

**SCOIL ÍÓSAEF
ST JOSEPH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

58 Castlecaulfield Road

Donaghmore

Dungannon BT70 3HE

Telephone: 028 8776 1227

Email: info@stjosephs.donaghmore.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.stjosephsdonaghmore.com

Principal: Mrs Geraldine Donnelly

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr Ciaran McKenna

**Voluntary Grammar School
(Irish Medium Stream)**

Age Range 11 – 18

Admissions Number: 120*

Enrolment Number: 750*
*includes IMS

Open Day: An Open Day will be held in the school on Friday 16th January 2026. There will be a morning and afternoon session for guests to attend. Details to follow in the local press and on the school website and social media platforms.

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL

The criteria are drawn up by the Board of Governors which may delegate the application of them to an Admissions Subcommittee. Children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected before any child not resident in Northern Ireland.

1. For admissions to Year 8 IMS, the school will assign places to applicants on a quota basis as follows:

Irish Medium Stream	50 places	Main school	70 places
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2. Where the school has fewer applicants than places available in either sector, it will admit up to the admissions number with applicants to the other sector.
3. Where the school has a greater number of applicants than places available in either sector, it will apply its admissions criteria as set out below to decide which applicants to admit up to the quota stated.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO THE IMS AT
ST JOSEPH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL, DONAGHMORE**

Important Information for Parents of Applicants

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria, punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 27th January 2026 and an application submitted by the closing date of 19th February 2026 will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 19th February 2026 will be treated as a late application.

School Information

Scoil Íósaef - St Joseph's Grammar School is a Co-Educational Catholic Voluntary Grammar School with a Catholic ethos under the Trusteeship of St Patrick's Educational Trust, Archdiocese of Armagh. The school provides a faith-based education centred on gospel values of love, respect, justice, compassion and hope. We warmly welcome learners from the Catholic tradition, other Christian traditions and non-Christian traditions as well as those who do not identify as having any religious faith.

All applicants to Scoil Íósaef must have had at **least 5 out of the 7 years** of their primary education through the medium of Irish. Applicants must have completed **all of their KS2 education through the medium of Irish** in order to be considered for a place in Scoil Íósaef.

Criteria to be Applied in the Event of Over Subscription

If Scoil Íosaef is oversubscribed, the following criteria will be applied in the order indicated to select children for admissions to Scoil Íosaef:

1. Applicants who have had at least 5 years out of the last 7 years of their primary education through the medium of Irish, to include all of their KS2 education through the medium of Irish.
2. Applicants who have had at least 5 out of the last 7 years of their primary education through the medium of Irish, to include all of their KS2 education, **and** who currently have a sibling/half sibling in either Scoil Íosaef or St Joseph's Grammar School at the time of application. The sibling/half sibling(s) should be named.
3. Applicants who have had at least the last 5 of their 7 years of their primary education through Irish, to include all of their KS2 education, in age descending order as noted on the applicant's original copy Birth Certificate.

Full responsibility rests with the Parent(s)/legal Guardian(s) to provide all relevant details pertaining to the application and as requested by the school. This information should be provided when making the online Application via the EA Connect portal. Parent(s)/legal Guardian(s) should not assume such knowledge on the part of the Board of Governors nor any individual member of the Board of Governors but must provide the evidence at the time of application and upload with the online Application/Transfer Form.

If after application of a particular criterion above, there are places still to be filled, then the next criterion will be applied to select applicants for places, in the order set down through to criterion number 3.

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 applicant's online Application/Transfer Form.

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by the school 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 online Application/Transfer Form.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 IMS AT SCOIL ÍÓSAEF

Year	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2023/2024	45	49
2024/2025	41	41
2025/2026	61	53*

*Includes children admitted through a Temporary Variation or Appeal

Admission to the Irish Medium Stream in Years 9 to Year 11

The school operates a waiting list for children who wish to transfer from other Irish Medium schools/streams into the IMS to year groups 9-11 only. There are no admissions to year 12. Offers for places in year groups 9 to 11 will only be considered from applicants who have continued all of their post-primary education through the medium of Irish. Places will be offered strictly on a chronological basis with the earliest request for a place being considered first. Admission will be subject to fully satisfactory written reports and will be at the discretion of the Board of Governors. Interviews will be held as part of the admission procedure. Any admission depends on (1) proficiency in the Irish language (2) academic ability and performance, (3) availability of places in that year group.

Parents are invited to request that their child's name be placed on a waiting list for admission to a particular year group if they so wish by emailing the school Principal at info@stjosephs.donaghmore.ni.sch.uk