

SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE

The Lawnfield

King Street

NEWCASTLE

BT33 0HD

Telephone No: 028 4372 6107

Fax No: 028 4372 6109

Email: info@shimna.newcastle.ni.sch.uk

Web: www.shimnaintegratedcollege.org

Principal: Steve Pagan

Chairperson Board of Governors: Denise Medea

GRANT MAINTAINED INTEGRATED SCHOOL

Age Range: 11-18

Admissions Number: 100

Enrolment Number: 620

OPEN EVENING INFORMATION

Pupils in P6 and P7 are warmly invited to visit the College with their parents and carers on **Saturday 17 January 2026** between 9.30 am and 12.30 pm. Visitors will have the opportunity to have a guided tour of the College, to meet students and staff and to hear from the Principal.

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

The Board of Governors, while retaining final approval, delegates to the Principal and designated staff the task of applying the criteria.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

During the admissions process, punctual applications will be considered before late applications. The application process opens on 27 January 2026 at 12:00 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 19 February 2026 at 12:00 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12:00 noon (GMT) on 19 February 2026 and up to 4:00 pm on 24 February 2026 will be treated as a late application.

In applying the criteria set out below, the Board of Governors will seek, in the total number admitted to Year 8 in September 2026, to reflect a balance of the two main traditions of Northern Ireland. A maximum of 20% of places are also reserved for students from Other traditions. The remaining places will be divided as equally as possible between Protestant and Catholic applicants, with any additional places allocated to the main tradition which has the greater number of applicants. This method of distributing places will be applied as necessary throughout the admissions procedure.

The criteria set out below will first be applied to members of Other traditions in the order set down and then to the Protestant and Catholic traditions in that order. In the event of there being fewer applications from either of the two main traditions than places available for that tradition, the balance of places will be allocated to the remaining main tradition, and to Other traditions equally.

In the event of there being more applicants than places available, the Board of Governors has determined that the following criteria shall be applied in the order set down:

- 1 Applicants who have chosen Shimna Integrated College as their first preference;
- 2 Applicants who are transferring from a controlled integrated or a grant-maintained integrated primary school, as defined in the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989;
- 3 Applicants who have/have had a sibling* enrolled at the College;
- 4 Applicants who are the eldest child** in the family to transfer from primary education;
- 5 Selection for any places remaining will be based on the initial letter(s) of the surname, with students being selected in the order set out below. The order has been determined by a randomised selection of letters.

X, Mc, R, G, T, Y, D, O', V, B, J, Q, S, Mac, K, I, Z, C, M, U, H, A, P, F, W, L, N, E, O

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the letters of the first forename appearing on the transfer application will be used. For applicants with a double-barrelled surname, the first letter of the first surname is used. In the event that two or more applicants have identical surnames and

Admissions criteria for entry September 2026

forenames (e.g., *Charlie John Brown*), and cannot be separated by the alphabetical order of subsequent letters, selection will be made by random computer-generated selection.

NOTES

* Sibling is defined as another child of the family (Article 2(2) of The Domestic Proceedings (NI) Order 1980), to include adopted/fostered children, half siblings and orphaned cousins being brought up with a family.

** Twins and other multiples who are the eldest in the family are treated as joint eldest children. Applicants whose elder sibling/s are statemented are treated as an eldest child.

- (a) "Eligible" is here defined as having transferred to a mainstream second level school from primary education since 1994.
- (b) Applicants will be accepted as eldest eligible if Shimna Integrated College was unable to accept a previous sibling due to over-subscription
- (c) The religious tradition which an applicant belongs to will be determined by the Board of Governors with reference to any or all of the following:
 - (i) information supplied to the College by the applicant's parent/carer on the College's own Admissions Information Form (or pre-enrolment form); or
 - (ii) information on or uploaded with the Transfer Application available on EA Connect or
 - (iii) the category of primary school which the student attended, i.e. controlled or maintained or other status.
- (d) In the event of parent(s)/carer(s) having more than one child eligible for transfer, an application must be made on behalf of each child for any of the children to be considered eligible.

Please upload a copy of the applicant's full birth certificate to EA Connect.

After the commencement of the 2026 school year, the above criteria will be used for entry into Year 8 should a place become available.

Further information about the College, including policies, can be found at:

<https://www.shimnaintegratedcollege.org/policies>

DUTY TO VERIFY

It is a matter for parents/carers to provide all the information which is required by the College in order to apply its criteria and to ensure that the information is complete, accurate and verified. The Board of Governors reserves the right to withdraw the offer of a place made on the basis of inaccurate or incomplete information, and which might therefore deprive another applicant of a place.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/24	100	137	113
2024/25	100	101	108
2025/26*	100	93	109

****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.***

Admission to years other than Year 8

Parents and carers interested in seeking admission into Years 9-12 and Sixth Form are welcome to attend the Open Morning. Alternatively, they can contact the College to arrange a visit. Further information is available on the College website.