

ST CECILIA'S COLLEGE

Bligh's Lane

Londonderry BT48 9PJ

Telephone: 028 7128 1800

Email: office@stceciliacollege.com

Website/online prospectus: www.stceciliacollege.com

Principal: Mrs MJ O'Carolan BA(Hons), PGCE, MBA, PQH

Chairman of the Board of Governors: Mr Pat Armstrong

Voluntary Maintained

All-Ability School

Girls Age Range: 11 – 18

Admissions No: 129

Enrolment No: 825

Roll: 854

Open Day

Thursday 08 January 2026

Principal's Address - 5pm and 6.15pm

RESPECTIVE FUNCTION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS

The Board of Governors draw up the Admissions Criteria and delegate to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Committee or Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the Admissions Criteria set out herein.

ST CECILIA'S COLLEGE - ADMISSIONS CRITERIA - 2026/2027

During the application procedure when applying the Admissions 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 (GMT) on 24 February 2026 will be treated as a late application.

As currently required by the law, priority will be given to applicants presently resident in Northern Ireland, before applicants who presently reside elsewhere. In the event of over-subscription, the following Admissions Criteria, which was drawn up by the Board of Governors of St Cecilia's College, will be applied in the order set down, to select applicants for Year 8 entry in 2026/2027.

1. Applicants whose sister(s), half-sister(s), stepsister(s) or foster sister(s) are presently or were formerly enrolled at the school **and** who have chosen St Cecilia's College as their **first preference school**.
*Please note that for criterion 1 you are required to provide in the Admissions Criteria Notes section of your online/written application the **full name and date of birth** of the sister(s) or equivalent (as defined above) whether referring to a present or past pupil(s). If the sister(s) or equivalent is currently at St Cecilia's College, you are asked to indicate "yes" at the "Sister at School" option.*

2. Applicants who presently reside in the following parishes (in no particular order) who have chosen St Cecilia's College as their **first preference school**.

Ardmore
Claudy: (Cumber Upper & Learmount)
Culmore
Faughanvale & Lower Cumber
Glendermott/Waterside: (St Columb's-Chapel Road, Immaculate Conception-Trench Road, St Mary's-Newbuildings)
Holy Family: (Ballymagroarty)
Our Lady of Lourdes: (Steelstown)
St Mary's: (Creggan)
Strathfoyle: (Strathfoyle/Enagh Lough)
Templemore: (St Eugene's, St Columba's, Long Tower)
Three Patrons: (St Patrick's-Pennyburn, St Brigid's-Carnhill, St Joseph's-Galliagh)

Admissions Criteria for entry September 2026

*Please note that for criterion 2 you are required to provide in Admissions Criteria Notes section of your online/written application the **name of the parish** that the applicant presently resides in from the list provided above to validate their eligibility for this criterion.*

3. Applicants presently resident in the above-named parishes (in no particular order) who have chosen St Cecilia's College as their **first preference non-selective school**.

*Please note that for criterion 3 you are required to provide in the Admissions Criteria Notes section of your online/written application the **name(s) of the selective/grammar school(s)** chosen ahead of St Cecilia's College to validate your eligibility for this criterion. Please also provide the **name of the parish** the applicant presently resides in from the list above.*

4. Applicants presently resident in the above-named parishes (in no particular order) **and** who have placed **at least one non-selective school** ahead of St Cecilia's College.

*Please note that for criterion 4 you are required to provide in the Admissions Criteria Notes section of your online/written application the **name(s) of the non-selective school(s)** chosen ahead of St Cecilia's College to validate your eligibility for this criterion. Please also provide the **name of the parish** the applicant presently resides in from the list above.*

5. Applicants who are presently resident in other parishes in Northern Ireland.

*Please note that for criterion 5 you are required to provide in the Admissions Criteria Notes section of your online/written application the **name of the parish** the applicant presently resides in.*

The permitted admission number for Year 8 as determined by the Department of Education for the academic year 2026/2027 is 129.

In the event that the school would exceed its permitted admission number by accepting all applicants qualifying for selection using the final criterion so required, then selection for all places remaining in this category will be on the basis of initial letter of the surname (as appears on the child's Birth Certificate), in the order set out below:

Random Letter Generator

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

The order was determined by a random selection of letters, witnessed by the Board of Governors on 04 November 2025. 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. If any of these applicants do not have a second forename, they will be placed ahead of those with a second forename. If applicants have identical surnames and forenames, they will be placed in rank order of eldest child by date of birth as stated on their birth certificate and admitted in this order. If, after this process, any applicants still tie for a final place, the place(s) will be allocated by **random computerised selection**.

When considering which applicants should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on, or attached to, the online/written application. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's Admissions Criteria is stated on the online/written application or attached to it.

Applicants should note that where an address and/or child age information contained within an application qualifies an applicant for admission, then that information will be required to be verified. To enable the Board of Governors to verify this, applicants, towards the end of the application procedure, will be asked to provide:

A The applicant's Birth Certificate in order to verify the date of birth and their name
and

B Any two of the following original documents to credibly verify the address at which the applicant is presently resident:

- a current bank, post office, credit union or building society statement (or equivalent) which shows the address at which the applicant is presently resident;
- a current utility bill (e.g. Electricity, Gas, Television Licence, Telephone) which shows the address at which the applicant is presently resident;

Admissions Criteria for entry September 2026

- a current letter awarding Child Benefit or Tax/Universal Credit in respect of the applicant or another letter relating to this benefit;
- the applicant's Medical Card.

PARENT(S)/GUARDIAN(S) ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO HAVE SUCH DOCUMENTS READY FOR SUBMISSION TO THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS UPON REQUEST.

Please note that other original documents deemed by the school to be equally capable of verifying applicant information, or other equally capable means of verification, will be considered at the discretion of the Board of Governors. If, therefore, applicants are unable to provide the specific documents listed above then they should contact the school to establish how they can verify applications to the satisfaction of the school.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application.

Upon receipt, the school will take a copy of the documents and will retain this copy only until the application procedure (including Appeals Tribunals) is complete. The provision of these documents is essential if we are to offer your child a place at St Cecilia's College. By law, the St Cecilia's College Board of Governors, like others, has a duty to verify the important information within a child's application in order to ensure that it has applied its Admissions Criteria correctly and that the application procedure is accurate and fair. If applicants do not provide the requested documents by the deadline given, then the school must regrettably withdraw the place currently allocated to the child. Similarly, if the documents provided fail to verify the information within the application that has currently qualified the child for a place at St Cecilia's College, then this place will be withdrawn.

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 application.

Should a vacancy arise after **09 May 2026**, all applications for admission to Year 8 that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published Admissions Criteria applied. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must inform the school, in writing, if they wish their child's name to be added to the waiting list. On the 01 September 2026, a waiting list will be drawn up, consisting only of those who have made known to the school their wish to remain on the waiting list after 01 September 2026.

St Cecilia's College will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method.

Important Dates to Note

Tuesday 27 January 2026 - opens 12 noon (GMT)	Post-primary application procedure opens with online portal available from 12 noon (GMT) for applicants to apply for Year 8 admission.
Thursday 19 February 2026 - closes 12 noon (GMT)	Online portal closes at 12 noon (GMT) for Year 8 Post-primary applications.
Saturday 09 May 2026	Applicants receive notification of outcome of applications via email, where one is held, or by letter. EA online portal open.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Admissions Number	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/2024	129	160	137*
2024/2025	129	164	135*
2025/2026	129	134	136*

****Total Admissions 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).***

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 9-12

Please complete an AP1 form, available from the Education Authority website and contact the school directly.
<https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions-guides/transfer-between-schools/applying-for-a-transfer>