

# CLOUNAGH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

2026-27 PROSPECTUS



[www.clounagh.com](http://www.clounagh.com)

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EMPOWERING PUPILS FOR A WORLD OF CHANGE.

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# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome to Clounagh, a school where inclusivity and respect are at the heart of everything we do.

At this important stage in a young person's journey—between the ages of 11 and 14—we provide a nurturing environment where every student is valued, supported, and encouraged to thrive. We believe that every child has unique strengths, and we are committed to helping them discover and develop their potential in a community built on kindness, understanding, and mutual respect.

Our dedicated staff work closely with students and families to ensure that each learner feels safe, heard, and empowered. Through a broad and engaging curriculum, alongside a wide range of extracurricular opportunities, we aim to inspire curiosity, build confidence, and foster a lifelong love of learning.

At Clounagh, we understand that true success is not only measured by academic achievement, but also by the strength of character, empathy, and resilience our students develop. We are proud to be a school where every voice matters and every individual belongs.

As you explore our prospectus, I hope you gain a sense of the warmth, ambition, and inclusive spirit that define Clounagh.

Mr P Elliott  
Principal





# PUPILS' PERSPECTIVES

I chose to attend Clounagh as my sister attends the school. I attended the open night and enjoyed the experience of the evening; showing me a wide range of subjects.

One of my favourite subjects is Technology, I enjoy working in the workshop and have an interest in the theory elements also. I also really enjoy Science, especially the experiments. P.E. and Games are also a highlight of the week, socialising with friends whilst completing sporting activities. After school I attend Rugby and Football, I enjoy the teamwork, socialising and developing skills.

In the future, I would like to have a career as a mechanic and Clounagh is providing me with good foundations to pursue this career.

The advice I would have for any P6/P7 pupils thinking about coming to Clounagh is to not worry, Clounagh is welcoming and everyone is helpful. I would advise you to attend some extra curricular activities as a way of mixing with other pupils you may not know and making new friendships for the future.



**Freddie Heatrick**  
Hart Memorial Primary School



**Megan Jackson**  
Birches Primary School

I choose to come to Clounagh Junior High School because my older brother Matthew goes here and is in year 10 and is very happy here.

My favourite subjects are Technology and P.E. I enjoy creating new things and displaying them at home. Within Clounagh JHS we have the opportunity to try a variety of sports such as football, hockey, netball and volleyball. There is also a range of extra curricular activities to suit everyone's interests and I have chosen football and choir.

My ambition for the future is to become a teacher for children with Special educational needs as I enjoy finding new ways to learn and making it fun. I also hope to continue to play football and possibly play for Northern Ireland someday.

My advice for any primary six or seven pupil considering Clounagh JHS is not to worry about changing schools as it does not take very long to settle in and in as everyone is very kind and caring here.





# PUPILS' PERSPECTIVES

I chose to come to Clounagh because the Open Night stood out to me and made me feel very welcome. Also, my sister went to CJHS and loved her 3 years at this school. My favourite subjects are PE, Art and Maths because I enjoy playing sports and getting involved in team games. I like Art because I am very creative. I also like Maths because I like problem solving and being challenged. The extra-curricular activities I attend are football because it's my favourite sport. I play for Loughgall F.C outside of school. Netball is a great sport to play if you're into team sport. Choir is very enjoyable as I love to sing in solos and groups.

In the future, I hope to attend Queen's University to study medicine and save lives.

Some advice I'd give to P6/7s thinking of attending Clounagh is, it may look big and scary at first, but you will fit in very easily.



**Elsie Moore**

Orchard County Primary School



**Alex Richardson**

Millington Primary School

I choose to come to Clounagh Junior High School as both my sisters attended a few years ago and they really enjoyed their time here. My mum and dad also attended Clounagh many years ago. My favourite subjects is Games, especially when we play football and rugby. My next favourite subject is Art, I'm not very good at it, but I am really enjoying this class. My next favourite subject is Science, as I am enjoying all the experiments. I attend football and rugby for after school activities, which I am really enjoying.

My ambitions for the future are to work really hard in school, and also my sports as I hope to become a professional footballer or an electrician. My advice to P6 or P7 pupils thinking about attending Clounagh Junior High School is to not be afraid. The teachers, the staff, and the pupils are all very friendly and helpful. I have had an amazing time at Clounagh so far.





## EMPOWERING PUPILS FOR A WORLD OF CHANGE.

### Our Aims:

We aim for pupils to:

- Enjoy learning and want to continue learning through life.
- Achieve academically to their highest standard.
- Have high self-esteem and high expectations of themselves.
- Have a sense of excitement, vision and purpose in their lives.
- Develop their personal qualities and interests.
- Have a clear understanding of their own beliefs and respect those of others.
- Be flexible and responsive to a changing world.
- Want to contribute to society to make the world a better place.
- Be capable of making informed decisions.

### Our Mission:

We will provide our pupils with:

- A balanced curriculum which is appropriate, relevant and responsive to every pupil's needs.
- An inclusive culture which promotes the personal, social and moral development of all pupils.
- A safe, secure and stimulating environment which is conducive to learning.
- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement providing opportunities for all pupils to succeed.
- An active and supportive partnership with the local community.
- Effective and stimulating teaching supported by a wide range of learning resources.
- Opportunities for participation in activities for the enrichment of the whole person.







## Our Ethos:

The school actively promotes and supports a Christian ethos. Assembly is held three mornings per week and is often led by ministers from the major churches. Scripture Union meets at lunchtime one day per week. Throughout the year, the school welcomes speakers and groups from such organisations as The Gideons, Child Evangelism Fellowship, Crown Jesus Ministries and Scripture Union. One of the highlights of the school year is the annual Carol Service attended by parents, guests and local clergy. The school choir may also participate in Carol Services in local churches.

At the heart of our school lies effective pastoral provision which actively promotes a safe, secure and welcoming environment for all by developing mutual care and respect within the school family regardless of background, religion, culture or gender. The school strives to be a vibrant and challenging community which through innovative learning and teaching seeks to meet the physical, intellectual, social, emotional and spiritual needs of all. Pupils are encouraged to manage their own learning and to make informed responses and decisions. Self-discipline, self-reflection and a focus on increased personal responsibility are actively promoted. Pupils are also encouraged to participate in the decision-making process via the School Council and through the development of pupil voice throughout the school. In addition, the school seeks to promote an effective home-school partnership with parents, nurtured through an 'open door' policy. Induction Day, Parents' Evenings, Information Events, School Play, Prize Evening, Carol Service and concerts all combine to strengthen this important link.

There is effective cross-phase liaison at Primary and Senior High School levels in addition to on-going collaboration with the Southern Regional College through multi-link training courses. The school also has active community links with the local churches and clergy, community groups, and business and charitable organisations.





# THE DICKSON PLAN



**The Dickson Plan** is a child-centred form of education which allows for seamless, stress-free transfer of all P7 pupils from local Primary Schools to one of four 11-14 Junior High Schools, without the need to sit an academic test.

At the end of Key Stage 3, pupils sit transfer examinations in the Junior High Schools to facilitate an appropriate pathway to one of the Senior High Schools – Lurgan College, Portadown College, or Craigavon Senior High School.

The Dickson Plan affords young people opportunities for maturation so that, at age 14, they are enabled to make informed choices about the next stage of their education.

Put simply, it allows pupils to follow:  
*The right path at the right time.*





# ACCOMMODATION & FACILITIES

The school was opened in 1957 and extended in 1971, 2002, 2010 and 2014. Accommodation consists of 41 classrooms including 4 Science laboratories, 3 ICT rooms, 2 Home Economics rooms, plus specialist Technology & Design, Art and Music Suites. All classrooms are equipped with interactive data panels.

Recently the school has seen the building and refurbishment of a new Art Suite complete with 2 new classrooms, a digital studio equipped with PCs and Design Software, and a new Kiln Room with Ceramics area.

Other facilities include a spacious Entrance Foyer, a well-stocked Library, and two Gymnasias (one of which serves as our Assembly Hall equipped with a sophisticated sound and lighting system). In addition, there is a dedicated Cafeteria providing a wide choice of school meals, lunches and snacks.



The site of 18 acres includes 2 all-weather hockey pitches, 2 grass dual purpose rugby/football pitches, outdoor netball courts and athletics facilities. For the safety of pupils, a lay-by for school buses is provided within the school grounds.

In the near future, construction will begin on a new Sports Hall and Fitness Suite, a Multi-Use Games Area, and additional classrooms through the Department of Education's School Enhancement Programme.

# A CARING SCHOOL

In Clounagh, pupils are nurtured in a safe, secure and happy environment where they are challenged to do well and encouraged to develop into caring, responsible young adults ready to make a positive contribution to society.

Beginning secondary school can be a daunting experience and a good start is important. An Induction Evening is held for Year 8 pupils in June when they spend time with a member of the Year 8 Pastoral Team, getting accustomed to their new surroundings, and meeting new classmates. At the end of August there are two dedicated Year 8 days when they collect their timetables, tour their new classrooms and meet their subject teachers ahead of the start of term. Our 'Friendly Faces' mentoring programme also involves a group of young people from Year 10 helping Year 8 pupils to settle into their new school.

Every morning, each class will meet with their form teacher for registration. Such regular contact helps to establish and build a meaningful relationship between teacher and pupil. Time spent during registration period includes attending whole school assembly, on-going personal development lessons, preparation for year assembly and the monitoring of attendance.

Pupils will also have a timetabled form period class. During these periods in Year 8 & 9, units from the Citizenship, Employability and Personal Development programmes are followed. In Year 10 the L.L.W. Curriculum is delivered via a twelve week 'Carousel' approach.

Our pupils are encouraged to become "caring young adults" and to think of those less fortunate than themselves. As part of this aspiration money for various charities is raised by a number of special events organised throughout the year by Form Teachers and individual classes. We are proud of our efforts to help those at home and further afield who are less fortunate than ourselves.

We promote an environment where independence is valued and individuals can flourish without fear of bullying. We acknowledge that every pupil has the right to be safe and happy in school, and to be protected when he or she is feeling vulnerable. It is important that we create an atmosphere in the school where pupils who are being bullied, or others who know about it, feel that they will be listened to and that action taken will be swift but sensitive to their concerns. Pupils who feel uncomfortable or threatened are encouraged to speak to any member of staff as soon as possible. Parents should also raise a concern by contacting the school immediately. A copy of the school's Anti-Bullying Policy is available on the website and upon request.





# PASTORAL TEAM

A Pastoral Team consisting of Form Teachers, Year Heads, a Pastoral Support Worker, and senior members of staff strive to ensure that each child is nurtured in a secure environment. School staff are supported by a Reach Mentoring 'Connect' worker who facilitates one to one mentoring, a nurture group and young carers support group. In addition, the services of a School Counsellor can also be accessed should additional help, advice and support be required. Referral to the service can be made by a parent, member of staff or the young person themselves. We value, promote and encourage partnership with parents who may visit the school at any time.

# SCHOOL COUNCIL

Pupils are encouraged to play an active role in decision making throughout the school in matters where there is a role for pupil voice. Every class returns two representatives to the respective Year Group Councils and these in turn nominate four pupils to serve on the main School Council. This is the main pupil discussion/decision-making body whose task it is to ensure that our young people have an opportunity and mechanism to express their views and opinions.

# HOUSE SYSTEM

House Points are awarded for achievement across all areas of school life, both inside and outside the classroom. They are also awarded for participation in House activities and for demonstrating qualities such as kindness and helpfulness which align with our ethos and values. House Assemblies take place once every half term, during which successes and achievements are recognised and celebrated. The four Clounagh Houses are Alexander, Carson, Nuffield and Scott.

# CELEBRATING SUCCESS

We believe in recognising and celebrating the success of our pupils whether it be academic, musical, sporting or achievement at a personal level. Our Behaviour for Learning Policy is based on promoting positive behaviour and providing an opportunity for pupils to gain recognition for their efforts. Good attendance is also highlighted, and various certificates are awarded to acknowledge individual success throughout the year. Our annual Prize Night held in June is a special occasion where staff, pupils and their parents come together formally to celebrate the achievements of our young people in and beyond the classroom.



# CURRICULUM & HOMEWORK

## Curriculum

The compulsory subjects in the Northern Ireland Curriculum are delivered to all our pupils. The Key Stage 3 Learning Areas are:

- The Arts (Art & Design, Music, Drama)
- English (including Media Education)
- Environment & Society (Geography, History)
- Learning for Life & Work (Personal Development, Local & Global Citizenship, Education for Employability, Home Economics)
- Mathematics (including Financial Capability)
- Modern Languages (French, Spanish)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Science and Technology (Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Technology & Design)

Additional curriculum initiatives also facilitated the provisions for Special Educational Needs, Under-Achievement and Supporting Newcomer Needs.



## Homework

Homework is recognised as a key element in a pupil's development; it fosters self-discipline and promotes the learning process. All pupils receive homework on a regular basis. A homework timetable ensures that pupils are given a reasonable amount each day and are not overburdened. In addition, every pupil is given a homework diary/planner in which to record work and each class has a master diary completed by subject teachers.

The type of work set may include:

- Reading
- Learning
- Written Exercise
- Research.

Whatever the homework, staff will ensure that it is of educational value and appropriate to the ability of the pupil. Homework is designed to consolidate class work, promote thinking skills, challenge the individual and provide the opportunity for pupils to work independently.





# ASSESSMENT & REPORTING

## Curriculum

Clounagh has a well-established system of assessment, through which pupil progress is constantly monitored by staff who make use of results to identify strengths and areas for improvement, provide appropriate remediation, and celebrate success. An integral part of this is the use of a tracking programme to monitor each pupil. Students are encouraged to self-evaluate, reflect and comment on their performance and to set realistic targets to achieve improvement.

Assessment takes many forms and at present includes:

- Class Tests
- Practical Tasks
- Oral Work
- Listening Skills
- Individual and Group work
- Homework

Assessment Schedule:

<b>Year 8 &amp; 9</b>	<b>October November/December March/April May</b>	<b>Tracking Assessments Examinations Tracking Assessments Examinations</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>October November/December March/April</b>	<b>Tracking Assessments Examinations Examinations</b>



Through the school's continuous professional development programme staff have been trained in all strands of Assessment for Learning.

Much emphasis is placed on the involvement of parents in their children's education, and to this end parents are kept fully informed of their child's progress. In Years 8 and 9, tracking reports are issued in January and full written reports in June. In Year 10, a full written report is issued in January and a tracking report in June.

In January, parents are invited to attend a series of year-specific home-school online liaison meetings which provide an opportunity for parents to discuss with teachers how their child is progressing and to express any concerns they may have. Parents who are unable to attend may arrange to meet staff at a later date.

Three young boys in school uniforms (blue blazers, light blue shirts, and yellow and blue striped ties) are walking. The boy on the left is smiling at the camera, the middle boy is looking down, and the boy on the right is looking towards the camera.

# OUR SCHOOL DAY

<b>Period 1 (Assembly/ Registration)</b>	<b>8:30–8:55</b>
<b>Period 2</b>	<b>8:55–9:25</b>
<b>Period 3</b>	<b>9:25–9:55</b>
<b>Period 4</b>	<b>9:55–10:25</b>
<b>BREAK</b>	<b>10:25–10:45</b>
<b>Period 5</b>	<b>10:45–11:15</b>
<b>Period 6</b>	<b>11:15–11:45</b>
<b>Period 7</b>	<b>11:45–12:15</b>
<b>Period 8 / Lunch</b>	<b>12:15–12:45</b>
<b>Period 9 / Lunch</b>	<b>12:45–1:15</b>
<b>Period 10 / Lunch</b>	<b>1:15–1:45</b>
<b>Period 11</b>	<b>1:45–2:15</b>
<b>Period 12</b>	<b>2:15–2:45</b>

For pupils who need to arrive early, we have a Breakfast Club every day between 7.45am and 8.15am. Pupils are not permitted to leave school at any time during the school day unless a written request has been received from a parent/guardian. Pupils arriving after registration must sign in at the General Office, and pupils leaving before the school day ends must sign out. A Homework Work club also operates from 2.45 pm to 4.00pm from Monday to Thursday.





# LINKS TO THE COMMUNITY

The school operates an 'Open Door' policy, and parents are welcome to school at any time. In addition, the school communicates with parents through letters, leaflets, pupil diary, phone calls, texting service, counselling and information meetings, and the Year 8 Induction Evening in June. A fund-raising group, the Friends of Clounagh Association, has recently been formed and consists of parents, past pupils and staff. As part of the Learning for Life and Work Programme, representatives from the business community organise training days for pupils. The school works closely with Young Enterprise Northern Ireland, Learn to Earn, Project Business and the Reach Mentoring Team.

The school has very close links with all schools in the area and actively promotes cross-phase liaison meetings. We are a member of the Craigavon Area Learning Community and also benefit from the Principal's membership of the Post-Primary Principals' Association and the Vice-Principals' Forum. Local employers facilitate work experience for pupils from the Learning Support Centre at Key Stage 4. The school's Carol Service takes place in St Mark's Church, Portadown, in December, and pupils from our neighbouring primary schools attend a matinee performance of the school production every two years.

The school engages with community agencies and bodies such as YMCA, MENCAP, Love for Life, Local Clergy, PSNI, NIFRS, Aspire, Freedom Acts, Beam Creative Workshops, Nutrition Services, NI Mood Matters, Sentinus, Start 360, Royal British Legion and Teenage Cancer Trust.

## TRIPS & VISITS

There are further opportunities for pupils to deepen their learning outside the classroom through trips and visits organised at various times throughout the year. These may range from skiing and educational trips in Europe to attending presentations in Craigavon Civic Centre. Opportunities exist to attend sports fixtures, participate in field trips, visit the theatre, and other subject-related activities.

In addition, we welcome representatives from local churches, guest speakers, the PSNI and other accredited agencies to talk to our young people on a wide range of issues. We view such contact as another means of encouraging pupils to assume greater responsibility for their own actions and to help them play a positive role in the community.

## ENRICHMENT DAYS

Twice a year, we pause the timetable and organise Enrichment Days during which pupils choose from a range of activities which offer them the opportunity to "do something different" and develop important life skills outside the normal curriculum. Activities include:

- Journalism and Book Club
- Glee Club
- Crafts and Entertainment
- Media and Film Club
- Health and Fitness
- Nutrition and Food



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION & SPORT

The PE Department offers an extensive range of activities, sports and pursuits which provide opportunities for participation to develop the whole person. We seek to:

- Develop skills and attitudes, to enable pupils to succeed in their future lives.
- Enable each pupil to maximise his/her physical potential through the development of basic skills of movement, balance, co-ordination and timing.
- Promote an interest in an enjoyment of physical activity as a contribution to fitness and a healthy lifestyle.
- Help the pupil to become more self-confident and sensitive to others.
- Help the pupil to cope with failure, success, stress, competition and fear, in preparation for a rapidly changing world.
- Develop the ability to co-operate with others and to compete fairly, to become responsible citizens.
- Provide each pupil with the opportunity to perform and progress at his or her own individual pace, according to ability – through quality Teaching and Learning.

**Each class is allocated 4 periods of Sport per week, as follows:**

- Double period of Games
- Double period of PE





## **Sporting facilities include:**

- Two all-weather Hockey pitches
- Two grass dual-purpose Rugby/Football pitches
- Two outdoor Netball courts
- 300m Athletics grass track
- Two long jump pits with all-weather runways
- Two high jump areas
- Two shot putt areas
- Girls' Gym (fully equipped and refurbished)
- Boys' Gym (fully equipped and refurbished)

## **Sports available:**

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| • Athletics              | • Hockey Minor Games      |
| • Badminton              | • Netball, Swimming (LSC) |
| • Basketball             | • Rounders                |
| • Circuit Training       | • Rugby                   |
| • Cricket                | • Softball                |
| • Dance                  | • Table Tennis            |
| • Football               | • Tug of War              |
| • Gymnastics             | • Volleyball              |
| • Health-Related Fitness |                           |

## **Sporting events and activities:**

- Girls' Hockey: teams meet on 2 afternoons per week and compete in League & Cup, Northern Ireland Junior Schools' Cup, and Saturday morning matches
- Girls' Netball: participation in Year 8/9/10 District Tournament, League & Cup
- Athletics: participation in Athletics Practice, District Championships, Ulster Championships, Irish Championships, and Cross-Country Competition
- Boys' Football: teams compete in Mid-Ulster Schools' Football Association, U12, U13, U14 League & Cup, and U12/U14 NI Cup
- Girls' Football: teams compete in the Northern Ireland Schools' Cup
- Boys' Rugby: U14, U13 and U12 Rugby Teams compete in midweek fixtures and tournaments.
- Swimming: Ulster Schools' Cup and Championship.





# MUSIC & DRAMA

The facilities offered by our Music Department include two fully equipped classrooms, a computer annex, three ensemble rooms and a recording studio. Opportunities also exist for pupils to have private tuition in guitar, singing, drums and piano, as well as that offered by the Education Authority Music Service in woodwind, strings, brass and percussion.

Clounagh pupils enjoy participating in a wide range of additional musical activities, including School Band and Orchestra, Choir, Guitar Ensemble and Ulster Scots Group. Performing opportunities include the Annual Christmas Carol Service in St Mark's Church, Portadown, and the Annual Summer Term Concert in the Assembly Hall. The Music Department also runs an after-school GarageBand Club for pupils interested in music technology.

'The Clounagh Play' is part of our school's heritage. We have a very long, proud tradition of presenting full-scale musical productions. Every other year our drama team mount a dramatic production featuring large numbers of our pupils drawn from all year groups. They are given the chance to perform on stage or become involved in a practical aspect of stagecraft such as lighting, sound, costume, make-up and props. On the week of our performances, young people will play to adult audiences on three successive evenings and again to invited primary school pupils each morning. In the intervening years, pupils are given the opportunity to come along and hone their skills in Drama Club.





# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Clounagh prepares pupils for a fuller enjoyment of future leisure pursuits through the media of sport, music, drama, art and literature. We equip individuals for a greater contribution to the community. All pupils are encouraged to participate in these enrichment programmes.

## **Extra-curricular sports include:**

- Athletics
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Circuit Training
- Cricket
- Cross-Country
- Dance
- Football
- Gymnastics
- Health-Related Fitness
- Hockey
- Netball
- Swimming (LSC)
- Rounders
- Rugby
- Softball
- Table Tennis
- Tug of War
- Volleyball

## **Other extra-curricular activities include:**

- Art Club
- Band / Orchestra
- Choir
- Cookery Club
- Creative Writing Club
- Drama Club
- Eco Club
- GarageBand Club
- Guitar Ensemble
- Homework Club
- Minecraft Club
- School Production (every two years)
- Scripture Union / FOCUS
- STEM Club
- Tea and Knitting Club
- Technology Club
- Ulster Scots Group



# ATTENDANCE & UNIFORM

## Attendance

At Clounagh Junior High School we value full school attendance as a way of attaining success. If students struggle to attend school, we will work closely with families to find ways to ensure there are no barriers to learning and that the well-being of our students is nurtured and cared for. Our Attendance Policy is available upon request.

Annual Attendance Rate:

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
89.2%	90.1%	90.1%



## Uniform

A high standard of uniform and appearance is expected and full school uniform must be worn at all times. Throughout their time in Clounagh, pupils are encouraged to assume greater personal responsibility for their behaviour and to treat their peers, members of the school staff and adults with courtesy, good manners and respect.

The Clounagh Junior High School Dress Code can be viewed at [www.clounagh.com](http://www.clounagh.com) and is also available by contacting the School Office on 028 3833 2717.



# CAREERS EDUCATION, ADVICE, INFORMATION & GUIDANCE



Pupils follow the Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum Employability Programme in Years 8, 9 and 10. In addition, pupils are informed of potential subject-related careers within each learning area. Age-appropriate careers education, information, advice and guidance is delivered in Year 10 providing students with opportunities to research various career pathways to assist them in GCSE subject choice. This is supported by presentations by various agencies and interviews with a Careers Adviser from The Department of Economy and programmes provided by Young Enterprise NI. Senior pupils in the Learning Support Centre who attend Occupational Studies classes at the Southern Regional College also benefit from a close working relationship with the Careers Adviser.



# SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS (MAINSTREAM)

In the mainstream at Clounagh, pupils who have learning difficulties are placed in a class which has a small number of pupils. The pupils may remain in this class throughout their 3 years (the curriculum is suitably differentiated to meet individual needs) or they may move into another band depending upon their progress. Baseline Assessment tests in Literacy, Numeracy eg. Reading, Spelling and Mental Arithmetic given to all Year 8 pupils during their first month, advise staff of those pupils who have difficulties in particular areas and facilitate planning for differentiated teaching and remediation.

The school uses a range of standardised tests, the most recent being the GL CAT-4 diagnostic test with results analysed for the benefit of the pupil, parent and teacher. Remediation programmes include the Better Reading Partnership Programme and withdrawal groups for literacy and numeracy.

A further series of Standardised Tests are given to pupils during Year 9 and Year 10. These tests advise staff of pupil progression and of the possible need of additional help for pupils with continuing difficulties. Close liaison with parents ensures that pupils are given the most suitable provision for their individual needs. Parents' and pupils' views are sought as part of the IEP target-setting process. In line with the Code of Practice, the school operates a 3-Stage Plan with regard to children who are experiencing learning and/or behavioural difficulties.

Pupils with physical disabilities have access to all curriculum areas. Entrances and exits are ramped and there is an 8-person key-operated lift. The school also has a fully equipped accessible toilet. PE facilities also include accessible toileting and changing facilities. The main school has full-time Special Educational Needs General Assistants.





# LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

Clounagh Junior High School Learning Support Centre (LSC) is an integral part of the main school. The LSC's aim is to meet the wide-ranging needs of pupils with learning difficulties who hold a Statement of Special Educational Needs by facilitating and encouraging each pupil to realise their optimum level of achievement within the areas of learning as outlined in the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

The curriculum the pupils follow is the same as their mainstream peers but is tailored to meet individual pupil needs and abilities. Staff in the LSC endeavour to ensure learning is both relevant and motivating.

Pupils in the LSC are taught as a class by the mainstream specialist teachers for Music, PE, Technology and Design, Home Economics, Science, Modern Languages, and Art. Pupils are offered the opportunity to undertake accreditation in subjects ranging from Academic & Vocational to Personal Development & Life Skills such as:

- OCN Level 1 Essential Skills in Application of Number
- OCN Level 1 Essential Skills in Communication
- OCN Entry Level Essential Skills in Adult Numeracy
- OCN Entry Level Essential Skills in Adult Literacy
- CCEA Occupational Studies in Business & Services (Levels 1 and 2)
- OCN Prince's trust Extended Certificate (Level 1 and 2)





# LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

A further objective is to provide a caring, structured and stimulating learning environment where pupils are nurtured in order to overcome any emotional, social and educational difficulties and to develop their true potential as contributing members of society. To enhance this, we encourage an active and supportive partnership with parents and the local community.

Our intention is that, by the time our pupils leave at 16, they will be equipped as far as possible – through work placements, multi-link training courses and Training & Employment Agencies – for the world of work. A key focus for our pupils is to help them acquire values and skills that they can rely upon throughout their lives and, in doing so, have the best chance to lead fulfilling lives as individuals and as citizens of their communities.

Pupils in the LSC participate in a wide range of extra- curricular activities such as Football, Art Club, Scripture Union, Badminton, Hockey and Table Tennis. At present, pupils in Years 8-10 attend swimming lessons at a local Leisure Centre on a weekly basis. In addition, many educational, industrial experiences and social trips are organised throughout the year.







## NEWCOMER PUPILS

Support for Newcomer Pupils is provided by a full-time Language Support Assistant who, along with the Assistant SENCO, delivers a programme of English lessons and targeted 'in-class' support. Those pupils with basic language skills have the opportunity to obtain internationally recognised external qualifications in English as part of the JETSET scheme.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The curriculum delivered by the Religious Education Department reflects the Christian ethos of the school where a strong emphasis is placed upon faith, morals and values. It seeks to deliver a balanced programme that prepares pupils for the opportunities, challenges and experiences of later life. Assemblies take place from Tuesday to Thursday. Pupils may be partly or wholly excused from attendance at Religious Education if their parents make such a request in writing to the Principal.



## **SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION**

In Clounagh Junior High School we have a primary responsibility to safeguard the welfare of the pupils in our care. The Designated Teacher for Safeguarding is Mrs McDowell (Vice-Principal, Pastoral) and the Deputy Designated Teachers for Safeguarding are Mrs Patterson (Vice-Principal, Curriculum), Mrs Sutton (Senior Teacher – Pupil Support) and Mrs Bled (Head of Learning Support Centre). Mrs McDowell leads biennial Safeguarding training for all members of staff (teaching and non-teaching), and for new staff on arrival throughout the year. The Designated Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding is Mrs Gillanders.

All parents receive a Safeguarding Information Leaflet which includes procedures for reporting, while Assemblies are held to inform all pupils about Safeguarding and the procedures for reporting and support, both inside and outside School. Safeguarding messages are also promoted actively through the Learning for Life and Work curricular programme and external agencies. Staff Photographs are on display throughout the school to enable pupils to access staff support, and Form Room Noticeboards inform pupils of support organisations outside school.

The school's Safeguarding Policy provides all members of staff both teaching and non-teaching with clear guidance regarding what should be done in situations where abuse or neglect of a young person is suspected. A copy can be viewed on the website and is available upon request by contacting the School Office.



# TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS

An Open Evening is held in January of each year where parents/carers and prospective pupils from Years 6 and 7 are invited to attend. During this time parents are encouraged to speak with staff to provide information about all the school has to offer and deal with potential concerns. Anyone unable to attend, or who requires additional information, is encouraged to contact the school to arrange a suitable alternative. We welcome and promote a meaningful partnership between parents and school.

## 11+ Transfer

A special Induction Evening for Year 8 pupils is held in June, the purpose of which is to help ease transition from primary to secondary school and to foster effective home/school liaison. We value our links with our contributory primary schools and liaise closely with our primary partners to ensure that we have the most up to date and relevant information about our new Year 8 pupils.

## Key Dates

<b>Tuesday 27 January 2026 (12 noon)</b>	<b>Education Authority post-primary application process opens with online portal available for applicants to apply for Year 8 admission.</b>
<b>Thursday 19 February 2026 (12 noon)</b>	<b>Online portal closes</b>





# TRANSFER ARRANGEMENTS

## 14+ Transfer

At 14+ pupils transfer to Portadown College, Craigavon Senior High School or other schools. Continued emphasis is placed upon careers guidance at this time.

In June 2025 arrangements for the transfer of Year 10 pupils were finalised as follows:

83	Portadown College
142	Craigavon Senior High School
0	Other Schools
225	Total

## Key Dates

Monday 13 April 2026 (12 noon)	Education Authority Junior to Senior High application process opens with online portal available for applicants to apply for Year 11 admission.
Thursday 30 April 2026 (12 noon)	Online portal closes

Further information can be found at [www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide](http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide)





# ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

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

The Board of Governors has decided that the following criteria will cover all admissions to the school in 2026/27 and in so doing delegates authority to select those pupils who meet the conditions below to the Principal or his nominee. If the Principal considers that any admission(s) is/are in question, he will refer the case(s) to the Admissions Committee of the Board of Governors.

### **Admissions**

The lodging of an application is interpreted by the Board of Governors as an indication that the parents and the child concerned accept the ethos, 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.

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

### **Admissions Criteria at Year 8**

In applying the criteria, preference will be given to those children resident in Northern Ireland.

If the school's enrolment and admission numbers have not been reached, the school will enrol all the children whose parents wish them to attend. However, if the applications for entry to First Form (Year 8) exceed the admissions number or would cause the school to exceed the total enrolment number, pupils will be admitted according to the following criteria, applied in the order indicated below.

1. Children transferring from the following contributory primary schools:

Birches	Ballyoran	Derryhale	Edenderry (Portadown)
Hardy Memorial	Hart Memorial	Millington	Mullavilly
Orchard County	Richmount	Seagoe	The Cope

2. Children who at the date of application have a child of the family\* currently enrolled at the school.

3. Children for whom the school is the nearest controlled post-primary school to their normal place of residence.

# ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

4. Children who at the date of their application are the eldest child of the family\* to be eligible to apply for admission to the school.

\* Child of the family covers:

- 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.

Twins and other multiple birth applicants will be regarded as joint eldest.

Eldest ‘child of the family’ eligible to transfer includes cases where the eldest child has completed his/her post-primary education, the eldest child of a reconstituted family, the eldest child of the family was statemented or attended a special school or where a family has relocated to Northern Ireland.

Proof of eldest child should be uploaded with the Transfer Application – a letter on headed note paper, stating that the child is the eldest eligible child and that the family is known to the verifier, from one of the following who is not a family member of the applicant: a Primary School Principal, a medical practitioner, a solicitor, an elected public representative, a member of the clergy or a police officer.

5. Children will be selected for admission based on initial letter(s) of surname (as entered on Birth Certificate) in the order set out below:

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

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.

6. Random Selection, capable of leaving a clear audit trail (e.g. computerised random selection).

**The above Criteria will also be used for applications received during the course of Year 8.**



# ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

## NOTES

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only consider information which is detailed on or uploaded with the online Transfer Application. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the transfer application or attached to it. Examples of such information include whether the child attends a contributory primary school.

Inaccurate or misleading information provided on or attached to a Transfer Application may prejudice an offer of a place and may lead to the withdrawal of a place awarded to an applicant who has gained an unfair advantage.

## 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 Transfer Application. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post-primary schools 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 Application.

## Applications & Admissions to Year 8

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preference	Total Admissions
2023/24	220	233	233
2024/25	220	211	211
2025/26	220	207	214*

\*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 (Specialist Provision in Mainstream School).

## ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR YEARS 9 & 10

During Years 9 and 10 the following criteria will be applied in selecting pupils for admission:

- The school's enrolment number is not exceeded.
- The admission of the pupil would not prejudice the efficient use of resources in the school.
- Children who, at the time of their application, have a member of the family currently enrolled at the school. (Member of the family covers half-brothers and sisters, together with children who are adopted or looked after).
- Proximity to the school, with those living closest to the school being given priority (distance to be given by public road).

# Classification & Contact Details



**Principal:** Mr P Elliott MA (Oxon) FRCO PGCE PQH (NI)

**Chair of Board of Governors:** Mrs H Burke

**Enrolment Number:** 660

**Admissions Number:** 220

**Age Range:** 11 – 14 years (with Learning Support Centre for ages 11–16)

**Classification:** Controlled Secondary (Junior High) Co-Educational Day School with Learning Support Centre

School Policies are available to view at [www.clounagh.com](http://www.clounagh.com) and are also available on request – please phone 028 3833 2717. These include the Dress Code, Behaviour and Discipline, School Rules/Home School Agreement, Anti-Bullying, Drugs Education, RSE, Safeguarding and Child Protection, and the Board of Governors 'Charging & Remissions' policies. A copy of the formal Complaints Procedure is also available upon request.

## ADDRESS

Clounagh Junior High School  
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Portadown  
BT62 3QA

## PHONE

028 3833 2717

## EMAIL

[info@clounagh.portadown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@clounagh.portadown.ni.sch.uk)

## WEBSITE

[www.clounagh.com](http://www.clounagh.com)

