



Rathfriland High School



2024 Prospectus

"Big Enough to Deliver, Small Enough to Care"



Rathfriland High School's

MISSION STATEMENT

'To instil, through the teaching and learning within the school, the pursuit and realisation of excellence alongside values, attitudes and beliefs which foster self growth, self confidence and an appreciation of cultural identity coupled with an understanding and acceptance of diversity.'

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The content of the Prospectus is accurate as of January 2024
The school reserves the right to make alterations as it sees fit.

WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Primary 7 Pupils,

Rathfriland High is a school which delivers high quality education in a caring and supportive environment. Located at the heart of the community, we welcome pupils of all abilities and have a proven record of delivering academic outcomes consistently above the N. Ireland average. This is achieved in an ordered and caring environment, which provides excellent pastoral care, in a family-like atmosphere.

The school prides itself on being 'Big Enough to Deliver, Small Enough to Care'. This means we can offer a diverse curriculum of over 30 subjects at GCSE or equivalent level. We are proud of our pupils' achievements in public examinations, performing consistently above the N. Ireland average. In 2023, 73% of our pupils achieved 5 or more GCSE or equivalent grades at A*-C, with a remarkable 70% of those pupils going on to achieve 7 or more grades at A*-C. These impressive results underline our position as a high performing non-selective post primary school.

The school has experienced significant growth in recent years, recognised by an increase to our enrolment and admissions numbers last year. Our current enrolment of 371 pupils ensures your child will quickly become known to our dedicated staff and receive first class pastoral care from subject teachers, year tutors and senior staff. They will also have access to a wide range of extra-curricular activities, from football, rugby, hockey, athletics and cross country, Scripture Union, choir, and the school band. There is truly something for everyone and pupils are encouraged to participate in order to broaden their skills, make new friends and develop as individuals.

Our mission statement highlights the pursuit of excellence in our learning and teaching, but recognises the importance of values, attitudes, and beliefs in reaching this goal. These are instilled through forming close partnerships with our parents and setting high expectations for engagement, conduct, respect, and tolerance. This ensures a safe and orderly environment, which fosters academic and personal development.



Rathfriland High School is a community in which staff, pupils, parents, and governors work together to enable each child to realise their potential.

I hope this prospectus is useful in providing you with further information about our school. I also encourage you to visit our website at www.rathfrilandhigh.co.uk and attend our Open Evening on 24th January 2024.

Alternatively, please feel free to contact me at the school to discuss any issues relating to your child's transfer to post-primary education.

Kind regards,
I Matthews



Head Boy and Head Girl

My name is Jessica Magennis and I was selected to be Head Girl at Rathfriland High School this year. I was very pleased to receive this important position. I carry out the different roles and responsibilities it involves with motivation and enthusiasm.

During my time at Rathfriland High School I have formed many friendships which I treasure greatly, and the staff are amazing. They are always there to support you as a pupil, are very dedicated and go the extra mile to enhance your learning.

Rathfriland High School offers a variety of different subjects which I thoroughly enjoy. I have had many extra-curricular opportunities, such as being involved in School Productions and singing at different events. These experiences have allowed me to develop many skills, which I will undoubtedly use in the future.

I can't believe that I am in my final year at Rathfriland High School! I will miss this school but I have many great memories and will always remember my time here as special. It definitely was the right choice for me and certainly is 'Big Enough to Deliver, Small Enough to Care'.

Jessica Magennis - Head Girl 2023 - 2024

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our school! I am very proud to be part of the Rathfriland High family and I am very honoured and privileged to hold the position of Head Boy of Rathfriland High School. I look forward to having the opportunity to give something back to this amazing school! I hope by taking on this role of responsibility, I will represent the school to the best of my ability.

I joined Rathfriland High from Iveagh Primary School and I can say with full confidence that it was one of the best decisions I have ever made! My school experience has been positive and enjoyable. The opportunities and support that each member of staff has given me has shaped me into the confident person I am today. The teachers and other members of staff show dedication, compassion and commitment to all students and they genuinely care about each of their students.

Rathfriland High School offers a wide range of subjects and throughout my time here I have been able to take part in a range of extra-curricular activities including; the School Production and the Rugby team. I have also been given the opportunity to become an Anti-Bullying Ambassador which is something I feel really passionate about.

As I look back on my time in Rathfriland High, I have made many amazing friends and memories. I will always be proud to say that I attended Rathfriland High School and I strongly believe the school lives up to its motto "Big Enough to Deliver, Small Enough to Care".

Toby Ferguson - Head Boy 2023-2024

Our School Aims . . .

To enable each pupil to develop his or her potential to the full – mentally, intellectually, emotionally, physically, morally and socially, thus equipping each pupil to fully contribute to the community in which he/she lives.



To enhance pupils' self-esteem, self-discipline and self-confidence, thus encouraging them to take responsibility for themselves and their activities.



To motivate pupils and make learning a worthwhile and enjoyable experience.



To encourage life-long learning.



To promote tolerance of the views and opinions of others and to be aware of other people's needs and be positive contributors to the community.



To encourage pupils to adopt a healthy lifestyle by involving them in activities and interests which promote mental and physical well-being.



Governors and Staffing

Board of Governors 2019 - 2024

Mr I McConnell Chairman | Mr A Kinley Vice-Chairman | Mr I Matthews Secretary
Mrs H Wilson | Rev P Cleland | Rev S Burke | Mr W Walsh | Mrs D McCartan | Mrs S Bennett | Mrs R Upritchard

Teaching Staff 2023 - 2024

Mr I Matthews (Principal) MEd, BEd (Hons), PQH(NI), CTeach(Leadership)
Mr P Robinson (Vice Principal)] MEd, BSc, PGCE, PGCert
Mrs S Seffen (Senior Teacher) BA (Hons), PGCE
Mrs D Wilson - Elias (Senior Teacher) BEd
Mr D Allen BEng, PGCE
Mrs L Annett (4 day) BEd (Hons)
Ms J Aschettino (3 day) BA(Hons) French, BA(Hons) Language, PGCE
Miss H Brady BTh (Hons), PGCE
Miss A Bready BSc(Hons), PGCE
Mrs L Budde (4 day) BEd (Hons)
Mrs V Fitzpatrick BSc(Hons), PGCE
Mrs L Gough (4 day) BEd
Ms S Groves (2 day) BSc (Hons), PGCE
Mrs C Hanna (4 day) BSc(Hons), PGCE
Mrs L Hare BAg(Hons), PGCE
Mrs L Hawthorne (4 day) BMus, PGDE, DipLCM
Mrs L Martin BSc(Hons), PGCE
Ms C McAllister BA(Hons), PGCE
Mr J Percy BSc (Hons), PGCE

Mr J Richardson MSc, BSc(Hons), PGCE
Mrs C Stevenson BA(Hons), PGCE
Mrs C Tumilty (4 day) BA(Hons), PGCE
Mrs E Wallace (3 day) BSc(Hons), PGCE
Mrs H Wilson BA (Hons), PGCE

Clerical Staff:

Mrs J Cantley
Mrs L Laffin
Mrs J Stoops

Technicians:

Mr T Donaldson
Mr S Heenan
Mrs A McDowell

Classroom and Domestic Assistants:

Mrs H Ervine
Mrs A Halliday
Mrs J Heenan
Mrs L Johnston
Mrs V Johnston
Mrs E Kernaghan
Mrs L Laffin
Mrs J Martin
Mrs S Sloane
Mrs A Rogers

Building Supervisor:

Mr S Heenan

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants:

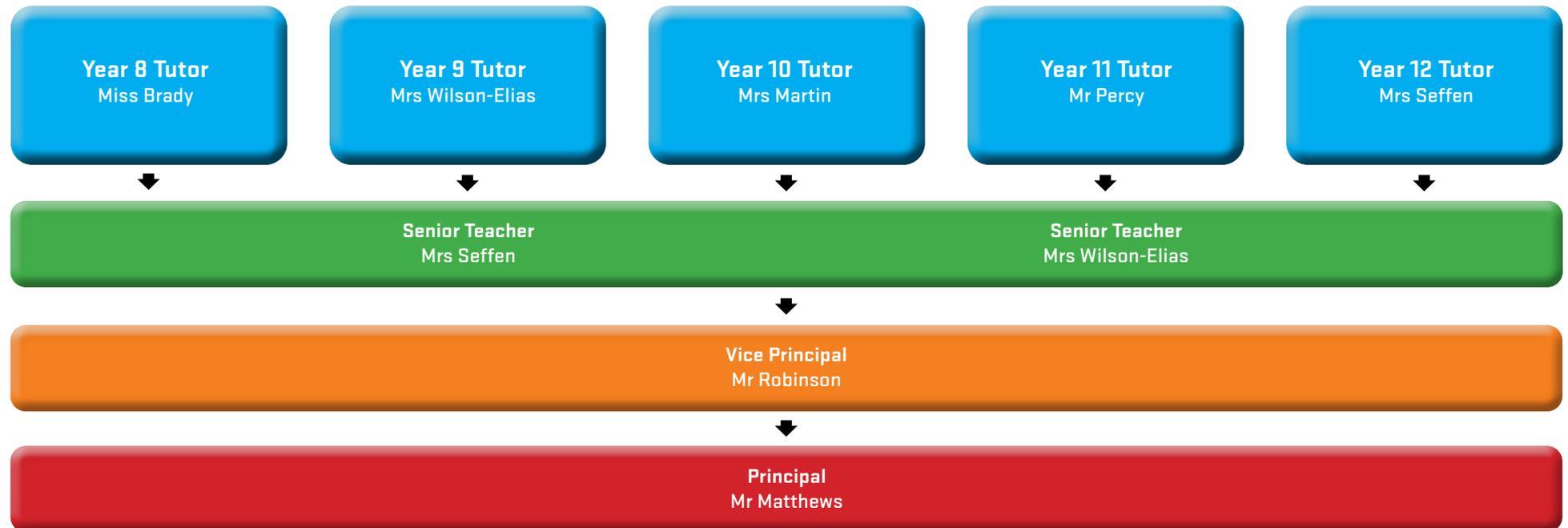
Mr S Heenan
Mrs L Johnston
Mrs L Laffin
Mr R Stoops

Rathfriland High School is a Controlled Secondary School catering for Boys and Girls aged 11 - 16 years of age. The expected enrolment for September 2024 is 380.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral Organisation

Pupils are placed in a Form Class with a Form Teacher and a Year Tutor. The Year 8 Tutor is Miss Brady.



Parents with concerns regarding their child's welfare or progress should first make contact with the Year Tutor.

If concerns continue then contact a Senior Teacher who may inform the Vice Principal and/or the Principal if further action is needed.

Form Teachers and Year Tutors

During time with Year Tutors and Teachers school rules are highlighted, the reasons behind them explained and why they are important in contributing to an ordered and safe school community. Academic progress, Merit Awards, Attendance, Behaviour and Uniform are also monitored.

Rathfriland High School adopts a positive approach to behaviour, expecting pupils to behave in a responsible manner both to themselves and by showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people. This standard of behaviour is expected from all pupils at all times, both inside the school as well as on their way to and from school.

Pastoral Care

School Counsellor

The pastoral guidance given by Year Tutors and the Senior Teachers is supported by the School Counsellor. The Counsellor is fully qualified and works in school one day a week.

Working with Parents

The co-operation of parents is sought actively in relation to maintaining high standards of behaviour with regard to pupil attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, and the correct wearing of full school uniform. They should also ensure that their child is properly equipped for school including school bag, pens, pencils, PE kit and that they supervise homework.

The following policies help support Pastoral Care in our school:

- Anti-Bullying
- Child Protection
- Attendance
- Positive Behaviour and Discipline
- Pastoral Care
- Substance Abuse
- Special Educational Needs
- Relationships and Sexuality Education
- Health and Safety
- Health and Wellbeing

The Anti-Bullying and Child Protection Policies are available via the school website. Parents who wish to receive a copy of any policy are welcome to contact the school.



Rachel Tate - School Counsellor

Miss H Brady - Year 8 Year Tutor



The Curriculum

Key Stage 3 Curriculum Table

Subject	Year 8	Number of Periods	Year 9	Number of Periods	Year 10	Number of Periods
Art & Design	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Careers Education					✓	1
Drama	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1
English	✓	6	✓	6	✓	6
Geography	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
History	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Home Economics	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
ICT	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Learning For Life & work	✓	1	✓	1		
Literacy	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1
Form Period	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1
French	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Music	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Mathematics	✓	6	✓	6	✓	6
Numeracy	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1
Physical Education & Games	✓	4	✓	4	✓	4
Personal Development	✓	1	✓	1	✓	1
Religious Education	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2
Science	✓	5	✓	5	✓	5
Technology & Design	✓	2	✓	2	✓	2

For the first three years in Rathfriland High School pupils follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Classes are streamed going into Year 10 for all subjects. After parental, pupil and teacher consultation, choices are made towards the end of Year 10. All pupils in Rathfriland High School follow examination courses to GCSE, BTEC Level 2 First Award, OCN NI Level 2 awards. Pupils, depending on choices made, have the opportunity to study up to 9 GCSEs or equivalent. Our results are consistently above the relevant N. Ireland average.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Table

Subject	Years 11 & 12 Statutory	Option Choice	Number of Periods
Art & Design GCSE		✓	4
Business & Communication Systems GCSE		✓	4
Business Studies GCSE		✓	6
BTEC First Certificate in Children's Care, Learning & Development		✓	6
BTEC Level 1 Level 2 First Award Engineering		✓	6
BTEC Level 1 Level 2 First Award in Creative Digital Media		✓	6
BTEC Level 1 Level 2 First Award in Travel & Tourism		✓	6
BTEC Level 1 Level 2 First Award in Sport		✓	6
BTEC Level 1 Level 2 First Award in ICT		✓	4/6
Careers Education	✓		1
GCSE Construction and the Built Environment		✓	6
English GCSE/Essential Skills	✓		5
English Literature GCSE		✓	4
Games	✓		2
Geography GCSE		✓	4
Health and Social Care GCSE		✓	4
History GCSE		✓	4
Home Economics: Food and Nutrition GCSE		✓	4
Taught Personal Development	✓		1
Form Period			1
French GCSE		✓	4
Music GCSE		✓	4/6
Mathematics GCSE/Essential Skills	✓		5
Further Maths GCSE		✓	4
Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies GCSE		✓	6
Occupational Studies Single/Double Award		✓	9
Prince's Trust Award		✓	3
Religious Education GCSE		✓	4
Statutory Requirement Religious Education	✓		1
Science - Double Award		✓	8
Science - Single Award		✓	4
Science - Occupational Studies	✓		4
Technology & Design GCSE		✓	4
Technology - Occupational Studies		✓	3/4
OCN NI Vocational Skills		✓	4
OCN IN ICT		✓	4

Special Needs Education, Homework and Religious Education

Special Needs Education

The progress of all pupils is monitored throughout the year through a process of formal testing, assessment, reviews and reports. Our aim is to ensure that prompt intervention strategies are put in place when deemed necessary.

Those pupils identified as having a Special Educational Need will benefit from Individual Education Plans drawn up according to their statement of need.

Staff provide help and support as required to meet the individual needs of the pupil and facilitate teaching and learning in the key areas of reading, writing, communication skills and mathematics, enabling pupils to achieve.

Emphasis is placed on the skills in which the pupil already has confidence and these are built on in a caring atmosphere to encourage each child to overcome particular difficulties.

The School follows the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) legislation.

Homework

An annual Key Stage 3 Homework Timetable is drawn up and each pupil is provided with a homework diary to enable an accurate record to be kept for both the pupil and parents.

The school sees homework as an integral part of the learning process and to this end homework is regularly set and marked.

Homework provides an opportunity for pupils to:

- Develop good work habits and study skills
- Complete work done in class
- Extend work done in class
- Practise skills learned in class

Homework may take any of these forms:

- Oral work • Reading
- Writing • Practical
- Research • Projects • Coursework

How can parents help?

- Parents are asked to encourage pupils by checking that homework set is completed and handed in on time.
- Provide a quiet place to work.
- Encourage a routine for homework.
- Sign Pupil Planner weekly.

Religious Education

During the week pupils attend collective acts of worship in the morning conducted by Senior Staff supported by local clergy. The content of the morning assembly is centred on Christian teaching thus supporting the ethos of the school.

Religious Education is taught to all classes with Years 8 to 10 following the guidelines set out in the core syllabus for Religious Education in Northern Ireland. In Years 11 and 12 pupils follow external examination courses as appropriate, and a course ensuring compliance with the statutory requirements.

Any parent wishing to absent their children from collective worship and/or Religious Education classes should arrange to meet with the Principal.



Learning Support Staff



Mrs Hawthorne
Learning Support Co-ordinator



Banbridge Area Learning Community

Rathfriland High School works in partnership with 6 other schools in the Banbridge area and the local Southern Regional College to provide a broader curriculum offer, exceeding the Entitlement Framework. This allows the school to offer BTEC Level 2 First Awards which are equivalent to 1 GCSE pass at A*-C level. Double Award Occupational Studies is also available and carries an equivalence of 2 GCSE subjects. The current curriculum offer to pupils is 20 general subjects and 12 applied subjects.

Careers and Reporting

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG)

Young people leaving Rathfriland High School are faced with challenges and choices that are, in many ways, very different from those faced by previous generations.

The high quality programme at Rathfriland High School enhances effectiveness and raises achievement by maximising an individual's potential, promoting positive attitudes to learning, raising aspirations, increasing motivation and linking learning to the world of work.

CEIAG provision consists of 5 core components:

1. Careers Education

Discrete Careers Education takes place at Key Stage 3 and 4.

2. Development of Employability Skills

Meaningful learning opportunities are provided which give the pupils the skills that they will be able to use in their lifelong learning process.

3. Work Related Learning Experiences

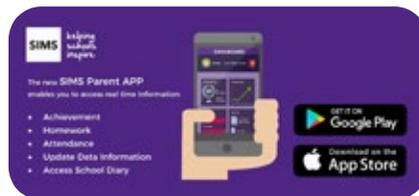
All year 12 pupils benefit from engaging with a range of speakers and visits to enhance their employability skills.

4. Careers Information

High quality careers information enables pupils to make informed decisions regarding their careers planning and management. Pupils can avail of various resources such as ICT, the school library, guest speakers and external visits.

5. Careers Advice and Guidance

The Careers Service NI provides direct support to pupils in school.



Reporting

Parents are informed of their child's progress through regular class assessments and homework marking and will receive 2 Reports outlining progress throughout the year via the Parent App. A full written report is available in June of each year.

These assessments are used to ensure that pupils are placed in classes appropriate to their needs and ability. Pupils may be transferred to a more appropriate class depending on their performance and needs. Assessments in Year 10 are particularly significant for forthcoming GCSE class formation.

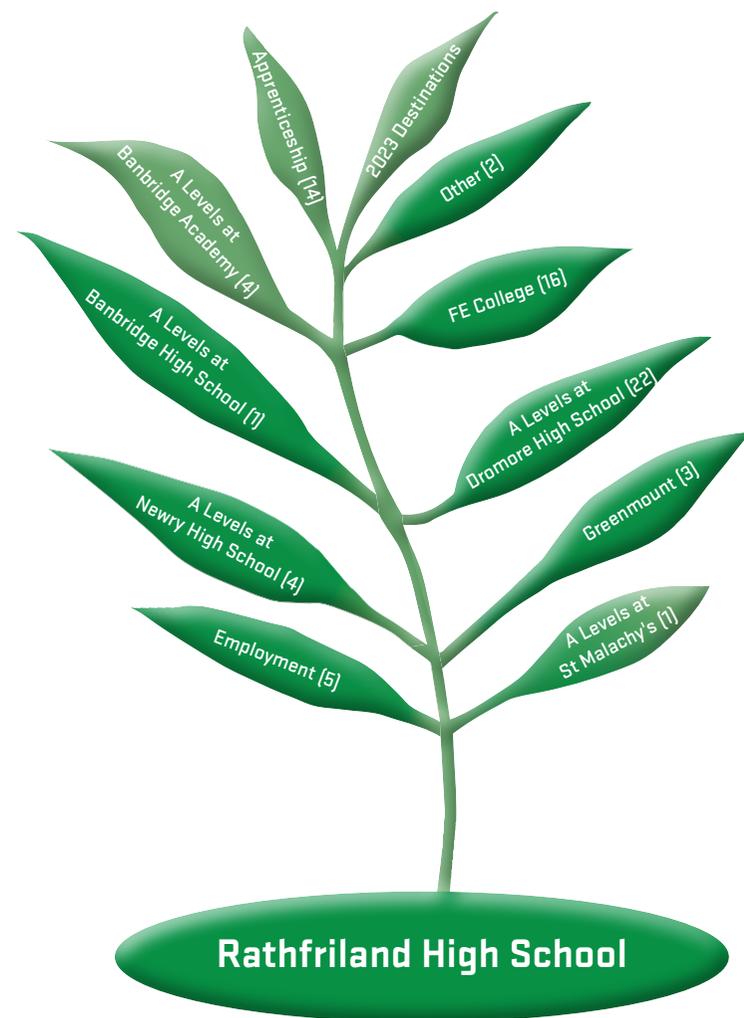
Communication with Parents

The SIMS Parent App allows parents to access information on their child's conduct/achievements/attendance and academic performance. Up to date information on school dates, letters and events is also available. This information can be accessed by mobile phone/ App or an online portal.

Leavers Destinations

FE College	16
Greenmount	3
Apprenticeship	14
A Levels at Dromore High	22
A Levels at Banbridge High	1
A Levels at Banbridge Academy	4
A Levels at Newry High School	4
A Levels at St Malachy's	1
Employment	5

Leavers Destinations





Sport

Aims

Physical Education at Rathfriland High School provides a broad and balanced educational experience which seeks to promote the “spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of all pupils at the school.” It is the desire of the PE Department to provide a PE curriculum which is both exciting and challenging and contributes towards sporting ability at all levels. Through this it is hoped that pupils will continue to participate in physical activity once they leave school.

Sports Curriculum

Key Stage 3 PE - 1 or 2 periods of PE and 2 periods of Games

Key Stage 4 PE - 2 periods for Games

Option at GCSE level to study BTEC First Level 2 in Sport

Sports Offered

Athletics | Badminton | Basketball | Cross-Country

Dance | Gymnastics | Hockey | Netball

Rugby | Soccer | Table-Tennis | Tennis | Volleyball

Sports Facilities

1 3G pitch

1 Gymnasium

1 Fully equipped Fitness Suite

1 Football pitch

1 Hockey pitch

1 Athletics track

1 Netball court

4 Tennis courts



Extracurricular Activities

There are a wide range of clubs and activities in Rathfriland High School which pupils are encouraged to join including:

- Athletics and Cross Country
- Choir
- Crochet
- Cultural Visits
- Dance
- Drama
- Equestrian Club
- Football - boys and girls
- Hockey
- Homework Club
- Music Tuition - brass, woodwind, guitar, voice, piano, strings, drum-kit
- Netball
- Rugby
- School Band
- School Newsletter
- Ski Trip
- Scripture Union
- Theatre Trips
- European Trips
- Various Subject Support Sessions
- Science Events



Admissions Criteria - [Admissions Number: 76 | Enrolment Number: 380]

The lodging of an application is interpreted by the Board of Governors as an indication that the parents and the child concerned accept and are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school including any code of conduct or discipline policy of the school. Information in relation to these may be obtained from the school.

Admission to Year 8

(either in September 2024 or during the course of the 2024/2025 school year)

In selecting children for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected before any child 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 submitted with the application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application or submitted with it..

1. Children who attend one of the following primary schools:
Abercorn | Ballydown | Bronte | Cumran | Dromara | Drumadonnell
Edenderry (Banbridge) | Fairhill | Iveagh | Newcastle | Poyntzpass | Windsor Hill
2. Children for whom Rathfriland High School is the nearest controlled secondary school.
3. Other children.

In the event of over-subscription within any of the above 3 criteria the following sub-criteria will be applied as appropriate, in the order indicated, to determine which children should be admitted:

- i. Children who at the date of application, have a **child of the family*** currently enrolled at the school and children of present permanent members of staff.
- ii. Children who, at the date of their application, are the eldest child of the family eligible to apply for admission to the school; are the sibling of an eldest child whose admission to Year 8 at the time of the transfer procedure was refused on a previous year due to oversubscription; are 5 years younger than their next sibling; where the family has moved residence from another area; or where an older sibling cannot attend a mainstream school.
- iii. Those pupils who live closest to the school (as the crow flies) measured by Google Maps, using door to door measurements.

Sub-criterion (iv) then (v) then (vi) will be used as the deciding factor should oversubscription occur within sub- criterion (i) or (ii) or (iii).

- iv. Children who, at the date of application, are the eldest as established by date of birth as entered on a Birth certificate.
- v. Children will be selected for admission on the basis of initial letter(s) of surname (as entered on Birth Certificate) in the order set out below:

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

This order was determined by random selection. 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 initials of the forenames will be used.

- vi. Children will be ranked for acceptance on the basis of a computer based process, which will make use of the names as entered on the online application.

* Please note the board of governors consider a **'Child of the family'** to cover:

- A child born to a married couple or to a couple in a civil partnership;
- A child born to a co-habiting couple;
- A child born to a single parent;
- A child of either/any of those people by a previous marriage, civil partnership or relationship;
- A child living with a couple who has been treated as a "child of the family" whether there is a marriage or a civil partnership or not;
- A child living with an individual, who has been treated as a "child of the family";
- An adopted or fostered child;
- A situation where for example an orphaned cousin is being brought up with a family or individual; The child should be a child of the family as at the date of application.

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.

DUTY TO VERIFY

Applicants should note that where an address contained within a Transfer Form qualifies it for admission, then the information may be verified. The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Transfer Form. Applicants will be notified directly by the school should any such verification be required.

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by the school 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 Form.

WAITING LIST:- The school does not operate a waiting list.



Rathfriland High School 2023-2024 Year Eight Intake

Admissions Table

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions [includes stated pupils]
2021/22	66	69	70
2022/23	66	73	74
2023/24	76	73	76

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR YEARS 9 - 12

A pupil will be admitted provided that the following conditions are met:

- [a.] The school's enrolment number is not exceeded.
- [b.] The admission of the pupil, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, would not prejudice the efficient use of resources in the school.

EXAMINATIONS

EXAMINATIONS RESULTS

GCSE RESULTS SUMMARY	2023
Pupils achieving 5+ A* to C in at least 5 subjects	97 %
Pupils achieving 5+ A* to E in at least 5 subjects	100 %
Pupils achieving 5+ A* to C in at least 5 subjects. (Including English and Maths)	73 %
Pupils achieving 7+ A* to C in at least 5 subjects. (Including English and Maths)	70 %
% of pupils gaining no grades at A* to G	0 %

Subject	Total	Pass	Fail
Prince's Trust	21	21	0
OCN NI Vocational Skills	14	14	0
OCN NI ICT	18	18	0
OCN NI Level 1 Application of Number	16	9	3
OCN NI Level 2 Application of Number	16	4	12
OCN NI Level 1 Communication	21	6	1
OCN NI Level 2 Communication	21	14	7

Performance in Public Examinations 2020 - 2021 to 2022 - 2023

Performance Indicator	2020 - 2021		2021 - 2022		2022 - 2023	
	School	NI Average	School	NI Average	School	NI Average
% Achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grades A* - C (or equivalent)	97	Not Available	97	Not Available	97	Not Available

Parent Testimonials

Mrs Shilliday

As parents we all want the best for our kids. Both my children attend RHS and I have watched them both grow in confidence with schoolwork and friends. There are a range of extra - curricular activities from sports to Scripture Union which all contribute to social skills they need for adult life. Also, there is a merit system in place that I think is an excellent way to encourage them to make the most of their education. I think this is important as it prepares them for the responsibilities they will have whilst preparing for their GCSE exams. Lastly, the teachers have an ear to listen and help when and where they can, and this is what I feel, leads to a welcoming approach to any new Year 8 pupil starting.

Mrs McDowell

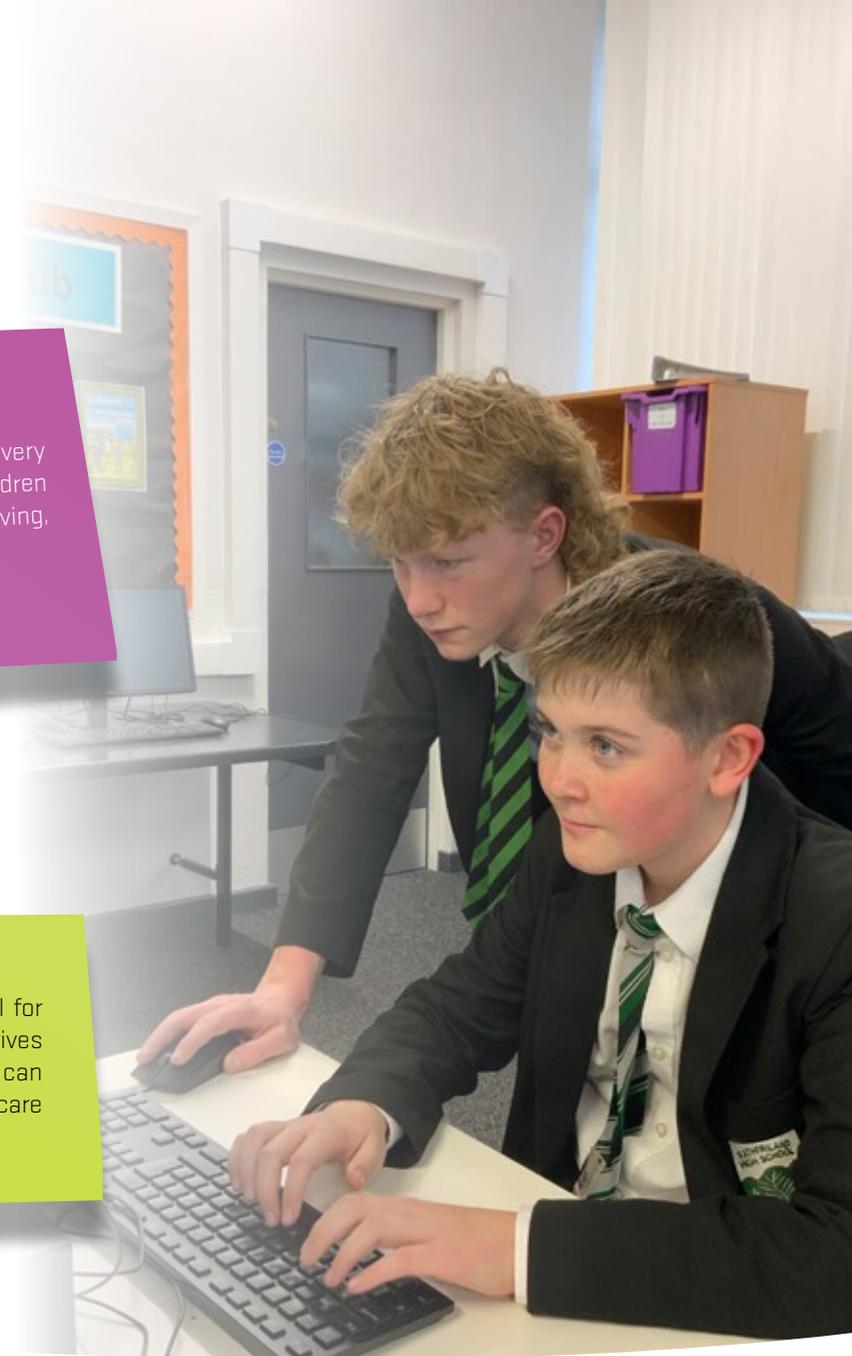
Moving from primary school to secondary school is always a big step but I am delighted how well Adam has settled into Rathfriland High School. The staff have been so welcoming and supportive from the outset. Adam is enjoying the variety of subjects and also the wide range of after school activities available. I am excited to see him grow academically and personally at Rathfriland High School. I am confident the school will help him thrive and make the most of the opportunities in this new chapter of his education.

Ms Maginness

Rathfriland High's core values align with what every parent wants for their child's education. My own children have exceeded my expectations and are thriving, confident and happy at school.

Ms Zimmer

We really feel that we have picked the right school for our daughter. She skips happily to school and arrives home with a big smile, telling us about her day. We can not thank the teachers and staff enough for taking care of the children's safety and education.



Examinations Entry

2023 GCSE RESULTS BY SUBJECT Number of pupils entered and achieving grades:

Subject	No. of Pupils	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U	C+
Art	7	0	3	2	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	5
Business Comm.	19	2	2	6	2	3	3	0	0	1	0	15
Design and Technology	10	1	1	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	10
Eng. Lit.	20	5	5	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	20
English	49	1	14	14	10	10	0	0	0	0	0	49
French	19	0	3	1	4	4	5	2	0	0	0	14
Geography	13	2	4	3	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	11
H&S Care	17	3	2	5	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	17
History	25	2	5	14	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	25
Home Economics	15	1	2	3	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	15
Maths	55	2	5	16	16	13	2	1	0	0	0	52
Further Maths	13	0	3	1	1	3	3	0	1	0	1	8
Music	5	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
MV & RUS	8	0	2	2	2	9	9	2	0	0	0	6
RE	23	0	7	4	6	3	0	0	2	1	0	20
SA Science	26	0	4	7	10	4	0	0	0	1	0	25

BTEC First Level 2 Certificates

Subject	Total Entries	Distinction*	Distinction	Merit	Pass	Level 1
BTEC Sport	11	1	1	2	6	1
BTEC ICT	17	0	0	1	14	2
BTEC Media	3	2	1	0	0	0
BTEC Engineering	10	0	0	5	5	0
BTEC C&E	21	5	5	5	6	0
BTEC Childcare	17	5	1	2	7	2

Subject	Total	**	*A	AA	AB	BB	BC*	C*C*	C*C	CC	CD	DD	DE	EE	EF	FF	FG	GG	U	CC+
Double Award Science	23	1	1	4	3	6	3	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23

Charging and Remissions Policy

Education in Rathfriland High School is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order. Payment may be required for board and lodging on an overnight trip, though charges will be remitted to those parents on Income Support or Family Income Supplement.

In Technology and Home Economics, pupils may purchase completed products or produce. The charge made will reflect school provided components or ingredients. The school will, as it has done in the past, appeal to parents from time to time for voluntary donations but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged in any way if parents choose not to make a contribution.

The School may take part in 'optional extras' which are not connected with the School's formal curriculum, such as visits to the theatre or trips abroad. Charges will be made for these but it is again stressed that opting not to participate in these will not affect a child's performance at school. Written parental consent will be required before a child participates in school trips.

School Fund

This is a voluntary contribution which we hope parents will support. The rate is £25 per family for 2023 - 2024.

This money helps us to meet expenses which are not fully paid for by the Department of Education or the Education Authority. Such items include travelling expenses of sports teams, running costs of the school minibus, subsidising the cost of school outings and/or educational visits and supplementing the purchase of books and equipment. A copy of the School Charging Policy is available from the school.



UNIFORM

School Uniform Code of Conduct 2024/25

The wearing of school uniform is **compulsory**, it develops a sense of school identity, encourages children to take pride in their appearance and contributes to the promotion of good order and discipline.

Girls' School Uniform		✔
Blazer	Black blazer with school badge	
Skirt	Black skirt with double inverted pleats	
Shirt	White long-sleeved or short sleeved blouse	
Tie	Clip on School tie or prefect tie (elected prefects)	
Jumper	Black v neck jumper (optional)	
Shoes	Black shoes, low heeled (not trainers)	
Socks/Tights	Black knee socks or black tights	
Coat	Plain black coat or PE kit supplier hoodie/padded jacket etc.	
Scarf	School scarf or plain black scarf (optional)	

Boys' School Uniform		✔
Blazer	Black blazer with school badge	
Trousers	Black trousers	
Shirt	White long-sleeved or short sleeved shirt	
Tie	Clip on School tie or prefect tie (elected prefects)	
Jumper	Black v neck jumper (optional)	
Shoes	Black shoes (not trainers)	
Socks	Black socks	
Coat	Plain black coat or PE kit supplier hoodie, padded jacket etc.	
Scarf	School scarf or plain black scarf (optional)	



Uniforms can be purchased from the following retail outlets:

- Robin Fields, Banbridge
- S.D. Kells, Banbridge
- S.M. Shoes, Rathfriland
- Maxwell's, Lurgan



PE Kit - PLAYR-FIT via online order at <https://playr-fit.com/rathfriland-high-school-students>

If parents purchase a blazer without a school badge, badges for blazers are available from the school.

Girls' P.E. Kit



Top	School PE jersey	
Bottoms	School PE shorts or school PE leggings	
Midlayer	1/4 zip Midlayer or P.E. Kit Hoodie	
Optional outdoor clothing	School P.E. kit coats, padded jackets, gilets and hats may be purchased and worn to and from school and at break and lunchtime.	
Socks	School PE socks	
Shoes	Gym shoes / trainers	

Boys' P.E. Kit



Top	School PE Rugby jersey (used for all activities)	
Bottoms	School PE shorts or skinny pants	
Midlayer	1/4 zip Midlayer or P.E. Kit Hoodie	
Optional outdoor clothing	School P.E. kit coats, padded jackets, gilets and hats may be purchased and worn to and from school and at break and lunchtime.	
Socks	School PE socks	
Shoes	Gym shoes / trainers	
Boots	Football boots / rugby boots	





Our Rules

1. Be Safe 2. Be Respectful 3. Be Prepared

OUR REWARDS/RECOGNITIONS

- Praise
- Achievement points
- Prize Night Recognition
- Certificates
- Website Recognition
- Merits System
- Student Council

OUR LEARNING HABITS

- Punctuality and attendance
- Respectful attitude
- On-task behaviour
- Tidy appearance
- Meet deadlines
- Correct Equipment

OUR VALUES

- Respect
- Trust
- High Expectations
- Safety
- Inclusivity
- Tolerance

OUR RIGHTS

- To learn and teach without unnecessary interruption
- To be safe
- To be heard

OUR POSITIVE BEHAVIOURS

- Exceptional class work
- Good or improved effort
- Improved behaviour
- Participation in class
- Success in assessments
- Assisting Staff
- Helping out at school events
- Extra Curricular activities



Drug Education and Child Protection Arrangements

Drug Education

The school's pastoral care system, the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and the school policy on Substance Abuse ensures that the well being of our pupils is paramount. Through our teaching, pastoral procedures and specific health related events; our pupils are enabled to make healthy, informed choices by providing them with knowledge, challenging attitudes and developing and practising skills.

The school takes seriously its responsibility with regard to the issue of drugs awareness and in line with Department of Education advice and regulations we are continually developing our policies and strategies in this area of the School Curriculum. Drugs related issues are built into the curriculum through the school's Learning for Life and Work classes whilst the teaching programmes of Science, Religious Education and Home Economics in particular highlight specific topics.

Child Protection

Rathfriland High School aims:

- To seek to provide a safe, pleasant and regulated environment for all children.
- To ensure the safety and welfare of pupils.
- To foster a caring atmosphere where pupils feel valued and able to voice their concerns.
- To develop an awareness amongst all school staff of potential signs of abuse in children.
- To establish clear procedures to be followed in a case of suspected abuse.
- To comply with relevant legal requirements and implement relevant DE guidance.

Mr Robinson the Vice Principal is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection in school. Mr Matthews and the Senior Teachers, Mrs Wilson-Elias, and Mrs Seffen are the Deputy Designated Teachers for Safeguarding.



Anti-Bullying

Rathfriland High School believes that its pupils have the right to learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied.

This school has a clear policy on the promotion of good behaviour. It is made clear that bullying is a form of anti-social behaviour, it is wrong and will not be tolerated.

It is important that pupils and parents are fully aware that any bullying complaints will be dealt with firmly, fairly and promptly. Bullying is not an inevitable part of school life or a necessary part of growing up, and it rarely sorts itself out. It is clear that certain jokes, insults, intimidating/threatening behaviour, written abuse and violence are to be found in our society. No one person or group, whether teacher or pupil, should have to accept this type of behaviour. Only when all issues of bullying are addressed, will a child be able to benefit fully from the opportunities available at Rathfriland High School.

What can Pupils do if they are being Bullied?

- Remember that their silence is the bully's greatest weapon.
- Tell themselves that they do not deserve to be bullied, and that it is wrong!
- Be proud of who they are; it is good to be an individual
- Try not to show that they are upset; it is hard but a bully thrives on someone's fear.
- Stay with a group of friends/people, there is safety in numbers.
- Be assertive shout "No", walk confidently away, go straight to a teacher/member of staff/Year Tutor.
- Do not fight back - it may make things worse.
- Always try to tell an adult they trust straight away - they will get immediate support.



RHS Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

What action is taken by Rathfriland High School when Bullying is suspected?

- Talk to the person experiencing bullying behaviour and the person exhibiting bullying behaviour, and any witnesses.
- When bullying behaviour is identified, all pupils involved are supported to resolve the situation.

Rathfriland High School
Addressing Bullying



Year 8 Impressions of RHS

Connie Skilliday - Iveagh PS

Hi, my name is Connie, I am 12 years old and I went to Iveagh Primary School. So far, I am thoroughly enjoying Rathfriland High School. My favourite subject is Art and Design! I really enjoy playing hockey and football after school also as it is really good fun. I must admit, I was nervous on that first day in September, but I quickly got used to it. In the end, the first week was very rewarding, having made lots of new friends.



Maisy Thompson - Bronte PS
Hi, my name is Maisy Thompson and I came from Bronte Primary School. On the first day, I was anxious about who to sit with, and who I would hang about with at break and lunch so it seemed a safe option to stay with my friends from Primary School. But over time, I've made lots of new friends from many local primary schools, and this helped me to settle very quickly. My favourite subject so far is Art and Design and Games; I love to play team games like netball and hockey etc.



abc



Robert Sinnamon - Drumadonnell PS

Hello, my name is Robert Sinnamon and I came from Drumadonnell Primary School. I have been really enjoying Rathfriland High School. When I first came to the school, it was like a big maze, but 3 days in, I was able to find my way around the school no bother. I stay for after school rugby on a Friday and I enjoy it as well. My favourite subjects are PE, Games and Technology.



Ruby Watts - Drumadonnell PS
Hi, my name is Ruby Watts. I came from Drumadonnell Primary School. Ever since I started Rathfriland High School I have joined many extra-curricular clubs such as school choir and SU (Scripture Union). The clubs are great fun, and I look forward to joining one or

two more. My favourite subjects are Art and Design, French and English; the teachers are so helpful in those classes. When I first started Year 8, I was nervous and excited all in one, but I soon became comfortable with all my classes.



Ross Sloane - Iveagh PS

Hi, I'm Ross Sloane. I went to Iveagh Primary School. I really like Rathfriland High School, the food in the canteen is soooo good! My favourite subjects are Art and Design, Maths, Technology, PE and Games. My favourite teacher is Mrs Seffen. I go to after school rugby, and it is such good craic, and you get to go to tournaments and matches.



Noah Waddell - Bronte PS
Hi, my name is Noah Waddell and I went to Bronte Primary School. I really enjoy Rathfriland High School and I must also say, the canteen food is delicious! My favourite subjects are Physical Education, Technology, I.C.T and Games. I take part in after school rugby every week and it is great fun! I found my way around our school easily and I felt confident asking bigger pupils where to go if I got lost. I was most impressed that I made lots of friends within such a short space of time.





RATHFRILAND HIGH SCHOOL

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