



BLACKWATER
INTEGRATED COLLEGE

2026
SCHOOL 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. Blackwater is statistically one of the most diverse colleges in NI with a representative balance of the community in our intake.

With a proposal approved by the Department of Education in 2023 we are working with Mid Down Integrated College Steering group to form a new Integrated Post Primary school. The new College is set to open in September 2027 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. An interim Board of Governors has been established and they are working with the Department of Education to establish the new school on a new site.

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. From September 2025 we have had Specialist Provision in place for students from Year 8 - Year 12 building on the excellent reputation the College has for working with students who have Special Educational Needs.

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 structures 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 2026 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?

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 recently for our pastoral work and in particular were nominated for Families First Award for Best Post Primary School (County Down), and Teacher of the Year (County Down) was Mrs Joy Millington. We are very proud of these nominations which came from parents.

We were also proud to accept an Investors in Mental Health Award from Aware NI. This award recognises the positive contribution that the college makes in supporting the mental health and well-being of all students on a daily basis.

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 they worked closely with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and the Integrated Education Fund to establish a new 11-18 integrated school in the Mid Down area. Mid Down Integrated College Steering Group worked with Blackwater Integrated College to do this and in October 2023 our plans (Development Proposals 667 & 668) were approved by the Department of Education.

The new College hopes to open in September 2027, 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 11-18 College College as stated in the proposal.

This will allow Blackwater students to avail of Post 16 Provision from September 2027 onwards and any student starting in Blackwater in September 2026 will automatically transfer into the new school and also have the opportunity of an 11-18 education in an integrated setting.

This is a very exciting time for the College and we look forward with great enthusiasm to what the future holds for our current and future students.

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



Caelum Comiskey

Millennium Integrated Primary School

Friendly students, great teachers, and epic subjects are the three things that make a school a good school and Blackwater has all three. The school has a variety of subjects including H.E., Science, ICT, History, Geography, Music, Art, Careers, Languages like Spanish and French, and of course, core subjects including English and Maths. The canteen always has something delicious too! To make new students feel welcome, a summer-scheme is held in late August, and let me tell you, Gary is a GREAT guy. He gives treats like ice cream and he's also very friendly to chat with. Out of all the schools you should choose after primary school it should be Blackwater Integrated College.



John-Joseph Galbraith

St Colmcilles Primary School

In my opinion Blackwater is a great school. It has kind and caring teachers and if you are stuck or need help with anything the teachers and classroom assistants are always there to help. I thought it would be difficult to find any friends but I did quickly through lunch club. My favourite subjects are ICT, Science, PE and HE. At break time you can chat and play with your friends and at lunch you can play football. I recommend coming to Blackwater Integrated college because it is the best school ever.



Malachy McFarlane

Portaferry Integrated Primary School

I love it here because all the teachers are so friendly and kind. My favourite teacher is Miss Gill, she is very helpful and caring. Miss Talik is a great classroom assistant because she helps me when I am stuck. Mrs Ward is my head of year and Mr Taylor the principal is also very caring towards all of us students. Before coming to this school, I did not know anyone, but I found it very easy to make friends in Blackwater because of Pokémon club with Gary and Eco club.



Ellie Clegg

Downpatrick Primary School

Before I started Blackwater I was worried I would have no friends but as soon as I went to the summer scheme I met lots of new friends. We also met our Form Teachers at this time and they were lovely. We went on a trip to Palace Barracks for team building. There are many clubs such as netball, football, boxing, martial arts, pickle ball and so much more! We got Chromebooks too! I love all our subjects especially HE, Science and ICT.



COMMENTS FROM OUR NEW YEAR 8 STUDENTS



Rosie Jackson
Killinchy Primary School

Before I arrived at Blackwater, I was super anxious and nervous to start here, but as soon as I stepped through those welcoming doors of Blackwater I knew I would love it. Blackwater Integrated College is filled with fun and amazing trips throughout the year. The teachers here are more than lovely, they are caring, loving, understanding and enthusiastic about teaching. There are many after school clubs you can join such as netball, football, boxing, badminton and much more. My advice for coming here is just do it, try everything and get stuck into the enjoyable things at Blackwater.



Alfie Roberts
Andrews Memorial Primary School

Before I started Blackwater Integrated College I was very nervous because I didn't know anybody but on the first day I made lots of new friends. In year 8 you could go to the Palace Barracks for a team building trip in Belfast. The canteen food is great. There is a football team, a rugby team, a cricket team and different clubs to go to. The teachers are all very nice and supportive. There are many very good subjects like History, H.E, ICT and a lot more. I hope you choose to come to Blackwater.



Lincoln Baker
Millennium Integrated Primary School

Before I started, I was terrified, mostly about meeting new people as I have social anxiety. I came here and now I have about 10 or 15 close friends. The Palace Barracks trip was terrific and so is the canteen food. HE is one of the best subjects and LLW is also great. One bit of advice is to socialise and meet new friends and Blackwater will be even more fun!



Sarah Herron
Killinchy Primary School

At the start of the year I only knew 4 people. After the first week I had settled in and loved it here and had made new friends in my form class. All the teachers are really nice and supportive. After school I love going to netball with my friends. I love my Form Teacher Mrs Cockfield who has made me feel so welcome and she is the best at teaching Science. If I could I would tell P7s feeling nervous that Blackwater is very supportive and you will be okay.

FEEDBACK RECEIVED FROM PARENTS

The following comments were taken from nominations for Family First School of the Year award and also in a recent parental survey for our School Development Plan:

“As a parent of two students in the school I have found Blackwater to be a great support to both them and me. They have kept me informed of their progress and both boys have come on so much in their time there. This is much more than a school; it's a community for all abilities and displays respect for all.”

“This is a progressive forward thinking school family. One that puts its pupils at the top of its agenda. Cares, educates, is passionate and lives in the real world.”

“My daughter has almost completed year 8 in Blackwater. The school has been amazing. Nothing is too much to ask and they have fully supported my daughter to be the best she can be. The staff are genuinely caring and have the children's best interests at heart.”

“This is an amazing school and my daughter absolutely loves it. They are brilliant at dealing with any need my daughter has come up against. I feel she is really supported and helped in her learning.”

“Excellent school. Lots of options for whether you are academic or practical minded. Great support for pupils. Staff encourage learning and make it interesting. My child is about to finish Year 8 and she has loved every minute.”

“Blackwater is filled with the most amazing and dedicated teaching staff who really care about the children and go the extra mile. They also support those children who are looking for a more academic pathway as well as those children who need support individually. I couldn't be happier with the school that my son attends.”

“Blackwater embraces families, acknowledging they come in different shapes and sizes with a multitude of abilities, cultural needs and beliefs. Their ability to wrap around the young people and their families ensures the support needed is provided. It is led with an eye always on achieving good outcomes, whatever that means for each individual child. I have seen this in action, along with determination and motivation to do and want better for the young people from all staff.”

“Blackwater is a school that celebrates the child and not just academic achievement. Like the old maxim, education is not just the filling of a bucket rather the igniting of a fire! Blackwater has this embedded within the spirit of the school and its teachers.”

COMMENTS FROM FORMER STUDENTS

Students at Blackwater IC move on to a wide range of both academic and vocational courses and occupations when they leave the College. Our curriculum aims to allow students a range of pathways that will only increase as we move forward into Mid Down Integrated College with Post 16 provision in place and a wide range of new options available. We are always delighted to see past students achieving great success in their future endeavours and as you can see from the comments below our students really benefit from their time at Blackwater IC.



"The teachers and staff at Blackwater are really supportive and kind, especially my form teacher. I was always encouraged to do my very best work. I enjoyed being part of an integrated school where I learnt about different cultures and beliefs. I have really good memories and made good friends and it was a pleasure to attend Blackwater for 5 years. Thanks to Blackwater I am now at Belfast Met studying the course of my choice."

"My time at Blackwater was shorter than others as I joined two years later than most of my classmates but, to say the least, it has been where I have grown as not only a student but as a person. When I joined Blackwater, I was not able to speak in front of my classmates but in my last year of school I was making speeches, as Head Girl, in front of the school and parents. Blackwater does not just care about GCSE results, it cares about all its students. I received better results in my GCSEs than I thought I would because of all the amazing staff in the college. I am now doing a public services course in Belfast Metropolitan College."



"Blackwater got me through the five years of education and I am so glad I chose to attend secondary school there. I loved all my teachers but my Home Economics teacher left the biggest impact with her endless support and patience when I struggled. If it wasn't for Blackwater I would not have my long-life friends or my GCSEs at grade C or better. I am now attending Shimna where I am doing my A-Levels. I really loved Blackwater."

"Before I joined Blackwater I didn't like school, but I can confidently say that Blackwater changed that. My favourite things about the college were the subjects, the people and the experiences that were given to me as a student. I passed all my GCSEs with flying colours. My favourite subject was Technology because I enjoyed the hands-on experience. Blackwater was a place where I found it easy to make friends and the staff in the College are always willing to give a helping hand to students, especially Gary Boyd, the school's Youth Worker. Now that I have left school I have started my Light Technician apprenticeship for KIA, and I am attending Transport Training Services."



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT BLACKWATER

Year 8 summer scheme and induction programme

PSNI Community talks

Overseas trips – Paris Trip, Ski Trip to Folgaria Feb '26

Junior Leaders and Senior School Prefects

King's Trust programme

North Down Sports Leagues

Charity work

Community volunteering

Parents' Association

After school Homework Hub

Youth Club

Celebration assemblies for attendance / positive behaviour

Amplify Programme in collaboration with Patrician YC

Lunch time clubs

STEM Career Events

Credit trips

Cinema trips

Careers talks

Art competitions

Visits to St George's and Christmas Markets

Curriculum links with SERC for Occupational Studies

Integrated Education Week

European Day of Languages

Full-time Youth Worker

School Choir

Chromebook for all students to use at home and in school

Extended Schools activities

Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme

Study Skills Presentations



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 during the week before school starts in August 2026. 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 2026 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 subject teachers and form tutor. This will be an opportunity for you to find out how well your child has settled into the College and to discuss 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. 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, Attendance, 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, anime and cars. I'm from the generation that had to negotiate between using the phone or the internet in tandem 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 18 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 and social, 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.

For my entire career it has always been so important to recognise the importance of bringing everyone along on the journey when it comes to navigating teenagers through these key developmental years which is why I also extend any support to the families connected with Blackwater. This can include home visits to help parents and carers talk through the tough issues with teenagers and can also include assisting families in the tools they need to make better connections through understanding current trends in youth culture among other things.

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.

With the new College opening in September 2027 all students entering Year 8 in September 2026 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 can lease a Chromebook for use in school and at home, and through Google Classroom students can access a range of resources both at home and in class. Recent surveys of 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. Since September 2025 we have had Specialist Provision in place for students from Year 8 - Year 12 building on the excellent reputation the College has for working with students for Special Educational Needs.

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 another 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 & LEARNING FOR LIFE & WORK EDUCATION

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 options and are provided with impartial advice from the Careers Service. Moving forward from September 2027 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.



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

Bursar

Mrs S Telford

C2K Coordinator

Mr D McAlorum

Whole School Improvement

Mrs K Love

Post 16 Provision

Mrs L Laird

Learning Support Coordinator

Mrs K Mallon BA (Hons) PGCE CPT3A

Art & Design

Mrs L Laird BDes (Hons) PGCE

ICT

Mr D McAlorum BSc (Hons) PGCE

English

Mrs E Killen BA (Hons) PGCE
Ms P Gilmore BA (Hons) PGCert TEFL PQH (NI)
Mrs Y Taylor BA (Hons) Grad Dip ED
Ms A Cunningham BEd (Hons)

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

Mr C McClean BSc (Hons) MSc PGCE
Mrs R Morrison BTh, PGCE CPT3A
Miss A Ross BA (Hons) PGCE MEd
Miss D Brannigan BA (Hons) PGCE

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 BA(Hons) PGCE
Miss J Gill BSc (Hons) PGDE

Religious Education

Mrs J Black BEd (Hons) DASE
Miss C Wheatley BEd

Mathematics

Mrs L McVeigh BSc (Hons) PGCE PQH (NI)
Mr J Killen BEd

Science

Mrs A Cockfield BSc (Hons) MA(Ed) PGCE
Mrs J McClelland BSc (Hons) PGCE

Technology and Design

Miss M Alexander BEd (Hons)

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

Times	Period
08.45 - 9.00	AM Registration
09.00 - 9.35	1
09.35 - 10.10	2
10.10 - 10.30	Break
10.30 - 11.05	3
11.05 - 11.40	4
11.40 - 12.15	5
12.15 - 12.50	6/Junior Lunch
12.50 - 13.25	7/Senior Lunch
13.25 - 14.00	8
14.00 - 14.35	9
14.35 - 15.10	10

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	Awaiting Appointment Department of Education Representative
Mrs D McBay Foundation Governor	Awaiting Appointment Department of Education Representative
Mr N McGrath Foundation Governor	Awaiting Appointment Department of Education Representative
Mrs M McKervey Foundation Governor	Mrs J Cash Parent Governor
Mrs A Grimason Foundation Parent Governor	Ms A Clegg Parent Governor
Mrs A Cockfield Teacher Representative	Mr B McMahon Parent Governor
Mrs E Killen Teacher Representative	

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
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

Leadhill PS
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.

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 reverse collar
or

White school shirt and College tie

School **grey pleated skirt** or school **grey** trousers

College v-neck jumper (optional)

College grey socks or black tights

Black leather school shoes / Plain black leather
trainers with no coloured logo

College scarf

Girls (P.E.):

College PE shorts or leggings / track bottoms

College Polo shirt

College PE socks

Trainers

College quarter zip top

Leggings

Jewellery: For health and safety reasons, no jewellery other than a wristwatch may be worn at any time. A pair of stud earrings may be worn.

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.

Grey trousers and white shirts: Can be purchased from any retail supplier.

Boys:

Navy blazer polyester mix with embroidered badge

White school shirt and College tie

School **grey** trousers

College v-neck jumper (optional)

Black school socks

Black leather school shoes / Plain black leather
trainers with no coloured logo

College scarf

Boys (P.E.):

College PE shorts or track bottoms

College Polo shirt

College PE socks

Trainers

College quarter zip top



The College operates a uniform exchange, free of charge, that will be in place in June 2026 and throughout the year which incoming students for September 2026 can also use.

Official Uniform stockists:

Marshall's of Saintfield

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 2026/27

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 27 January 2026 at 12 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 19 February 2026 at 12 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on 19 February 2026 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 also acknowledge the introduction of the new Integrated Education Act 2022. 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:



ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

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.

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:

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

The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters 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. If applicants are still tied after this, then priority will be determined amongst them by random selection on computer.

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 (i.e. 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.



ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

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 2026 academic year will also be used for entry into Year 8 should admission become possible after the commencement of the 2026 academic year.

Applications and Admissions to Year 8	Admissions No	Total Application	Total Admissions*
2023/24	80	63	63
2024/25	80	63	63
2025/26	80	56	56

*Total Admissions for the years above 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)

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 their 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

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 13th January 7.00 – 9.00pm**
It is possible to arrange 1-1 meetings with the Principal between December 2025 and February 2026.



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

12 Old Belfast Road, Downpatrick BT30 6SG

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