



BALLYMENA ACADEMY

EST. 1828

Criteria for Admission to Ballymena Academy in Years 9 – 12

Policy ratified by Board of Governors: September 2025
Date of next review: September 2026



**BALLYMENA
ACADEMY**
EST. 1828

Ballymena Academy

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Principal: Mr. S. W. Black, M.Sc., PGCE, PQH (NI)

Chairman of the Board of Governors: Dr. D. Johnston, O.B.E., M.B., M.Sc., M.Med.Sc., F.R.C.G.P.

Voluntary Grammar School (Non-Denominational)

Co-Educational (Day)

Enrolment No. 1200

Age Range: 11-18 years

"Ballymena Academy Cares for the Individual and Inspires Learning and Achievement"

CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO BALLYMENA ACADEMY IN YEARS 9 - 12

The Board of Governors has approved the criteria described below and has delegated the task of applying these criteria to the Principal.

Those wishing to apply for entry to Years 9 – 12 must apply using the School Application Form and must provide the most recent school reports from their present or previous school, together with any other appropriate academic information (including SEAG Common Entrance Assessment score, if applicable).

- [1] Provided there are places available in the appropriate year group, and the Enrolment Number set by the Department of Education has not been reached, places may be awarded to pupils from other schools and colleges.
- [2] If, in those circumstances, the number of applications is greater than can be admitted within the school's Enrolment number or within a particular year group, the following factors will be taken into consideration:-
 - (i) the most recent reports from the applicant's present school (and previous schools, if applicable);
 - (ii) the current enrolment in Ballymena Academy of other members of the applicant's family, (in proximity of degree) or other close links with Ballymena Academy;
 - (iii) the degree to which the curriculum followed by the pupil, for whom a place is sought, enables him/her to take on the entire curriculum of the relevant year group in Ballymena Academy;
 - (iv) the disciplinary and attendance record of the applicant in his/her present school or previous school;
 - (v) the need not to increase the number of classes in any year group, or the number of pupils in any class, beyond that which is held by the Board of Governors to be desirable;
 - (vi) the ability of the pupil, for whom a place is sought, to contribute significantly to the school's co-curricular programme.

If there are more applicants than places available in a particular Year Group a rank order will be created, based on the criteria at (2) above, to determine the allocation of places.

- [3] Other things being equal, and subject to the availability of places, preference will be given to applicants for Year 11, then Year 9, then Year 10. Except in special circumstances (e.g. a family move necessitating a change of school), pupils will not normally be admitted to Year 12. In such special circumstances it is essential that course compatibility enables progression from Year 11 to Year 12 for such applications to be considered.
- [4] In making a decision about the admission of a pupil, the school may require an applicant to sit a written assessment.
- [5] It is expected that parents or guardians seeking a place for their child in the school will discuss the position with the Principal of his/her present school and the Principal of Ballymena Academy reserves the right to discuss any application with that Principal.

It should be noted that those who have applied but who have been unsuccessful in obtaining a place in the school will be placed on a waiting list for the academic year for which they have sought entry, after which time their application will be deemed to have lapsed. A further application can be made for the following year, if desired.

The policy will be subject to annual review by the Board of Governors.