DALRIADA SCHOOL
St James's Road
Ballymoney BT53 6BL
Telephone: 028 2766 3066
Email: secretary@dalriada.ballymoney.ni.sch.uk
Website: www.dalriadaschool.com
Principal: Mrs L Aitcheson, BA (Hons), MSc (Ed), PGCE

Voluntary Grammar School (Non-denominational)

Age Range of Pupils:	11-18 years
Admissions Number:	125
Enrolment Number:	892

Chairman of Board of Governors: Prof. J. H. Gillespie

OPEN MORNING

The school will be open for visits by Parents/Guardians and prospective pupils on Saturday 10th January, 2026 from 9.00am to 12.30pm

TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS naming DALRIADA SCHOOL as a preference on your child's Online Transfer Application

Entrance Test Results

Please ensure that you provide the following information on your child's Online Transfer Application

* All those seeking admission to Dalriada School should sit the Entrance Assessment for admissions in
* 2026-27, conducted by the Schools Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG)
*The score in the SEAG Entrance Assessment should be entered.

Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision

If you are making a claim for your child to be considered under Special Circumstances or Special Provision please read carefully the relevant sections of Dalriada School's Criteria for Admission to Year 8 in 2026-2027.

FEES AND CHARGES: A Capital Fee (currently £12 per annum) and a Voluntary Contribution (Currently £186) are charged in relation to all pupils.

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

The School's Board of Governors determines Criteria for Admission. The Education Committee of the Board of Governors considers applications to Year 8 and selects pupils for admission in the light of the criteria set out below.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 27 January 2026 at 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 and up to 4pm on 25 February 2026 will be treated as a late application.

Dalriada School, as a co-educational grammar school, provides secondary education for girls and boys in the upper band of the range of academic ability. The School draws its pupils from a wide geographical area and from the full range of social, religious and cultural backgrounds.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Education Committee of the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the Transfer Application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admission criteria is stated on the online transfer application or uploaded onto it.

Please note that it is expected that all those seeking admission to Dalriada School should sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment for admissions in 2026-2027, conducted by the Schools Entrance Assessment Group (hereinafter referred to as SEAG).

Children resident in Northern Ireland, at the time of their proposed admission, will be selected for admission before any other child.

If the number of applications for Year 8 in September 2026 exceeds the number of places available, pupils will be selected for admission according to the following criteria. They are set out in order of priority.

Criterion 1

Academic ability is indicated only by the result awarded in the SEAG Entrance Assessment. Children will be admitted in rank order according to their total standardised age score result with higher scores preceding lower scores. Please ensure that you provide the score in the SEAG Entrance Assessment test by attaching/uploading an image of the original SEAG Entrance Assessment score notification sheet provided by SEAG to the Online Transfer Application via the EA portal.

Applications for Special Circumstances/Special Provision will be considered by the Education Committee of the Board of Governors. Where it is accepted, the Education Committee will determine, on the basis of the information available, a score for the pupil. The pupil will then be considered with all other pupils who have received an SEAG Entrance Assessment score and the Admissions Criteria applied. In both Special Circumstances and Special Provision, the School will examine other relevant factors, as explained below, in assessing those qualifying candidates. It is important that those seeking such qualifications make sure that the relevant material and evidence is submitted, setting out clearly why the criteria for this consideration should be applicable.

(a) Special Circumstances

An exception may be made where there is documentary evidence that a child's overall SEAG Entrance Assessment result may have been adversely affected by medical or other problems.

Parents who wish to claim Special Circumstances should:-

(i) read carefully Dalriada School's Admissions Criteria. The Education Committee of the Board of Governors will consider claims and decide on the validity of each case.

(ii) Download and complete Form SC from the Dalriada School website and upload on to the EA portal along with supporting evidence. To validate the claim it is essential that all evidence is documented and provided at the time of application.

- where the problem is a medical one, the school will require the production of evidence that the pupil was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness at the time of the assessment.
- where the problem is of a non-medical nature, appropriate evidence should be provided.
- objective documentary educational evidence must be provided. This should include, where they exist, the results for the pupil of any standardised test conducted in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7 and the results in any end of year tests in English and Maths and any other appropriate test results.
- Please note, where the Board of Governors are satisfied that there has been a detrimental effect on candidate performance AND adequate evidence has been provided, their TSAS result may be enhanced, in line with the JCQ Special Consideration guidance (details of which, are available from the school).

It is essential that all evidence is documented and provided at the time of application

(b) Special Provision

If the child has not taken the SEAG Entrance Assessment for one of the reasons below, other evidence of academic ability and aptitude will be considered in deciding whether the applicant should be admitted:

(i) transfer from a school outside Northern Ireland after the closing date to register to sit the SEAG Assessment.

(ii) more than half of primary education received outside Northern Ireland.

(iii) a child was entered for the SEAG Entrance Assessment and, because of unforeseen and serious medical or other problems was unable to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment or had an estimated outcome because they only sat one of the two Entrance Assessment papers.

(iv) for exceptional reasons, a child was not registered to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment.

Parents who wish to claim Special Provision should contact Dalriada School as soon as possible and must

- read carefully the requirements set out in Dalriada School's admissions criteria. The Education Committee of the Board of Governors will consider claims and decide on the validity of each case.
- download and complete Form SP from Dalriada School website and upload onto the EA portal along with supporting evidence required to validate the claim. **It is essential that all evidence is documented and provided at the time of application.**
- all special provision applicants must undergo a psychometric assessment administered by Dalriada School.

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

Where it is necessary to distinguish between children who have been awarded the same score in the SEAG Entrance Assessment the criteria 2-5 will be used.

Criterion 2 Children who, at the date of their application, are members of a family with a child currently enrolled at Dalriada School.

Criterion 3 Children whose family previously had a child enrolled at Dalriada School.

Criterion 4 Children who, at the date of their application are the eldest child (including twins and other multiples) of the family eligible to apply for admission to Dalriada School.

Criterion 5 The age of the child, preference being given to an older child.

NOTE: The criteria above will be applied to applications for admission to Year 8 throughout the 2026-2027 school year.

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2026
Parents who wish to have their child considered for admission in the event of a place arising after 1 September 2026 should write to the Principal clearly stating this. Should a vacancy arise, the above criteria will be applied to select pupils from our waiting list.

Applicants may be required to provide original documentation verifying their home address.

Applications and Admissions to Year 8

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/24	125	151	131
2024/25	125	135	130
2025/26	125	162	133*

The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 includes all Year 8 children admitted to the school including those who have a statement of special educational needs.

Details in relation to score/grades accepted are available in the school prospectus.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO YEARS 9 – 12
For further information, contact the Principal's Secretary at Dalriada School.