

Admissions criteria for entry September 2026

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Grant Maintained Integrated Primary School

Enrolment Number: 294

Admissions Number: 42

PRINCIPAL: Mr Andrew Scott-Mulholland

CHAIR OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Ms Margo Keating

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS

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 Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the admissions criteria. The Sub-Committee will report to the full Board of Governors.

An admissions committee of the Board of Governors will apply the criteria to identify which children will be admitted to Primary 1. This committee will divide the applications into the three categories, i.e. Protestant, Catholic, Other. If any category is oversubscribed at this stage the criteria listed are applied. In any category, which is undersubscribed, all those applications which fit into this category will be admitted. If no information form is received the candidate will be put in the other category. The remaining places will be distributed proportionately amongst the remaining categories i.e. 40%, 40%, 20%. Any remaining place, which cannot be distributed according to the percentages after the allocation, will be given to the category which has the highest number of applicants at that stage. A detailed description of these three categories is available on the school website.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 7 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 21 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 21 January 2026 and up to 4 pm on 26 January 2026 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 26 January 2026 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 23 March 2026.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only consider information which is detailed on the application or provided directly to the school. Parents/Guardians should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application or provided directly to the first preference school. Examples of such information include whether the child has brothers/sisters attending the school or is the eldest child in the family.

If there are fewer applicants complying with a particular criterion than there are places available or remaining, those applicants complying with that criterion will be admitted and the next criterion will be applied to the remaining applicants.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

Any child who reaches their 4th Birthday on or before 1st July 2026 is of Compulsory School Age. Under the School Age (NI) Act which became law in Northern Ireland in April 2022, 'compulsory school age' also includes those children who deferred commencing Primary 1 in September 2025 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).

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Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school before those who are not so resident.

In the event of the school being oversubscribed the Board of Governors will apply the following criteria. The criteria are listed in order of priority.

Admissions Criteria and number

1. Children who, at the time of application, have brothers and sisters (half-brothers/sisters, stepbrothers/sisters, including those fostered or adopted) in attendance at Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School during the 2025/2026 school year.
2. Children who are currently enrolled at Saints and Scholars Integrated Nursery Unit.
3. Children who applied to the nursery (for entry in September 2025) but could not get a place because the nursery was over-subscribed.
4. Children who are the eldest/ only child in a family
5. Children with a sibling who previously attended Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School (parents should ensure name of pupil and dates attended are provided on the application)
6. Children who are a Looked After Child (LAC)

Tie-Breaker

In the event of over-subscription in the last sub-criterion which can be applied then selection for all places remaining in this sub-criterion will be based on the initial letter of the surname as per the birth certificate in the order set out below:

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

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order (as recorded on the child's birth certificate). In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the child's first name (as recorded on the child's birth certificate) will be used and if necessary, the subsequent letters of the forename in alphabetical order. In the event of the same surname and first forename, the alphabetical order of the initial and sequent letters of the second forename will be used. Mac and Mc surnames will be treated as surnames beginning with M.

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 any application. If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

WAITING LIST

Should a vacancy arise after 23 March 2026, all first-choice applications for admission to the Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School that were initially refused will have the published criteria applied. Following these all-new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. The school will inform you in writing if your child gains a place in school by this method. This waiting list will be in place until 30th June 2027. Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Parents should contact the school if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list.

ADMISSION TO P2 - P7

Requests for places in P2-P7 classes will be considered provided the maximum enrolment number has not been reached and that:

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- Additional enrolments will not exceed a maximum of 30 pupils in any Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 class.
- Such admissions do not prejudice the efficient use of school resources.

The Board of Governors will apply the criteria as employed for admission to year 1 to identify which children should be admitted to years 2-7.

The Board of Governors have clearly defined 'Eldest child'.

For the purposes of admission, the *eldest child* is defined as the oldest child in a family who has not yet attended primary school. This includes children who are the oldest by birth, adoption, or long-term fostering. In the case of twins or multiple births, all children born at the same time are considered equal in age and therefore jointly regarded as the eldest.

This criterion applies in circumstances where, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, a family has not previously had the opportunity for an older child to be enrolled at Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School. The Board of Governors will take into account evidence in cases where:

- a child is more than eight academic years younger than their next eldest sibling;
- a family has moved residence and therefore did not have a practical opportunity for an older child to apply to Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School; or
- the eldest child in the family attended a special school.

Parents must provide appropriate documentary evidence to support an application under this criterion. A letter from a member of Clergy, Solicitor or Public Servant (such as a Health or Education professional directly involved with the family) must be submitted.

The following documents can be uploaded in cases where a child is more than eight academic years younger than their next eldest sibling, a family has moved residence and therefore did not have a practical opportunity for an older child to apply to Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School, or the eldest child in the family attended a special school:

- Birth certificates of all children in the family (to confirm order of birth and age gaps);
- Adoption or fostering papers, where relevant, to confirm family placement;
- Proof of address or change of residence (such as a tenancy agreement, mortgage statement, or utility bill) to demonstrate that the family has moved into the area;
- A letter from the principal of the child's nursery school, or from another school, confirming attendance of older siblings elsewhere (if applicable);
- Confirmation from a special school if the eldest child in the family attends such a setting.

APPLICATIONS & ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1

Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/2024	47	47
2024/2025	32	32
*2025/2026	43	43

**The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 includes all P1 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)