ANTRIM GRAMMAR SCHOOL
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Antrim BT41 1AF
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E-Mail: info@antrimgrammar.antrim.ni.sch.uk
Website: www.antrimgrammar.org
Principal: Mr Martin T Wilson, BSc (Hons), PGCE, PQH(NI)
Chairman of the Board of Governors: Roger McCune, MBE

Controlled Grammar School (Co-educational)

Age Range of pupils: 11-18

Admissions No: 112

Enrolment No: 740

Open Event

The School will be open for visits by pupils and prospective parents on Saturday 10th January 2026, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm
Principal's address 9:15 am and 11:15 am.

Entrance Assessment Results

TO PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) NAMING ANTRIM GRAMMAR SCHOOL AS A PREFERENCE ON YOUR CHILD'S TRANSFER APPLICATION.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Admissions Committee will only take into account information which is detailed on or uploaded with the Transfer Application including, where appropriate, the Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) awarded by the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG). Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's Admissions Criteria is stated on or uploaded with the Transfer Application.

SEAG Entrance Assessment

The TSAS in the SEAG Entrance Assessment and the SEAG Unique Pupil Number should both be entered on the Transfer Application. The Statement of Outcomes received from SEAG indicating your child's SEAG TSAS should be uploaded to the Transfer Application. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to attach to the Transfer Application the original SEAG Statement of Outcomes indicating the child's SEAG TSAS and the child's SEAG Unique Pupil Number.

SEAG is very clear that its Entrance Assessment consists of two papers. A pupil who only takes one paper (i.e. either Paper 1 or Paper 2 but not both) will not have completed the full Entrance Assessment. Such pupils will, however, have their "single paper" marked and will receive a Statement of Outcomes. Outcomes for pupils who only sit one paper will have the designation "e" (for estimate) immediately after the Outcome, e.g. TSAS 196e; Band 4e. Such pupils may be considered for admission by Antrim Grammar School under Special Provisions - see below.

Sub-criteria

Please ensure that you indicate on the Transfer Application which of the sub-criteria apply, and if more than one sub-criterion applies, all relevant sub-criteria should be indicated.

Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions

If you are making a claim for your child to be considered under Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions, please read carefully the information provided in the relevant sections below.
Parents/Guardians who wish to apply to the School under **Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions** should complete the **SC Form(s) and/or SP Form(s)** (obtainable from the School or via the links below) and upload it to the Transfer Application with appropriate supporting documentation.
Claiming Special Circumstances – A Guide for Parents & Guardians
Claim for Special Circumstances (SC Form)
Claiming Special Provisions – A Guide for Parents & Guardians
Application for Special Provisions (SP Form)

Parents/Guardians should note that they will be required to produce documents verifying information pertinent to the School's Admissions Criteria. If the documents are not uploaded with the Transfer Application, as detailed below, they will be requested during the admissions procedure. A place in Antrim Grammar School is subject to receipt of specified verifying documentation. If the Admissions Committee becomes aware of any irregularity in the details uploaded or included on the Transfer Application, it reserves the right to reject the application made on behalf of the child for admission to the School.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8

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

Antrim Grammar School is a co-educational, non-denominational controlled grammar school with an Enrolment Number of 740 and an Admissions Number of 112.

The Board of Governors has approved the Admissions Criteria set out below and has delegated the task of applying these criteria to the Admissions Committee, in the event of the School being oversubscribed. Decisions in respect of "Special Circumstances" and/or "Special Provisions" are taken by the Admissions Committee to whom decision-making powers have been delegated by the full Board of Governors of the School. Further reference, therefore, to the Board of Governors may imply the Admissions Committee.

Admissions Criteria for Entry of Pupils to Year 8 September 2026

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 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 20 February 2026 and up to 4pm 24 February 2026 will be treated as a late application (see Waiting List Policy below).

The Admissions Committee will **not use as a criterion the position of preference** given to the School by the applicant on the Transfer Form; for example, a child who has chosen Antrim Grammar School as a second or subsequent preference school will be considered in the same manner as a child who has chosen the School as their first preference.

An academic criterion is used in the selection process, by reference to the TSAS awarded by SEAG following pupils sitting the Entrance Assessment operated by SEAG, subject only to where the Admissions Committee may assign to each pupil claiming "Special Circumstances" or "Special Provision" a score in accordance with the arrangements for "Special Circumstances" and "Special Provision" set out below. Those pupils will then be considered on the basis that the score assigned to them by the Admissions Committee as the TSAS that the child would have been awarded in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal circumstances. Such children will then be considered with all other children who have received a SEAG Entrance Assessment TSAS and the Admissions Criteria applied.

Criteria

If the number of applications is greater than the Admissions Number determined by the Department of Education, the following criteria (to include sub-criteria) will be applied in the order listed below until the point where the Admissions Number is reached:

1 Children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be selected for admission to the School before any child not so resident (see **Note 1** below for further information);

2. The Admissions Committee will then consider children who have taken the SEAG Entrance Assessment (or had a score assigned by the Admissions Committee as a result of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions). Places will be allocated in rank order of the TSAS awarded by SEAG (or the score assigned as a result of Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions), starting with the highest result and working in descending rank order, up to the Admissions Number.

3. Where a decision must be made for the final place(s) between children with the same result, places will be allocated in the following order. Children who, at the date of their Transfer Application:

   (i) Have a sibling currently enrolled at the School (see **Note 2)**;

   (ii) Are the eldest/only 'child of the family' to be eligible to transfer to the School (see **Note 3**);

   (iii) Attend a Primary School which is a recognised **Feeder Primary School** to Antrim Grammar School (see section below). The rank order will be used so that those primary schools sending higher numbers of pupils to Antrim Grammar School will have precedence;

   (iv) Reside in the named catchment area of the School. This is defined as the Antrim/Newtownabbey Borough Council area - https://www.gov.uk/find-local-council (see **Note 1**);

Children will then be ranked for acceptance based on a computer-based process which will make use of the data as entered on the Transfer Application. The process is carried out by means of a computer programme which, for each child, generates a ranking number using the details from the Transfer Application as the seed for a random number generator. The ranking number generated, for any given child, is dependent only on the child's data (as entered on the Transfer Application) and is not affected by the details of any other child. Although the process is repeatable, and the results may therefore be subsequently verified, it is not possible to predict, in advance of running the program, what the result will be for any given set of details. Children with the lowest ranking numbers will be given places up to the number of places available.

Notes

1. The child's Birth Certificate and proof of address should be uploaded with the Transfer Application. Proof of address – any TWO of the following recent (within the past 6 months) documents with sensitive information redacted: Bank/Building Society Statement; Utility Bill (e.g. Electricity, Gas, TV Licence, Landline Telephone); Addressed Payslip; Letter awarding Child Benefit to the child or another letter relating to this benefit; Mortgage Statement; Land and Property Services Rates Demand; Financial Statement such as ISA, Pension or Endowment; Current Driving Licence; Rental Agreement.

2. Provide the Name(s) and Registration Class(es) of the sibling on the Transfer Application.

3. Parents/Guardians **must upload with the Transfer Application a letter on headed notepaper to verify that their child is the eldest or only child of the family**. This must be a letter from a person who is not a family member of the child and who has known the child for at least one year; letters of verification will be accepted from a Primary School Principal, Elected Public Representative, GP, solicitor or member of the Clergy.

   "Child of the family" means:
   - 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

   "Eldest child" includes:
   - twins (or other multiples), who will be treated as joint eldest
   - children where all elder children have completed their post-primary education
   - children who have moved to reside within Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area, in the current academic year, and so are the eldest child eligible to attend Antrim Grammar School
   - children where the eldest child was statemented or attended a special school, or where a family has relocated to Northern Ireland

Special Circumstances and Special Provisions

The purpose of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions is so that a child can be assigned a TSAS equivalent to that which the child would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal conditions.

Consideration of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions consists of two parts:

1. whether there is sufficient evidence to permit a child to be considered as having Special Circumstances or attracting Special Provisions, or both

2. if so, an educational judgement will be made based on the totality of the material presented to the School so that a score equivalent to that which the child would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal conditions can be assigned.

It is for parents/guardians to present all such material as they consider will assist the School in performing both parts of the consideration described above. All such material should be uploaded with the Transfer Application. It should be noted by parents/guardians that both parts of the consideration referred to involve an exercise in judgement and are not precise calculations.

Special Circumstances (for guidance information click here, for the form click here)

An application for a School to apply Special Circumstances may be made if medical or other problems affected a pupil's performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment.

If a claim for the consideration of Special Circumstances is made in respect of matters for which Special Access Arrangements were granted for a child, the School will take into account the fact that the child was granted Special Access Arrangements for those matters.

Parents/Guardians who wish to apply to the School under Special Circumstances should complete the relevant SC Form, stating the precise reason(s) why they believe the child should be considered for Special Circumstances and upload it with appropriate evidence to the Transfer Application (see further below regarding educational evidence). Parents are required to confirm if Special Access Arrangements were granted to the child and if so, for what reason.

The Admissions Committee will consider each application for Special Circumstances. Where it is accepted the medical or other problem may have affected the child's performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment, the Admissions Committee will assign, based on the information available, an appropriate score for the child equivalent to the SEAG Entrance Assessment TSAS that the child would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal conditions. Such children will then be considered with all other children who have received a SEAG TSAS and the Admissions Criteria applied accordingly.

Special Provisions (for guidance information click here, for the form click here)

A candidate's parents/guardians may make a claim for Special Provisions, where the candidate:

i has received more than half of their education** outside Northern Ireland; or

***based on the time from the start of Primary 1 i.e. more than 3 years and 3 months.*

ii wishes to transfer to a post-primary school that uses the SEAG Entrance Assessment from a school outside Northern Ireland;

iii due to serious medical or other problems which are supported by appropriate documentary evidence or for a demonstrably valid reason also supported by appropriate documentary evidence was EITHER unable to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment OR has an estimated Outcome because they only sat one of the two Entrance Assessment papers;

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to support a claim for Special Provisions with appropriate documentary evidence proving how the child meets Special Provisions.

It is expected that all those seeking admission should sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment, with the exception of those children who take up residence in Northern Ireland after 2nd October 2025.

Parents/Guardians must provide details of the child's SEAG Unique Pupil Number on the Transfer Application and SP Form.

Parents/Guardians who wish to apply to the School under Special Provisions should contact the School as soon as possible. In addition, they should complete the SP Form stating the precise reason why they believe the child is eligible for consideration under Special Provisions and upload it with appropriate independent documentary evidence to the Transfer Application (click here to see the evidence required).

The Admissions Committee will consider the application for Special Provisions. Where a claim for Special Provisions is accepted, the child may be asked to sit a Cognitive Ability Test (CAT).
The Admissions Committee will assign, based on the information available (including where appropriate the result of a CAT), an appropriate score for the child equivalent to that which the child would have received in the SEAG Entrance

Assessment. Such children will then be considered with all other children who have received an SEAG TSAS and the Admissions Criteria will be applied accordingly.

Details of Medical or Other Problems to be provided in support of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions

Where it is claimed that a child's performance in the SEAG Assessment has been affected by a medical issue or due to serious medical or other problems, the child was EITHER unable to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment OR only sat one of the two Entrance Assessment paper, it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to set out in the SC Form or SP Form precise details of the problem and attach evidence with the Transfer Application to corroborate its existence.

Where the problem is a medical one of short-term duration which affected the child only at the time of the SEAG assessment, parents/guardians should be aware that the School may attach greater weight to evidence indicating that the child was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness at the time of the assessment(s).

Where the problem is of a non-medical nature, parents/guardians should set out in the SC Form precise details of the problem and upload appropriate evidence with the Transfer Application.

It should be noted that independent, contemporaneous evidence may carry greater weight.

Educational Evidence to be provided in support of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions

In reaching the educational judgement needed to award the equivalent result that the child would have obtained in the SEAG under normal circumstances, the Admissions Committee will consider all material provided by parents/guardians in support of the application by uploading it to the Transfer Application, with the SP Form or SC Form. This material may include any or all of the following:

(i) The TSAS awarded by SEAG in the Entrance Assessment (if the child sits two SEAG Entrance Assessments) or the estimate score (e) provided by SEAG (if the child only sits one of the SEAG Entrance Assessments, due to the child's illness, or other unforeseen circumstances);

(ii) The child's results in any standardised tests conducted in Primary 5, 6 and 7, and the results in any end of year tests conducted in Primary 5 and 6 in English and Mathematics;

(iii) Comparative information from the Primary School, including: the results, without names, of other children in the child's Primary 7 class of any standardised tests or practice papers conducted in Years 5, 6 and 7; the results in any end of year tests conducted in Primary 5 and 6 in English and Mathematics; and (where available) the respective TSAS awarded by SEAG;

(iv) Any other relevant material.

It should be noted that independent evidence may carry greater weight.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide the educational evidence. The **Admissions Committee will make a decision based on the information available to it at the time**.

Admissions to Year 8 following completion of the Transfer Procedure

Should the Admissions Committee determine that a child who has arrived in Northern Ireland after the Transfer Process has been concluded and who is suitable for admission, however, the School's Admissions Number has been reached, it can seek approval from the Department of Education to admit the child through the allocation of an additional place.

Waiting List Policy

Parents/Guardians who wish to have their child considered for admission in the event of a place arising after the Transfer Procedure concludes at the end of May should write to the Principal stating this. An acknowledgement will be issued. If any place(s) subsequently become available and there are more children than places available, then decisions will be made on application of the Year 8 Admissions Criteria to those children seeking admission at the time the place(s) becomes available. The Year 8 waiting list will be in place until 30th June 2027.

Verification of Information

Those making applications should note that the information contained within an application that qualifies the child

for admission will be verified. The Admissions Committee therefore reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Transfer Application. Those making applications should also note the provision of false information or incorrect information, or the failure to provide verifying documents according to the required deadline, may result in either withdrawal of a place or the inability of the School to offer a place.

Feeder Primary Schools

The schools listed below are the primary schools which sent pupils (including statemented pupils) to Antrim Grammar School ranked in accordance with the actual number of pupils sent in the most recent 3 years, so that a pupil from the school named at paragraph 3. (iii).1 will be admitted before a pupil from the school named at paragraph 3. (iii).2, and so on.

Rank Order	Feeder Primary School Name
3.(iii) 1	Antrim Primary School
3.(iii) 2	Templepatrick Primary School
3.(iii) 3	St Comgall's Primary School
3.(iii) 4	Loanends Primary School
3.(iii) 5	Round Tower Integrated Primary School
3.(iii) 6	St Joseph's Primary School, Crumlin
3.(iii) 7	Greystone Primary School
3.(iii) 8	Crumlin Integrated Primary School
3.(iii) 9	Kells and Connor Primary School
3.(iii) 10	St Joseph's Primary School, Antrim
3.(iii) 11	Six Mile Integrated Primary
3.(iii) 12=	Ballycraigy Primary School
3.(iii) 12=	McKinney Primary School
3.(iii) 14=	Randalstown Central Primary School
3.(iv) 14=	Creavery Primary School
3.(iii) 16=	Parkgate Primary School
3.(iii) 16=	Ballycarrickmaddy Primary School
3.(iii) 16=	Straidhavern Primary School
3.(iii) 19=	Ashgrove Primary School
3.(iii) 19=	Ballyhenry Primary School
3.(iii) 19=	Carnaghts Primary School
3.(iii) 19=	St Therese of Lisieux Primary School
3.(iii) 19=	Doagh Primary School
3.(iii) 19=	Mossgrove Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Ballymacrickett Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Glengormley Integrated Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Ballymacward Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Earlview Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Knockloughrim Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Maghaberry Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Meadow Bridge Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Parkhall Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	PondPark Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Seaview Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Carnmoney Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Harmony Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Mallusk Integrated Primary School
3.(iii) 25=	Mossley Primary School

Applications and Admissions to Year 8

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/24	114*	198	114
2024/25	112	156	112
2025/26**	115*	140	115
* Includes a Temporary Variation			

This table does not include children who were admitted to the School with a statement of Special Educational Needs. Details in relation to scores/grades accepted are available in the School Prospectus.

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