

**Portadown College**  
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**Principal: Mr R S Harper, MEd, BSc.(Hons), PGCE, PQH(NI), RD.**

**Chairman of the Board of Governors: Mr P H Aiken, BA(Hons), DMS, CFCIPD**



**Controlled**

**Senior High School**

**(Selective Grammar)**

**Non-Denominational**

**Boys and Girls**

**Age Range 14-18**

**Enrolment Sept 2014:**

**792**

**Expected Enrolment Sept 2015:**

**780**

**Approved Admissions Number for 2015:**

**200**

**Approved Enrolment Number for 2015:**

**780**

Portadown College became a Senior High School (Selective Grammar) in 1969, admitting students to the Senior School at 14+ on transfer from Junior High Schools and other schools to continue academic courses to GCSE and 'A' level. The school has a staff of 50 teachers, with one of the largest Sixth Forms in Northern Ireland.

Particular regard is paid to the necessity for very close liaison with Clounagh, Killicomaine and Tandragee Junior High Schools ("the Contributory Junior High Schools") and Craigavon Senior High School. Detailed consultation takes place with the staff of the Contributory Junior High Schools, students and parents before the GCSE options are selected so that a choice of suitable subjects can be made in the full knowledge of the career implications of such a choice. Students can choose from a very broad curricular offer at AS and 'A' level. In addition to promoting the highest academic standards, an appropriate emphasis is placed on meeting the pastoral needs of the students through a well developed pastoral system. Pastorally focused evenings for parents take place at the start of each year for particular year groups.

School uniform is compulsory.

In Years 11 and 12, students also take Learning for Life and Work, Religious Education, Physical Education and Sports classes. Careers Guidance is the responsibility of specialist members of staff who are available by appointment for consultation by parents and students. A work-shadowing programme is organised in the Sixth Form. Students are encouraged to use the study facilities and resources within the school. They are guided to working on their own initiative beyond the immediate demands of homeworks and coursework and to improve and develop their study skills and competence in information and communication technology.

The school has an extensive range of general and specialist teaching facilities, a Sports Hall, a Sixth Form Centre and excellent outdoor games facilities. The Sixth Form Centre is wifi enabled and laptops are available for students.

A very strong emphasis is placed on extra-curricular activities and sport. Sport is compulsory for those not medically excused. The main sports played are Hockey (Boys and Girls), Rugby, Football, Volleyball, Cricket, Tennis, Golf, Badminton, Table Tennis and Athletics with tours for the Senior Hockey and Rugby Teams. Portadown College is one of the leading volleyball centres in Northern Ireland.

The following School Clubs are well supported by the students: - Lifeline (Portadown College's Charitable Organisation), Choir, Orchestra, Chamber Choir, Scripture Union, Bible Study, Debating Society, Dramatic Society, Air Training Corps, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Camera Club, Chess Club, Journalism Club and Equestrian Club. The house system supports a full range of school competitions in all sports, music and debating. In addition a wide range of enrichment classes and activities are offered such as first aid, solid works and sign language.

### **ADMISSIONS POLICY**

Portadown College will consider for admission those students who, in the judgement of the Board of Governors, are suited to and will benefit from the courses and form of education on offer in the school.

The lodging of an application for a place at Portadown College is interpreted by the Board of Governors as an indication that the parents and the student concerned accept and are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies, rules and regulations of the school including any code of conduct or behaviour management policy of the school. Information in relation to this may be obtained from the school.

**The lodging of an application for a place at Portadown College is interpreted by the Board of Governors that the parents consent to the College receiving, storing and processing data for the purposes of admission.**

For admission to Year 11 preference will be given to applications from students who are currently attending one of the Contributory Junior High Schools. If after allocating places to these students there remain places available, then applications from students attending other schools will be considered.

In selecting students for admission those resident in Northern Ireland will be selected for admission before those not so resident.

**When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on, or attached to, the application form alongside relevant information as indicated below. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it.**

Special consideration will be given to students whose normal progress has been restricted by medical or other valid reasons. Documentary evidence in support of special circumstances must be provided to the school by Monday 11 May 2015. Details of the evidence required can be obtained by contacting the school directly.

In the event of not being able to separate applicant students down to the last available place the Admissions Sub-Criteria listed below will apply in the order given.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application/transfer form.

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide verifying documents by the required deadline may result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of the school to offer a place.

### CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO YEAR 11 AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 2015/2016 SCHOOL YEAR

Before the admissions criteria are applied the Board of Governors will first establish the number of places available for each of the Contributory Junior High Schools based on the current academic attainment of the students from each school who have applied for admission to Portadown College. The 2015 allocation will have regard to the allocation of places in Year 11 in previous years.

#### A. Contributory Junior High Schools

In the event of there being more applications on behalf of students attending any one particular Junior High School than places available for students from that school, the Board of Governors will select students on the basis of the overall examination score and rank order (highest to lowest).

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that the overall examination score and rank order position of their child are submitted in writing to Portadown College no later than 4.00pm on Friday 8 May 2015.

#### B. Schools other than Contributory Junior High Schools

If, after the allocation of places of students from the three Contributory Junior High Schools, there are more applications from students from other schools than places remaining available, the Board of Governors will select students on the basis of an assessment of evidence made available to it of previous academic attainment and suitability of the education on offer at Portadown College.

Evidence of academic attainment of students **not** attending one of the Contributory Junior High Schools must be provided to the school no later than 4.00pm on Friday 8 May 2015.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 11			
Year	Admissions No	Number of Applications	Total Admission
2012/2013	200	264	200
2013/2014	200	260	200
2014/2015	200	253	200

### CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION DURING THE COURSE OF YEAR 11 AND AT THE BEGINNING OF OR DURING YEAR 12

Consideration can only be given where places are available at the time of application.

Given that GCSE courses are of two years' duration, applications for admission to Year 12 will only be considered if the courses taken by the applicant in his/her previous school are compatible with those on offer in Portadown College.

### CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION AFTER GCSE (16+)

Students wishing to transfer to Portadown College for Sixth Form Courses should contact the Principal. Interested students will be invited to visit the College on the Open Day.

Admission will be based on:

- (a) Evidence of academic attainment based on externally validated examinations. A minimum of 3 Grade B and 5 Grade C GCSE passes are required ("the Minimum Academic Criteria"). It is preferable to have GCSE grades A/B (or equivalent) in those subjects to be taken at Advanced Level.
- (b) Availability of places in chosen subjects or courses.

The admissions criteria for admission after GCSE will be applied by the Principal on behalf of the Board of Governors. Students who are currently members of the College and who have attained the Minimum Academic Criteria will be offered places in preference to students from other schools. Students from other schools who meet the Minimum Academic Criteria will be offered places on the basis of rank order of achievement in descending order based on total points (A\* = 4 points, A = 3 points, B = 2 points and C = 1 point) and their entry is subject to places being available and / or the Principal requesting additional places from DENI with the support of the Southern Education and Library Board.

Applications from students with qualifications other than GCSE will be assessed on the basis of GCSE equivalence where possible.

**Portadown College criteria for any extra places made available by the Department of Education 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 to be applied in the order set down.

1. Students who have most recently completed Year 12 in Portadown College.
2. Students from other schools where admission to an extra place at Portadown 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 student to enrol. DE will first check whether there is another school or schools of a type suitable for that student within an hour's journey of where the student lives. If there is, DE will then check whether this other school or schools with places available may provide all of the post-16 courses that the student wishes to pursue. If these checks find that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the student wishes to pursue – then 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: (i) denominational (ii) non-denominational (iii) Integrated and (iv) Irish-Medium. A school requesting an extra place for a post-16 student will belong to one of these 4 types and DE will consider any other school or schools from this type as suitable for the student. DE will also consider as suitable for the students any school from the same type as the type of school that the student attended in Year 12.

#### ADMISSIONS SUB-CRITERIA

Should there be more applications at any time than places available the following sub-criteria will be applied to identify the students to be admitted in the following order:-

1. Brother/sister in attendance at Portadown College.
2. Eldest child in the family.
3. Brother/sister previously attended Portadown College.
4. Initial letter of surname (as entered on birth certificate) in the order set out below:-  
R W D B C U J X E M Y K T S L Mac Z Q O G N A Mc I H F V P
5. In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the letters of the forenames (as entered on birth certificate) will be used.
6. If applicants are still tied after this then priority will be determined amongst them by a method of computerised random selection capable of leaving a clear audit trail.