



Your Pathway at

Drumragh Integrated College

Grammar Pathway • All-Ability Pathway

A Guide for P5-7 Pupils, Parents, and Primary School Staff



Our Vision for You

Welcome to Drumragh Integrated College. We know you are unique, with your own abilities, strengths, interests, needs and dreams. In order to provide the best for all of our students, in Key Stage 3 Drumragh has two pathways:

- The Grammar Pathway.
- The All-Ability Pathway.

Our vision is to provide 'Excellence for Everyone', and this includes you. We aim to offer a shining example of integration in practice and to give each of our students a quality of education that is second to none. We strive to help our young people to grow in hope and resilience, so that they may thrive in learning and in life.

Our students can be leaders today and history-makers tomorrow. In a world that is sometimes complex, our young people need to learn to fly high academically, respect difference, clarify their own identities and develop values that will carry them successfully through their journeys in life.

At Drumragh there is an exciting pathway for you.

The School for **Your Family**

Drumragh Integrated College is a great choice for every young person - and for your whole family. We aim to help each of our students to achieve their personal best, including the highest qualifications of which they are capable. We therefore place them into pathways and classes that are most suitable for their abilities and learning needs, balancing support with challenge.

At Drumragh we see the whole family as members of the school community. We build partnerships with parents and carers, asking you to work with us as your children learn and grow.

As an integrated school we provide an effective balance of religious and cultural backgrounds. Embracing diversity is an important part of the educational experience at Drumragh. Our young people are therefore helped to prepare for the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century.



The Grammar Pathway

The Grammar Pathway at Drumragh has two dimensions:

- Learning;
- Admission.

1. Learning in the Grammar Pathway

A significant number of students at Drumragh are talented academically and will benefit from the experience of the Grammar Pathway. Like all of our students, we want them to feel stretched and fulfilled, becoming the best they can be in every way. They will be expected and helped to study with:

- Challenge and pace;
- High expectations;
- A stimulating learning environment;
- Higher order thinking and communication;
- A strong work ethic.

We aim to make sure that every student is studying within the most appropriate learning environment. For some this will mean the Grammar Pathway.

"The teachers have high expectations and I feel like I'm working harder than ever. I do at least 2 hours per night and spend more time looking at Maths and English." *Rogan*

"My Grammar Pathway learning experience has been absolutely wonderful. I do at least two and a half hours homework per night which adds to my learning by reinforcing what I learn in the classroom."

Bradlan

"In the grammar pathway the learning is challenging and there are high expectations." *Ebony*

"Our teachers expect the very best behaviour, for us to be organised and meet all deadlines." *Amy*

"We know the progress that we are making through teacher feedback, target setting based on personal potential and our test results."

Fionnuala

"The teachers are very professional and demand a lot from us. They love to challenge you." *Luca*

"In the grammar pathway teachers want us to work hard, concentrate, meet deadlines but still have fun." *Sara*

"In the Grammar Pathway we must be organised, have high standards and get high marks to compete for my place." *Callum*

"We study two languages – French and Spanish – because we are preparing for global careers." *Ellie*

"The grammar pathway is very challenging and competitive but it has been fun and exciting." *Rebecca*



2. Admission Through the Grammar Pathway

You have an opportunity to recommend your child for the Grammar Pathway. 25% of Year 8 places at Drumragh Integrated College are available for this. If your child is high in academic ability and you would like her or him to be considered for our Grammar Pathway, you can let us know this in your transfer application.

With your application, please also provide supporting evidence of your child's academic potential and progress, for example using primary school information such as scores from assessments in English and Mathematics (PTE and PTM). Transfer test results are not required but can be submitted.

We will carefully consider all applications as we apply the admissions criteria and, where appropriate, admit your child through the Grammar Pathway. A request for the Grammar Pathway does not guarantee admission through it, but it does give you a voice in recommending it.

Where there are more applicants for this pathway than there are places available, the remaining admissions criteria will be used. Those applying for Grammar Pathway entry, and who are not admitted through it, will automatically be considered for all-ability entry.

Learning in the **All-Ability Pathway**

Every child is valued equally at Drumragh. We aim to provide the best levels of challenge and support for all of our students. For some, the All-Ability Pathway is the most suitable.

All students at Drumragh follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum. They enjoy a wide range of subjects that will help them grow into the amazing young people they were born to be. Our staff have outstanding expertise in teaching students of all abilities, and each child is fully supported with their learning requirements. This includes those with special educational needs.

Involvement in both pathways is flexible and students can move from one into the other. The goal is to make sure each child is in the classes that are most suitable for him or her. They are tracked and monitored as they progress through the school, and engage in formal assessments regularly during the year. This helpful process allows for review, removing obstacles to learning and ensuring academic targets are met. It also informs consideration of whether each student is in the pathway and/or the classes that are best for him or her.

MACBETH

All hail
Macbeth
All hail to thee...

Fair is foul, foul is fair

Man
of
Cawd





Year
8
Music

A large, colorful bulletin board with a red and blue border. It features several sections with text and images, including a photo of a person in a suit, a photo of a person in a yellow shirt, and a photo of a person in a white shirt. The text is partially obscured but appears to be related to music.

- Musical Genres
- Pop
- Blues
- Jazz
- Soul
- Reggae
- Country

- PERC
- INSTR
- OS
- REP
- PAT
- TU
- UNT
- RHY
- MEL

Group 1

What different sounds can you make?

scrape

shake

Have
Pen
Chr

c d e

Excellence for Everyone, Including You

Drumragh is a strong choice for young people who:

- Flourish in an academic learning environment – for them this may mean the Grammar Pathway.
- Thrive with higher levels of support and a mix of academic and more practical approaches – for these students the All-Ability Pathway may be the most suitable.
- Have Special Educational Needs – depending on their academic potential, these students may be placed in either pathway.
- May benefit from starting on one pathway and moving to the other.
- Will benefit from an inclusive, stimulating and integrated educational experience.

Drumragh and Beyond

At Drumragh we put our students at the centre of our energy and our expertise. At every stage of their learning journey, we strive to place each one into the best pathway and then help them to fulfil their amazing potential.

Those learning in the Grammar Pathway are expected to achieve high exam results. It is likely that they will study a range of academic subjects at GCSE level. They may well then progress into the Sixth Form to benefit from our A level programmes and, from there, into university.

Our work is done when we send our students forward in life with strong, integrated values and the very best qualifications of which they are capable.





AM!



FAQs

What's the advantage in offering Grammar and All-Ability Pathways in one school?

The advantages include options, flexibility, child-centred learning and the right balance of challenge with support. It's not always clear which pathways or classes are best for young people at the age of 11, and some mature academically as they grow older. Drumragh's pathways ensure that regardless of what the child's abilities are, or how they develop and change, options are kept as open as possible throughout their post-primary education.

As your child grows and explores possible career paths, we offer strong opportunities to achieve the most appropriate qualifications and to open the right doors – all under one roof. Add to this the prospect of developing an integrated outlook on the world, and you can see that we are helping our students to prepare for their roles in the world of the future.

Tell me more about academic evidence?

Academic evidence is an indicator of a child's ability profile and is used to inform the admissions process, learning and teaching, curriculum planning and timetabling. It can include standardised test scores from primary school such as results from assessments in English and Mathematics (PTE and PTM). While we do not require an entrance test, results can be submitted if you wish. If you have something else that you believe shows your child's high ability, feel free to include it.

Can my child achieve the highest exam results at Drumragh?

Yes. Our staff are experts in their fields and have a child-centred approach to their students. Those who are capable of the top grades can achieve the top grades. The Grammar and All-Ability Pathways are designed to ensure that staff can focus on the individual needs of their students and provide suitable levels of pace, challenge and support. The ultimate goal is for every child to achieve his or her personal best.

Are you allowing all students to integrate with their entire year group?

Yes. In years 8-10, your child's form class and a small selection of subjects will be taught in mixed ability groups. Students are then taught in their Grammar or All-Ability Pathways for their more academic studies. This balanced approach helps them to develop a mutually-respectful mindset and to refine their social skills.

Are most of your admissions from an integrated primary school?

No. While we value highly our partnership with our sister primary school, and together we are the Omagh Integrated Campus, our students come to us from a wide catchment area, a range of cultural backgrounds and a large number of feeder primary schools.

Does offering Grammar and All-Ability Pathways undermine the integrated ethos of the college?

No – it enhances it. We cannot claim to offer excellence for everyone unless we provide the best possible opportunities for highly academic students as well as those who have significant educational needs.

The idea of the two pathways is about tailoring your child's educational experience to their abilities and aspirations. We cannot support any educational system that segregates children from different backgrounds and separates those who pass a test from those who do not. By offering both pathways in one school we are allowing for flexibility, growth and each child's personal best.

How will you decide which pathway my child will begin on?

Admission through the Grammar Pathway does not automatically mean the student is placed into our most academic classes. After the admission of all our incoming year 8 students, we welcome them into Drumragh in June to begin the induction process. Part of this involves baseline testing to see which pathway might suit each of them best.

We will use all key information available to place our new students into one of the two pathways and the right classes for them. It is important to note that just because a child begins on a particular pathway, it does not mean they have to stay on it. We will monitor and review their progress during each year, in order to ensure the best learning environment for each child.

So is Drumragh a high school or a grammar school?

Actually it's both – all under one roof.

What help is available to us as we explore our choices for the future?

It really depends what you need. If you would like to talk through the options available to you or to ask questions, then feel completely free to contact the Principal – come and experience Drumragh's open door approach for yourself. Similarly, if you miss Open Day or would like to see the school running on a normal school day, you are welcome to contact the Principal for your own personal tour. If you want to discuss the admissions process itself, just ask.





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