

**LORETO COLLEGE**

Castlerock Road, Coleraine  
Co Derry BT51 3JZ

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Telephone: 028 7034 3611/7035 7149

Principal: Mr Stephen Gallagher BMus(Hons), MSc,  
PGCE, PQH(NI)

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mrs Deirdre McBride

**Voluntary Grammar School**

(Denominational)

**Age Range of Pupils:** 11-18

**Admissions Number:** 160

**Enrolment Number:** 1010

**Open Day**

The college will open for visits by parents and transferring pupils on

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>
Saturday	10 January 2026	9.30am - 1.00pm.

The Principal will address parents and pupils at 9.30 am and 11.00 am and tours of the school will follow.

**CAPITAL FEE**

A Capital Fee of £110 per pupil is charged. Copies of the school prospectus are available at the school or on the school website [www.loretocollege.org.uk](http://www.loretocollege.org.uk)

**ADMISSIONS**

Loreto College Coleraine is a Catholic, co-educational, Voluntary Grammar School and will accept applicants who are suitable for the type of education being offered by the College, being applicants who and whose parent(s) or person(s) with parental responsibility are, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, in agreement with the philosophy and aims of the College. The Board expects that applicants and their parent(s) or person(s) with parental responsibility are in full agreement with the aims and philosophy of the College.

**Verification**

Applicants should note that they may be required to produce documents verifying their address or other information pertinent to the school's Admissions Criteria. The provision of false or incorrect information or failure to produce this within the deadline set by the College can result in the withdrawal of the offer of a place by the College. Original documents are required; facsimiles, scans or photocopies will not be accepted. It is emphasised that the onus is on parents/guardians to ensure that all of the information required is provided. Parents are advised to retain a copy of all documentation.

**ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8**

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 19 February 2026 and up to 4pm on 24 February 2026 will be treated as a late application.

Pupils resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their application will be considered before any pupil not so resident.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on, or attached to, the application form. **Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's Admissions Criteria is stated correctly on the application form or attached to it.**

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

The Board of Governors delegates to an admissions sub-committee the responsibility of selecting pupils for admission to the College. Where the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, applicants will be selected by the admissions sub-committee of the Board of Governors according to the Admissions Criteria.

In the event of the number of children applying exceeding the places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set down. If the Admissions Number is exceeded by application of a particular criterion, then

the remaining criteria will be used, in turn, to reduce the number of children still being considered for places until the admissions number is reached: -

1. Applicants who have selected Loreto College as their first preference school.
2. Applicants who, at the date of application, have a sibling who is currently enrolled as a pupil of the College or has been selected for admission in September 2026\*: **see footnote 1 below.**
3. Applicants with a sibling who is a past pupil of the College\*: **see footnote 1 below.**
4. Applicants who are the eldest or only child of the family: **see footnote 2 below.**
5. Applicants who, at the date of application, have a parent who is currently on the permanent staff of the College.
6. Applicants from the following primary schools, directly affected by the closure of St Joseph's College, Coleraine: St. John's PS, Coleraine / St Malachy's PS, Coleraine / St Colum's PS, Portstewart / St Patrick's PS, Portrush.
7. Applicants from the primary schools listed in the Table below:

Ballykelly	Harpur's Hill	St Canice's Feeny
Ballysally	Hezlett	St Columba's Ballerin
Bunscoil an Chaistil	Honourable Irish Society	St Columba's Kilrea
Carhill Integrated	Killowen	St Finlough's, Ballykelly
Carnabridge	Macosquin	St John's Dernaflaw
Castleroe	Mill Strand	St John's Swatragh
Crossroads	Millburn	St Joseph's Dunloy
Culcrow	Portrush	St Mary's Gortnaghey
Damhead	Portstewart	St Matthew's Drumsurn
DH Christie Memorial	Roe Valley Integrated	St Patrick's & St Brigid's Ballycastle
Faughanvale	St Aidan's Magilligan	St Patrick's & St Joseph's Garvagh
Gaelscoil Leim an Mhadaidh	St Brigid's Ballymoney	St Patrick's Loughgiel
Gaelscoil Neachtain	St Brigid's Tirkane	St Patrick's Rasharkin
Gorran	St Canice's Dungiven	Termorcanice

8. Applicants selected using a random tiebreaker: **see footnote 3 below.**

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Where applicable “sibling” is defined as another child of the family, in accordance with Department of Education Circular 2025/12. Name and year group of present pupil and name (at time of attendance) and dates of attendance of past pupil must be provided.
2. Twins and other children of multiple births who are eldest in the family are treated as joint eldest children. This criterion intends to prioritise the child of a family that has not had the opportunity to have an elder child to be enrolled at the College. The following circumstances will therefore be treated as meeting this criterion:
  - (i) The Applicant is more than seven school years younger than the next eldest child of the family.
  - (ii) The family has moved residence so that a child who is not the eldest child of the family is the first child of that family to have the practical opportunity to apply to the school.
  - (iii) One or more elder children of the family attends a special school (or comparable unit), and the child applying is therefore the eldest child of the family in a position to apply to the College.
 A verifying letter must be submitted at the time of application stating that the child is the eldest or only child of the family. The verifier must have known the child and family for at least two years. It must be signed by one of the following who is not a member of the applicant's family: a primary school Principal, an elected public representative, a medical practitioner, a solicitor, a member of the clergy.
3. Tie Breaker: In the event of a tie for a remaining place or places, which is not resolved by the application of the criteria above, further selection will occur on the basis of Random Selection. Random Selection: Each application at this stage will be allocated a random number electronically generated via an online random generator. The applications will then be ranked in order, with the higher numbers having preference. Places will be allocated, and a waiting list will be formed according to the rank order.

If the tie breaker is required to be used in respect of applications from twins or other children of multiple births, the procedure will be conducted as set out above but, on completion of the rank order, the ranking number of the second, third, etc. child of the multiple birth in rank order will be changed to the number(s) immediately after the ranking number of the first child of the multiple birth (retaining the order of second, third, etc. child of the multiple birth in the rank order). The ranking number of all other applicants whose ranking was lower than that of the first child of the multiple birth will be changed accordingly as a result.

#### **Verification of Information**

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may require, to support or verify information on any application/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 a withdrawal of a place or the inability of the school to offer a place.

#### **ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2026**

Parents/Guardians who wish to have their child considered for admission in the event of a place arising after 1 September should write to the Principal clearly stating this. Written acknowledgement will be issued. In the event of such a vacancy arising, the above criteria will be applied to these applications only.

#### **Number of Applications and Admissions**

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2023/24	160	167	159
2024/25	160	183	160
2025/26	160	203	167

The figures in this table for the years 2023/24 and 2024/25 do not include children who were admitted to the school with a statement of special educational needs. The figures for the year 2025/26 do include children with a statement of special educational needs.

**More detailed data on application and admission numbers is contained in the school prospectus.**

#### **ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ADMISSION TO YEARS 9 – 12**

Loreto College Coleraine is a Catholic, co-educational, Voluntary Grammar School and will accept applicants who are suitable for the type of education being offered by the College, being applicants who and whose parent(s) or person(s) with parental responsibility are, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, in agreement with the philosophy and aims of the College. The Board assumes that applicants and their parents(s) or person(s) with parental responsibility are in full agreement with the aims and philosophy of the College. Applicants must be prepared to sign that they accept the rules of the College and will adhere to these rules and maintain a serious commitment to study. The Board reserves the right to refuse admission to any applicant who, or whose parent(s) or person(s) with parental responsibility, fails to be in agreement with the school's philosophy or aims and in this regard the decision of the Board shall be final and binding on all applicants.

It is the College's policy to admit new pupils only at the start of the academic year, except in exceptional circumstances. When there are places available, the College wishes to accept applicants who are suitable for the type of education offered by the College, and who are in agreement with the Philosophy and Aims of the College. Any applications must be received before 30 June prior to entrance in September.

The following criteria will be applied:

- (a) For admission to KS3 the applicant's report records must provide evidence of the ability to cope with the

work being done in the year group applied for.

(b) For admissions to KS4, applicants must have achieved at least Level 5 in end of KS3 Assessments, in Communication and Using Mathematics. Where KS3 Assessments are not available the applicant's report record must demonstrate comparable performance/ achievement.

Where there are more applicants who meet these criteria, than there are places in the year group, preference will be given as follows:

- (i) Applicants whose family has moved into the catchment area of the College within the last year.
- (ii) Applicants whose sibling(s) will be pupil(s) of the College during the year for which application is made.
- (iii) Applicants who had previously applied for a place in the College.
- (iv) Those residing closest to the College as measured on the map by the straight-line distance from the home to the middle gate of the College.

Parents/Guardians should contact the College in the first instance and thereafter forthwith, make application by completing form AP1.

Applicants will be informed before the end of July prior to entrance in September.