

ST MARY'S HIGH SCHOOL

Upper Chapel Street

NEWRY

BT34 2DT

Telephone: 028 3026 2851

Fax: 028 3026 7138

Email: info@stmarys.newry.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.stmarysnewry.com

Principal: Miss Denise Crawley BSc PGCE MSc PQH

Chairperson Board of Governors: Mrs Patricia Cunningham MBE

**Maintained Secondary
Girls**

Age Range: 11-18

Admission No: 100

Enrolment No: 580

OPEN NIGHT – Thursday 15th January 2026 at 7pm

Parents/Carers of children in the transfer age group are invited to visit the school, accompanied by their daughters

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

The Board of Governors draws up the admission criteria. In the event of oversubscription, the Governors have delegated application of the criteria to the Admissions Subcommittee, composed of the Chairperson (or her nominee) the Principal (or her nominee) and another Governor.

ADMISSION CRITERIA: Admission to Year 8 September 2026 - June 2027

The application procedure opens on 27 January 2026 at 12 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 24 February 2026 will be treated as a late application. All applications whether punctual or late will be treated equally.

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down by the Board of Governors, St Mary's High School, Newry, in selecting pupils for Year 8 entry. The criteria will be applied first to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of proposed admission and then to children not so resident.

However, the school cannot cause or permit the number of registered pupils in Year 8 to exceed the school's admissions number as determined by the Department of Education.

It will be assumed that any parents/carers who wish their daughters to attend the school are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies, rules and regulations of the school.

If places are available, the school will admit all pupils whose parents/carers wish them to attend. If the school receives more applications than places available all applications will be considered but applications belonging to Criteria 1 will be given preference over Criteria 2 etc

CRITERIA

1. Children who reside, at the date of their application, in the following parishes, Donaghmore, Drumgath, Middle Killeavy, Newry, Saval, Upper Killeavy, not listed in any order of preference.
2. Children who, at the date of their application, reside in other parishes but attend a Primary School in the above-named parishes.
3. Children from other parishes, at the date of their application, who currently have or had a child of the family enrolled in the school.
4. Children whose Transfer Application expresses a first preference for St Mary's.
5. Children whose parent/carer is presently a permanent member of the school teaching/ancillary/auxiliary staff.
6. Children from other parishes.

Admissions Criteria in the Event of a Tie Breaker

In the event that, at any stage of the above criteria being applied, there is more than one applicant for a final place then this final selection will be on the basis of random selection, using the methods listed below, in the order in which they are given:

Random Selection of Letters: For admission to the school in September 2026, children will be selected for admission on the basis of initial letter of surname (as entered on the original Birth Certificate) in the order set out below:

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

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.

Random Selection: In the event that the school cannot distinguish between pupils with exactly the same full name, computerised random selection will be used to determine rank order.

Please note: In the event of your child not getting a place in St Mary's according to the above criteria, a waiting list will be available and all applications on the waiting list will be ranked as per numbered criteria above.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/24	100	98	98
2024/25	100	100	100
2025/26*	100	74	74

***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 and/or may be attending SPiMS.**

(SPiMS = Specialist Provision in Mainstream School)

ADMISSION CRITERIA: Admission to Years 9-12 September 2026 - June 2027

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down by the Board of Governors, St Mary's High School, Newry for accepting pupils transferring from another school. The criteria will be applied first to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of proposed admission and then to children not so resident.

However, the school cannot cause or permit the number of registered pupils in Years 9 – 12 to exceed the school's enrolment number as determined by the Department of Education.

It will be assumed that any parents/carers who wish their daughters to attend the school are in agreement with the ethos, philosophy, aims, policies and regulations of the school.

CRITERIA

1. Their admission would not cause the school to exceed its enrolment number as determined by the Department of Education; class sizes, including practical class sizes as determined by the Department of Education would not be exceeded.
2. Children who have moved into the locality to live and for whom this is the nearest secondary school.
3. Children who currently have or had a child of the family enrolled in the school.

The Board of Governors, in the light of all available information, will consider the needs of the particular pupil seeking entry to the school and decide whether it is in the pupil's best interest to transfer.

ADMISSION CRITERIA: Admission to Years 13-14 September 2026 - June 2027

Students must be able to demonstrate their ability and commitment to pursuing their studies to Post 16. To be eligible for admission into Year 13 an applicant must have achieved 5 GCSEs at Grades A* - C including Mathematics and/or English. They must also have had an excellent attendance and behaviour record.

If there are more pupils eligible than there are places available, places shall be awarded in the following order:

1. Applicants with the highest GCSE score – an applicant's GCSE score being calculated on the basis of GCSE results as follows:
A* = 7 points A = 6 points B = 5 points C* = 4 points C = 3 points D = 2 points E = 1 point
2. In the event of a tie, priority shall be established by computerised random selection.

Additionally, students who wish to study subjects at Post 16 will be required to have achieved Grades A* - B in these subjects at GCSE in particular Religious Education, English, Geography, Science and Mathematics. Those wishing to study Sociology must have achieved at Grades A* - B in English Language.

NOTE:

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, aims, policies and regulations of the school including the code of conduct and discipline policy of St Mary's High School. Information in relation to these may be obtained from the school.