studies after getting 9 GCSEs at grade C or better."

"I really enjoyed my time at Blackwater and it prepared me really well for the 'A' levels I am close to completing. I have just sent off my UCAS forms for University and it's thanks to the staff at Blackwater that I have this opportunity after getting great GCSE results and being able to attend Lagan College to do my 'A' levels."



"All the teachers are so nice and they always helped when you needed extra assistance. My form tutor was the best and we raised lots of money for different charities. My trip to Paris in Year 8 was great as I got to know everyone really well. I achieved 9 excellent GCSE grades giving me lots of options for my 'A' levels. My time at Blackwater prepared me really well for my current studies in Moving Image Arts, Health and Social Care and Business Studies at Down High."



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BLACKWATER?

Year 8 summer scheme and induction programme
Scholars Programme for Year 8 & 9 students
PSNI Community talks
Overseas trips – eg. Paris Trip, Water Sports Trip, Ski Trip to Folgaria March '24
Junior Leaders and Senior School Prefects
Prince's Trust programme
North Down Sports Leagues
Charity work
Community volunteering
Shared Education trips
Coding workshops
Parents' Association
After school Homework Hub
Youth Club
Celebration assemblies for attendance / positive behaviour
Hot Chocolate Friday for positive achievement
STEM Career Events
Credit trips
Cinema trips
Careers talks
Art competitions
Visits to St George's and Christmas Markets
Curriculum links with local schools and SERC for Occupational Studies
Integrated Education Week
European Day of Languages
Full time Youth Worker
School Choir
Chromebook supplied to all students to use at home and in school
Extended Schools activities
Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme
Study Skills Presentations
Lunch time clubs



PASTORAL CARE

Settling in:

At Blackwater Integrated College, we understand that it can be quite difficult for young people to make the change from primary to post-primary education so care is taken to ensure that the transition goes as smoothly as possible. A structured induction programme is in place to enable students to settle quickly and feel part of the College.

As part of the induction programme for our new intake we have organised a summer scheme the week before school starts in September 2024. This will be organised by our Youth Worker, Gary Boyd, who will work on an induction programme with new Year 8 students to familiarise them with the College. The first day of term in 2024 will also be set aside for Year 8 only. This allows the children to settle and form relationships with their teachers and peers; they will spend lots of time exploring their new surroundings. The induction process will continue through the early weeks of your child's time at the College within our Personal Development programme.

During the first term you will be invited to the College to meet with your child's form tutor. This will be an opportunity for you to find out how well your child has settled into the College and to discuss with his or her form tutor any concerns you might have.

How we support our students:

We place great emphasis on the pastoral care of our students. The basic pastoral unit is the tutor group, which consists of approximately 20 students. A tutor is assigned to each class and usually remains with the group as they move through the College.

Tutor groups meet each morning before class for registration and announcements and again in the afternoon. These tutorials ensure that a student who may be worried about any aspect of College life has daily access to his or her tutor who works closely with all staff to monitor each student's academic performance and personal development.

Tutor groups also follow a Preventative Curriculum during which students cover a wide range of relevant issues. Our pastoral system is a caring system that aims to put the children at ease right from the first day, free from worries and concerns, allowing them to feel safe and secure in their environment and to grow in confidence. There is also a real focus on promoting positive behaviour throughout all year groups.

We also have a permanent Youth Worker, Gary Boyd in the College to support our students daily in a range of ways.

Pastoral policies for Anti-Bullying, Positive Behaviour, Child Protection, Drugs and Digital Media are available on request from the College office.

IN SCHOOL PROVISION – YOUTH WORKER:



My name is Gary Boyd and I have the privilege of being the Youth Worker at BIC when I'm not wrestling with or playing personal waiter to my 3 boys. I have a wonderful wife Anna who keeps all us boys in line and makes sure we shower every day. My interests are quite varied from obsessing over Man City football club (someone has to), to geeking out with retro gaming, Pokemon and cars. I'm from the generation that had to negotiate between using the phone or the internet and from a time when 10p crisps were 10p.

I have always dreamed of having a youth work role within a school environment after having spent 17 years as a youth worker in community and church settings. I had regularly delivered youth work sessions and experiences in multiple schools over that time working through issues of diversity, mental health and citizenship to name but a few. The key to great youth work for me is grounded in having significant and trusting relationships with the young people where they hold the power to invite you into their lives to invest in their personal, social and emotional development.

My role can be incredibly varied and often reactive to whatever situation or issue may arise on any particular day. Currently I work in one to one sessions and small group settings to help our students discover more about who they are, where they are going and how they

can get there. In a nutshell it's all about identity. To get there however I journey alongside them through the highs and lows of life, the setbacks and celebrations and the wins and the losses to support them in becoming everything they can be and to reach their full potential.

I also run the Duke of Edinburgh Programme in partnership with SERC Downpatrick which gives our year 12 students a further opportunity to build upon the skills they already have while gaining new experiences and journeying beyond their limits in achieving their bronze and silver awards.

Alongside all of that I work with external organisations and build partnerships with local services to bring them into our school to further build upon the pastoral work we provide as a school in support of our pupils. We've built some fantastic partnerships in recent years and had incredible and engaging organisations in the College looking at supporting mental health, encouraging participation and raising awareness of cultural diversity.

Although my role does not teach anything in the traditional classroom setting my hope is that it prepares young people to fully participate in society, accept and understand anyone who they may consider to be the other, support their emotional development and well being and encourage an unwavering set of positive values

Finally, I hope I can develop this role further to support our students' lives in and beyond the school gates and help them all to be well rounded contributing members within their school, family and communities.

The curriculum in Blackwater Integrated College is delivered by subject specialist teachers who regularly update their knowledge and skills through training and sharing of practice.

Blackwater Integrated College offers an accelerated learning class in each year at Key Stage 3, enabling students to access a tailored curriculum and this has enhanced outcomes for all at Key Stage 4. The most recent ETi inspection confirmed that **“The outcomes attained by the pupils in most of the subjects at GCSE grades A* to C are in line with, or above, the corresponding NI subject averages”**.

As the College has developed and the range of both academic and vocational subjects has expanded at Key Stage 4 there has been a rise in standards: the majority of those following the Vocational Programme now achieve five or more GCSEs or equivalent qualifications. ETi confirmed that **“pupils attain good standards in a wide range of vocational subjects”**.

Excellent pastoral systems support the students in their learning, and guidance on how to study effectively is delivered in the Personal Development programme and supplemented by enjoyable practical workshops at appropriate times.

Progress is tracked throughout a student's time at the College: targets are shared and students have access to further interventions as required.

In 2023 GCSE results almost 90% of Blackwater students achieved 5+ GCSE grades at A*- C and 56% including English and Mathematics. Both of these figures are above the NI average for similar schools and show the curriculum offer at Blackwater is clearly tailored to meet student needs.

With the new College opening in September 2025 all students entering Year 8 in September 2024 will have the opportunity to progress through to sixth form provision and access ‘A’ level courses and Level 3 courses without having to move school.

Online learning

The College has recently invested in developing e-learning and is now well equipped with Chromebooks for all students. These are available for use in lessons, and some homework is also set on Google Classroom. All students are trained in how to use this and are developing confidence and competence in the wide range of ICT skills required for 21st century life and workplaces.

When students arrive in Year 8 they are given a Chromebook for use in school and at home and through Google Classroom students can access a range of resources at home and in class. Recent surveys of both parents and students have shown the use of Chromebooks to be a very popular addition to assist student learning at Blackwater IC.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL AND ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Special Education is the education of students with special needs which may be learning, physical, social or emotional difficulties. Our policies are designed to ensure that all students, irrespective of ability, gender, race or social grouping, are enabled to work to their full potential. This was recognised in the last ETI inspection which stated **“Over the past three years, the pupils who require additional support with aspects of their learning have attained well at GCSE (including equivalents).”**


All students, including those identified as having special educational needs, experience a curriculum relevant to their needs and ability which fulfils the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum while having regard to the Code of Practice.

We do this by:

- the early identification of SEN
- one to one or small group interventions by a support teacher
- actively involving parents
- maintaining a special educational needs register and record keeping system
- providing training for staff, including a team of teaching assistants
- liaising closely with appropriate services to support our young people, for example the ASD Advisory Service
- providing a complementary programme for students who need an alternative to the GCSE curriculum which enables them to achieve results equivalent to five or more GCSEs

Blackwater Integrated College provides support for students with Additional and Special Needs in accordance with SENDO legislation. The College supports the principle of inclusion of students with moderate learning difficulties within the student body and across a range of curriculum subjects. We have also added a new Sensory Room in the College and a programme to support its usage. Further information on SEN is available on the College website at www.blackwateric.org in the Parents section.





CAREERS EDUCATION INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance in the college is very important for all students and is covered in a range of ways. Careers Education and Learning for Life and Work complement each other to create a cohesive programme which meets the statutory requirement and provides the students with a realistic understanding of the world of employment.

Timetabled careers lessons introduce students to new concepts and give opportunities to explore new skills. The focus through Years 8 - 12 includes employment within the local and global economy, career planning, enterprise and entrepreneurship. In addition to this, Careers Education is incorporated into all other subjects across the curriculum.

To assist with subject choices in Year 10, students and their parents are invited to the College. This allows for discussion with staff which enables the students to make informed decisions about Key Stage 4 study. During Key Stage 4, students are made aware of Post 16 provision options and are provided with impartial advice from the Careers Service. Moving forward from September 2025 Post 16 provision will be available at the new College and we will continue to work with students to provide them with the best pathway to meet their specific needs.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Blackwater Integrated College provides a Christian rather than a secular approach and context although students of all faiths and none are welcomed. The young people are nurtured in the values of their own ethnic, religious and cultural background and develop a respect for the different values of the other students.

Like any other school in Northern Ireland, Blackwater Integrated College has an obligation to deliver the statutory curriculum which, in the case of Religious Education, has been agreed by the main churches. Students also study world religions as part of the Religious Education programme as this broadens students' knowledge and understanding while encouraging tolerance and awareness of other religions and cultures in our community in line with our Integrated ethos.

Alternative arrangements can be made for students whose parents do not wish them to participate in Religious Education.

BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE - TEACHING STAFF

Principal

Mr S Taylor BA(Hons) PGCE PQH (NI)

Senior Leadership Team

Vice Principal

Ms P Gilmore

Pastoral Coordinator

Mrs J Millington

Assessment and Reporting

Mrs L McVeigh

C2K Coordinator

Mr D McAlorum

Bursar

Mrs S Telford

Learning Support Coordinator

Mrs K Mallon BA (Hons) PGCE CPT3A

Art & Design

Mrs L Laird BDes (Hons) PGCE

Miss Melissa McKee BA (Hons) PGCE

ICT

Mr D McAlorum BSc (Hons) PGCE

English

Mrs E Killen BA (Hons) PGCE

Ms P Gilmore BA (Hons) PGCTEFL PQH (NI)

Mrs Y Taylor BA (Hons) Grad Dip ED

Ms J Degan BA (Hons) PGCE

Geography

Mrs J Lockhart BSc (Joint Hons), PGCE

History

Mrs A Ward BA (Hons) PGCE

Home Economics

Mrs H McBrearty BEd (Hons)

Languages

Mrs K Love BA (Hons) PGCE

Learning Support Centre

Mr C McClean BSc (Hons) MSc PGCE

Mrs R Morrison BTh, PGCE CPT3A

Miss A Ross BA (Hons) PGCE MEd

Mathematics

Mrs L McVeigh BSc (Hons) PGCE PQH (NI)

Mr J Killen BEd

Music

Mrs E Stott BMus (Hons) PGDip MTh PGCE

Physical Education

Mr M Sunerton BSc (Hons) PGCE

Mrs J Millington BSc (Hons) PGCE

Mr C Coleman BSc (Hons) PGCE

Religious Education

Miss C Wheatley BEd

Science

Mrs A Cockfield BSc (Hons) MEd PGCE

Mrs J McClelland BSc (Hons) PGCE

Technology and Design

Mr Conor Daniel BEd (Hons)

COLLEGE DAY

Students should be on the College premises by 08:40 at the latest.

Times	Period
08.45 - 08.55	AM Registration
08.55 - 09.40	1
09.40 - 10.25	2
10.25 - 10.45	Break
10.45 - 11.30	3
11.30 - 12.15	4
12.15 - 12.55	5/Junior Lunch
12.55 - 13.35	6/Senior Lunch
13.35 - 14.20	7
14.20 - 15.00	8
15.00 - 15.10	PM Registration

BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE - BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is comprised of up to 16 members. The Principal attends all Board meetings and many sub-committees in a non-voting capacity. The Board of Governors meets on a monthly basis.

Much of the College's business is handled by sub-committees, established to address various areas of policy. They meet as often as required and report back to the full Board of Governors. Any recommendations made by the Committees must be ratified by the full Board before they become policy.

Governors also attend meetings of groups which have close links with the school e.g. various meetings of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education. All Governors are offered a programme of training to assist them in their role. The Board of Governors and the various constituencies of Foundation Governors, Department of Education Nominees, Parent Governors and Teacher Governors must be balanced in terms of religious tradition.

Board Of Governors

Mrs A Toman

Chair (DE Representative)

Mrs D McBay

Foundation Governor

Mr N McGrath

Foundation Governor

Mrs F Lowry

Foundation Parent Governor

Awaiting appointment

Foundation Parent Governor

Mrs A Cockfield

Teacher Representative

Mrs E Killen

Teacher Representative

Awaiting Appointment

Department of Education Representative

Awaiting Appointment

Department of Education Representative

Awaiting Appointment

Department of Education Representative

Mrs A Grimason

Parent Governor

Mrs M McKervey

Parent Governor



PARTNER PRIMARY SCHOOLS

In recent years Blackwater Integrated College has enrolled pupils from a wide area, including pupils from the schools listed below:

Academy PS | Alexander Dickson PS | Ballynahinch PS
Belvoir Park PS | Cairnshill PS | Carryduff PS
Carrickmannon PS | Cedar IPS | Cumran PS | Derryboy PS
Downpatrick PS | Dromara PS | Drumlins IPS | Glasswater PS
Killinchy PS | Killyleagh IPS | Killard House PS | Kircubbin IPS
Knockbreda PS | Lisnasharragh PS | Loughries IPS | Loughview IPS
Millennium IPS | Moneyrea PS | Our Lady and St Patrick's PS | Portaferry CIPS
Rosetta PS | St Brigid's PS | St Colmcille's PS | St Malachy's PS | St Mary's PS, Comber
St Mary's PS, Dunsford | St Mary's PS, Killyleagh
St McCartan's PS, Loughinisland | St Nicholas' PS, Ardglass | St Patrick's PS, Ballynahinch
St Patrick's PS, Saul | St Patrick's PS, Legamaddy

This is not an exhaustive list and we have many other students who travel from further afield to attend Blackwater IC.



BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE UNIFORM

College uniform is compulsory for all students and must be worn at all times, including to and from school. Names should be clearly marked on all items of uniform and equipment. The College uniform is as follows:

Girls

Navy blazer polyester mix with embroidered badge
Blue and white striped blouse with revere collar
School grey pleated skirt or school grey trousers
College v-neck jumper (compulsory October to Easter)
College grey socks or black tights
Black leather school shoes (heel height must be less than 5cm)

Girls (Optional)

Navy college coat with embroidered badge
(Only the college coat is acceptable as an outdoor coat)
College scarf (Only the college scarf is acceptable)

Girls (PE)

College PE shorts , College polo shirt, College PE socks
Trainers, College tracksuit

Boys

Navy blazer polyester mix with embroidered badge
White school shirt which should be tucked in
School grey trousers
College v-neck jumper (compulsory October to Easter)
Black socks
Black leather school shoes
College tie

Boys (Optional)

Navy college coat with embroidered badge
(Only the college coat is acceptable as an outdoor coat)
College scarf

Boys (PE)

College PE shorts , College polo shirt, College PE socks
Trainers, College tracksuit

Students will require the college tracksuit for PE and on days when a less formal uniform is appropriate, for example educational visits.

Jewellery: A wristwatch may be worn and a pair of earrings may be worn. No other visible piercings will be permitted.

Make-up: Make-up, if worn, should be subtle. Nail polish and extensions are not permitted.

Schoolbags: Plain schoolbag, large enough to hold A4 size books and folders – no football emblems please

Official Uniform stockists – Marshall's of Saintfield / Minders, Downpatrick
(College PE kit only available in Marshall's of Saintfield)



ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 2024/2025

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 the Board of Governors includes any Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the admissions criteria set out herein.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 2024/2025

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.

The legal responsibilities under which the Board of Governors in the integrated sector have operated, were derived from the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989. The Board of Governors of Blackwater Integrated College acknowledge the introduction of the new Integrated Education Act 2022, and the Governors will assess any potential changes to existing school policy in line with that Act and its supporting Regulations and Guidance when they are published. Our aim is to achieve as even a balance as possible in the intake with regard to religious denomination, gender and academic ability. The College will reserve a maximum of 20% of places for students from 'other traditions'. 'Other traditions', for the purposes of these Admissions Criteria, is defined as tradition other than the Catholic or Protestant traditions. The criteria as set out below will first be applied to members of "other traditions"; the additional places will be allocated to the main tradition having the lesser number of applicants. The criteria set out below will be applied separately to Protestant and Roman Catholic applicants. In the event of there being fewer applicants from either tradition than there are places available for that tradition, the balance of places will be firstly available to the "other traditions" and secondly to the remaining tradition.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will take into account information supplied on the Transfer Application. The Board of Governors reserves the right to request such supplementary evidence as it may require in order to support or verify information on any applicant's Transfer Application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the College's admissions criteria is stated on the Transfer Application or attached/uploaded to it.

In the event that there are more applicants than places available, the Board of Governors has determined that the following criteria shall be applied in the order set down:

1. Siblings

Applicants who have a brother(s) or sister(s) or half-brother or half-sister enrolled in the College.

2. Eldest Child

Applicants who are the first child in the family to transfer from primary education or, in the case of a family recently arrived in the area, the first to reach transfer age since arrival.

3. Integration

Applicants who are transferring from a controlled integrated or a grant-maintained integrated primary school, as defined in the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 2024/2025

4. Mixed Relationships

Applicants from a mixed relationship, which is here defined as one parent being Catholic and the other parent being Protestant or one parent being of any other religion outside the main traditions in Northern Ireland.

5. Other Applicants

If following the application of the above criteria in order there comes a point where there are more pupils who meet a particular criterion than there are places then selection will be on the basis of initial letter of the surname in the order set out below:

Q F L Mc G B P T R C O N Z D M X Mac A S J Y E U H W V K I

The order was determined by a randomised selection of the letters of the alphabet and will be changed each year.

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used.

The religious affiliation of an applicant will be determined by reference to the following in the order given:

1. Information supplied on the Transfer Application.
2. The type of primary school which the pupil attended (ie controlled or maintained) will be used to determine the religious affiliation.
3. In the case of students transferring from an integrated primary school or the preparatory department of a voluntary grammar school, the school may be asked to supply such information as it can concerning the religious affiliation of the applicant.

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 the Transfer Application.

Applicants 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 on the applicant's Transfer Application.



WAITING LIST POLICY

The criteria relating to the initial admission of students into Year 8 before the commencement of the 2024 academic year will also be used for entry into Year 8 should admission become possible after the commencement of the 2024 academic year.

Applications and Admissions to Year 8	Admissions No	Total Application (ie. All preferences)	Total Admissions
2021/22	80	41*	41*
2022/23	80	43*	43*
2023/24	80	63*	63*

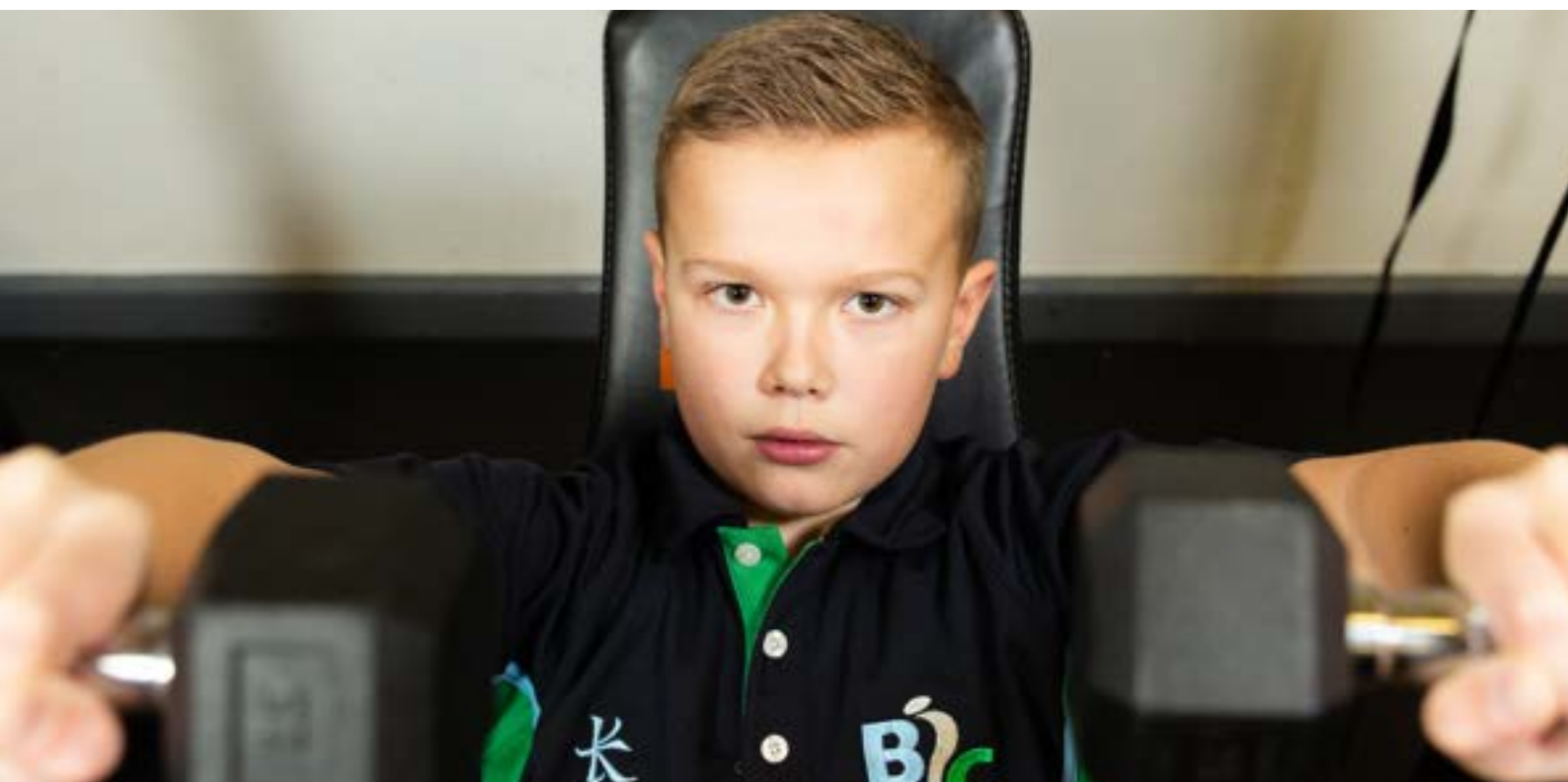
*includes statemented children

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 9 -12

Pupils will be considered for enrolment provided that:

1. Their admission will not cause the school to exceed its enrolment number;
2. Their admission will not cause the year group to exceed the admissions number set for it, at its time of entry.
3. In the opinion of the Board of Governors, their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

Applications for admission during the school year will be considered as soon as possible after the application is received.



BLACKWATER INTEGRATED COLLEGE

12 Old Belfast Road

Downpatrick, BT30 6SG

Telephone No: 028 4461 2115

Fax No: 028 4461 3116

Email: info@blackwateric.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.blackwateric.org

Grant Maintained Integrated College

Age Range:

11-16

Admissions Number:

80

Enrolment Number:

400

Principal: Mr Stephen Taylor, BA Hons, PQH

Chairperson Board of Governors: Mrs Ann Toman

FURTHER INFORMATION

Open Night for prospective students is on Tuesday 9th January 7.00 – 9.00pm

It is possible to arrange 1-1 meetings with the Principal during the months
of January and February 2024.



Please call the College on 02844612115 for more information and to make an appointment.
Further information regarding the College is available on our website www.blackwateric.org





BLACKWATER
INTEGRATED COLLEGE

Blackwater Integrated College

12 Old Belfast Road, Downpatrick BT30 6SG

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