

The Royal School Armagh

Boarding Prospectus

"For The Increase of Learning and Good Manners"



bsa | BOARDING
SCHOOLS'
ASSOCIATION

Leading
Independent
Schools



A Legacy of Excellence and Whole-Person Education





Why Choose Northern Ireland for a Boarding Education?

Northern Ireland boasts a strong education system and is an outstanding proposition for those considering a boarding school education in the United Kingdom.

We deliver affordable excellence in comparison with other UK schools and add value with the unique culture and experiences only Northern Ireland can provide - real family values and a sense of community and belonging and a warmth like nowhere else.

Northern Ireland's examination results are consistently strong, reflecting the region's emphasis on education and academic achievement with students often performing above the UK average.

“As a country, we consistently outperform the rest of the UK at both GCSE and A Level, enabling our pupils to progress to the very best UK universities, including those in the Russell Group.”







Why Choose Armagh?

Armagh is renowned for its historical significance and stands out as one of the most enjoyable small cities on the island of Ireland and is known as The City of Saints and Scholars. Armagh offers a safe and welcoming environment providing a secure place for pupils to thrive both academically and socially. Armagh is synonymous with Ireland's patron saint, St Patrick. The hilltop cathedrals that overlook Armagh city are both dedicated to St. Patrick. This is where he founded his original stone church in 445AD. Today, Armagh is the ecclesiastical capital of Ireland – the seat of two Archbishops – the Roman Catholic and the Church of Ireland Primate of Ireland. The centre of Armagh features a delightful tree-lined Georgian mall. Armagh's picturesque landscapes and natural beauty provide an ideal setting for outdoor activities and recreational pursuits, allowing pupils to appreciate nature, engage in sports and develop a deeper connection to the environment.

Armagh hosts various cultural events, festivals and artistic activities, offering pupils opportunities to participate in and appreciate diverse cultural expressions, thereby fostering a well-rounded and culturally enriched educational experience.



Why Choose The Royal School Armagh?

Mission Statement

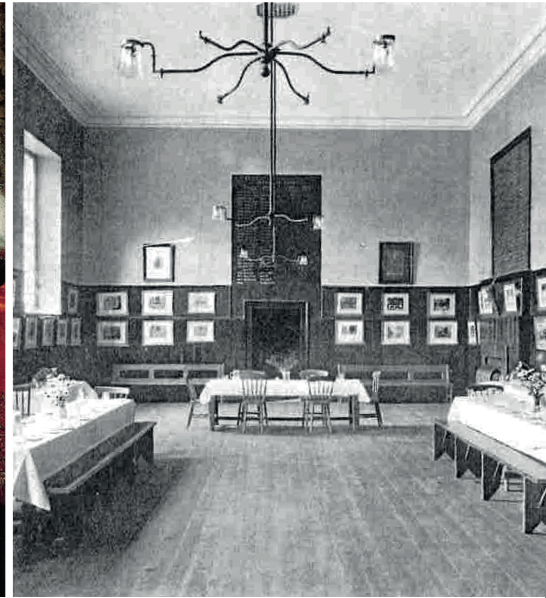
The original mission of the school was **"For the encrease of learning and good manners"**. The basic values of respect and good behaviour remain at the core of the school allowing pupils to have an opportunity for learning.



The Headmaster's House, Circa 1900



His Majesty, King James I (1566 - 1625)
Founded The School by Royal Decree, 1608



The Dining Hall, Circa 1900

"For The Increase of Learning and Good Manners"

School History

The Royal School Armagh is the second oldest school in Ireland and owes its existence to a 1608 decree of King James I to establish the school. The school was originally located outside Armagh and moved to its present location on College Hill in 1774. Records show that by 1833 there only 19 pupils registered in the school but by 1849 this had risen to 63 making the school the largest of the Royal schools in Ulster. By 1879, there were 13 teachers for 111 pupils. This allowed the Inspector of Grammar Schools to write in 1881 that he considered Armagh Royal **"the most successful boarding school in the north of Ireland and believed Armagh was probably the most suitable place for a Royal School in Ireland."**

The 20th century saw the school evolve from a boys' only school to a co-educational establishment through amalgamation with Armagh Girls' High School. Since the amalgamation the School has steadily increased in numbers and currently has a population of 835 pupils and ranks as one of the top boarding and day Schools in Ireland with a boarding community of up to 100 boarders.

We provide an environment where children are safe and happy and can develop in a structured setting, learning to live and work with others of similar ages. Traditional values are at the heart of all our work and over the years we have developed a culture of excellence across our Secondary and Boarding Departments that has provided fantastic opportunities for all our pupils.

Whilst we respect our past, we also embrace the future with expectation.



One of the top boarding schools in Ireland

Our boarding community is at the very core of the School and has been for over four hundred years and we are proud to be the second oldest co-educational day and boarding school on the island of Ireland. The Royal School is one of the best resourced co-educational boarding schools in Northern Ireland and recent upgrading and improvement has included the provision of a dedicated Sixth Form House adjacent to the School.

The School's Boarding Department offers superb value for money and welcomes students from all over the island of Ireland and overseas, We strive to ensure that there is a family atmosphere in the Boarding Department by providing a "home from home" which we feel is important for children living away from home. Boarding at the Royal School allows pupils to benefit from all that the School has to offer, with the companionship and life skills that come from living with others.

The Boarding Department adds a cherished international dimension to the daily life of the School. With most pupils being day pupils living in and around the Armagh area, our boarders also make strong friendships outside of the boarding community. Many Sixth Form pupils choose to board to prepare for university, to build confidence and independence. Boarding options are four or five nights per week or a full seven days a week, There are no Exeat weekends and there are no requirements for Guardians.

There are three boarding houses – one for boys and one for girls, and one for sixth form pupils.





Nurturing Pastoral Care

At the Royal School we strive to instil timeless qualities in our pupils, whilst preparing them for life in a modern society. The education we provide extends far beyond the classroom, and our young people grow in all aspects of their lives. The school provides a caring and supportive environment where pupils feel safe, secure and happy. As a full boarding school, the pastoral education and care of our pupils is considered paramount. We have rigorous child protection systems in place which emphasises the caring ethos.

Our objective is to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment, valuing individuals for their unique talents and abilities, in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential both in the classroom and beyond.





Academic Excellence

Our Curriculum

The Royal School has a renowned academic reputation and provides a broad and balanced curriculum to all pupils which takes into consideration their individual strengths and interests. All pupils have access to a minimum of eight GCSE qualifications with the essential subjects of English, mathematics and science at the core of our provision. There is also a focus on the humanities subjects and Modern Foreign Languages. The Royal School is proud to offer a grammar school curriculum which matches the abilities and aspirations of its pupils, fulfils the ambitions of parents/guardians for their children and meets with the requirements and expectations of further education providers and employers.

The school week runs Monday to Friday with class lessons starting at 9.05am and finishing at 3:15pm. Our boarding pupils have plenty to keep them busy, with a huge range of co-curricular activities on offer, including boarders-only activities in the evening.



Key Stage 4

The following GCSE courses are offered

Art and Design



History

Agriculture



Home Economics

Biology



ICT (Digital Technology)

Business Studies



Mathematics

Chemistry



Music

Double Award Science



PE

English



Physics

English Literature



Psychology

French



Religious Studies

Further Mathematics



Spanish

Geography

Technology and Design



Key Stage 5 – AS and A2 level and BTEC

The following GCSE courses are offered

Art and Design	History
Agri-Science (BTEC)	Home Economics (Food Nutrition)
Biology	ICT (Digital Technology)
Business Studies	Mathematics & Further Mathematics
Chemistry	Moving Image Arts
Construction & the Built Environment	Music
Drama and Theatre Studies	Physical Education
Engineering (BTEC)	Physics
English Literature	Religious Studies
French	Spanish
Geography	Software Systems Development
Government and Politics	Technology & Design
Health and Social Care	Travel and Tourism (BTEC)



Examination Results

Public examinations are regulated by The Council for the Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment (CCEA), and these qualifications are accepted and highly valued by universities around the world. A broad range of subjects is studied until the age of 16, before specialisation in 3-5 subjects at AS and then at A level.

A Level

In 2023 public examinations 51.54% of all grades obtained by Royal School pupils were A* or A. Across Northern Ireland it was 37.5% of grades.

7% of the pupil cohort received 3 A*, 32% of the cohort achieved 3 A levels at A* or A and 80% of pupils achieved 3 or more A Levels at grades A* to C. 92% of all grades awarded to the school were between A* and C.

The outstanding set of results meant that 95% of leavers entered the university of their choice with the majority securing a place at UK Russell Group universities or leading international institutions.

GCSE Level

At GCSE level 61.47% of grades were A* or A. The Northern Ireland figure was 34.5% of grades.

41 pupils achieved at least 8 A* grades. Two pupils achieved 9 A* and 2 A's. and 1 pupil achieved 9 A* and 1 A.

94.5% of pupils achieved 7 or more GCSE's at grade A* to C (including English and Maths).

No pupil got below a C grade in Maths.

97% grades awarded were A* to C.







Evening Prep

Homework is seen as a very important tool to consolidate learning in class and to encourage further progress. All subject areas are expected to set homework once a week. In certain subject areas, such as within expressive arts, a project might last over a number of weeks. Prep in boarding is supervised by a combination of boarding and academic staff.



Extra-Curricular Activities

The aim is for every pupil to be immersed in an exciting programme of co-curricular and extra-curricular enrichment that suits need, ability and interest. Pupils can enjoy after school clubs, across a vast range of areas of interests. Extra-curricular and co-curricular activities and educational visits play a very important role in enhancing a pupil's experience of school life and beyond. Team sports flourish at the Royal School and it is well renowned for its rugby and hockey successes. The Royal School was one of the first schools in the province to adopt the game of Rugby Football with the 1st XV being the winners of the first Schools' Cup competition which was held in 1875. The School has been involved in hockey since the amalgamation with the Armagh Girls' High School with players regularly representing the Ulster and Irish teams. The 1st XI hockey squad were winners of the Super League and the Schools' Cup competitions in 2023 having defeated strong opposition on the way to the final, whilst the 1st XV rugby squad were the winners of the Schools' Subsidiary Shield competition. Other extra-curricular activities include:

Army Section (CCF)	Cross Country Club	Library Committee
Athletics	Dance Club	Netball
Badminton	Debating Society	Orchestra
Bar Mock Trial	Duke of Edinburgh Award	Orienteering
Blogging & Media Team	Scheme (Silver & Gold)	Peer Tutoring
Books Club	Equestrian Club	Rugby
Chamber Choir	E-Sports Club	Running Club
Chamber Orchestra	Flying (CCF Air Section)	Scripture Union
Charity Club	Geography Club	Ski Trip
Chess Club	Girls' Football	Tae-Kwondo
Chess Club	Girls' Rugby	Tennis
Choir	Hill Walking Club	War Games Society
Cookery Club	Hockey	Wildlife Club
Cricket	Junior Drama Club	Writing Club

...and much more













Food

Our in-house catering staff cook healthy, locally-sourced food on site every day. Our boarders each get a cooked breakfast, lunch and dinner in the Dining Hall. In addition, a light supper is provided around 8pm each evening.

We operate an alternating three-week menu which also changes termly, ensuring that a variety of meals are offered. Every day menus include a wide variety of ingredients and cooking styles to ensure that pupils receive a balanced diet. All of our meals are freshly made using Farm-Assured meat, sustainable fish and seasonal fruit and vegetables. Menus are planned to meet the specific needs of growing children, ensuring that they can focus on achieving their best, whether that be in the classroom or sports field. Special Dietary Requirements.

All diets can be catered for, either for cultural, medical or religious reasons.



The food is of a high quality and is home made.

Sample Menu

Menu subject to deliveries

Salad Bar daily, also Baked Bread, Cheese and Crackers, Fresh Fruit & Yoghurts

Monday

Chicken Curry & Boiled Rice
Naan Bread
Gammon, Parsley Sauce
Roasted Veg, Cauliflower Cheese
Garlic Potatoes, Wedges

Tuesday

Shredded Beef in Black Bean Sauce & Boiled Rice
Chicken Drumstick & BBQ Sauce
Baby Potatoes, Baked or Chips
Green Beans & Sweetcorn

Wednesday

Honey & Mustard Chicken, Gravy
Battered Fish
Broccoli & Carrots
Champ, Herb Dice Potatoes

Thursday

Taco Pitta
Chicken & Broccoli Bake
Mashed, Baked or Sauté Potatoes
Turnip & Peas

Friday

Chicken Nuggets
Beans, Chips, Salad

Saturday

Cottage Pie
Baby Potatoes
Cauliflower & Sweetcorn
Lemon Sponge & Custard
Steak Burger in Bap, Bacon & Cheese
Chips, Spaghetti
Salad Bar

Sunday

Roast Chicken, Gravy, Stuffing
Roast & Mash
Brussels Sprouts & Carrots
Jelly & Ice Cream
Spring Rolls Veg/Duck
Savoury Rice, Sweetcorn
Salad



Weekend Activities

The number of pupils in the boarding at a weekend will vary and as such so will the activities that are on offer. There are plenty of activities to keep our boarders occupied at weekends. Most weekends there will be sports fixtures and events at the School and boarding staff are encouraged where possible to support pupils taking part in these events. Every Saturday afternoon there is a programme of trips to interesting places and fun events, including sporting events at the Belfast ice-hockey arena or Kingspan rugby stadium, Visits are also arranged to theme parks, surfing, paddleboarding, roller-skating, paintballing, go-karting, laser quest, climbing walls and shopping trips, to name but a few. Boarders can make use of the excellent sports and recreational facilities on the school site including grass and 2G playing surfaces, a fitness suite, sports hall, art and music rooms. They can also visit day pupil friends, or go into Armagh City, which is within a 5-minute walk from the school.

Other activities will be arranged during the term. Boarding staff are encouraged to discuss with pupils the sort of activities that they would like and then to discuss these at the regular boarding meetings. No charge is made for most of the weekend activities if they are educational or cultural. Pupils are expected to do a minimum of two activities each term, although most will do significantly more than this.





Accommodation

There are three boarding Houses – Boys, Girls and Senior Boarding. Seniors usually have their own single-study ensuite room, The Senior boarding house has two living rooms a kitchen and a computer facility.

Younger pupils share their room with one or two others. There is lots of storage and rooms are all spacious and bright.

There are plenty of shower rooms and Junior pupils have access to a computer suite and Library.

School Location

The School is well located for international connections being close to three airports (Belfast International, George Best City Airport and Dublin International) and is situated on a 30 acre campus on the edge of the City of Armagh, approximately 40 miles south-west from Belfast. This location combines the benefits of easy access with a fabulous natural environment and space for excellent facilities.





RSA

The Royal School Armagh



BFS

Belfast International Airport
40 miles from school



BHD

George Best Belfast City Airport
44 miles from school



DUB

Dublin International Airport
79 miles from school



LHR

Heathrow Airport (London)
80 minute flight to Northern Ireland



Travelling to the Royal School Armagh

By Air: The Royal School is within easy reach of the international airports – Belfast International (45 minutes) and Belfast City (1 hour) or Dublin (1 ½ hours)- putting the School in easy contact with flights to other parts of the United Kingdom as well as around the world.



By Rail and Bus: Belfast Central or Dublin Connolly to Portadown Station, which is 20 minutes away from the School with regular bus services from Portadown to Armagh.

By Bus: The Translink X4 service connects Dublin Airport directly to Armagh, with a journey time of about 90 minutes.

Directions by Road

From Belfast: Travel South West on the M1 motorway and leave the motorway at junction 12, (M12) signposted Armagh. Follow the sign posts to Armagh. The main school gates are opposite the Armagh Planetarium (which is clearly signed with brown tourist information signs).

From the South: Dublin: Take the Armagh exit at the roundabout by the B & Q superstore on the main Belfast - Dublin road. Follow this road through Armagh city centre and follow the brown tourist information signs to the Planetarium. The School is located at College Hill on the main Armagh-Portadown Road directly opposite the Armagh Planetarium. The main school gates are opposite the Armagh Planetarium.

From the West: (Monaghan and Cavan): On entering Armagh City centre follow the brown tourist information signs for Armagh Planetarium and Observatory. The School is located at College Hill on the main Armagh-Portadown Road directly opposite the Armagh Planetarium.

Fees and Charges

The School's Boarding Department offers superb value for money. All pupils admitted to the School (except for pupils who have a UK passport or who are resident in the Republic of Ireland) will be required to pay Tuition Fees (currently £4,416 per annum). A Consolidated Charge (currently £185 per annum) is also charged to all pupils to cover ancillary costs not covered by the Department of Education.

The approximate fees for the 2024/25 academic year are as follows:

Weekly Boarding	£9,990 per year
Full Boarding	£16,450 per year
One Year Cultural	£18,838

A sibling discount of 10% is granted to families with more than one child in boarding and is applied on the second and subsequent children in the Boarding Department.

An acceptance deposit of £750 for Boarders (Non UK pupils are required to pay the first term's fee in addition) is payable upon confirmation of a place. This is returnable when the pupil leaves the School and upon settlement of their final bill. Fees are reviewed annually, and generally increase in line with the CPI.

Boarding fees include all meals and snacks and cleaning. Laundry is included in the cost of full boarding and can be arranged as an additional charge for weekly boarding on request), Transport too and from the airport (between 9am and 5pm) is included for full-boarding pupils or outside these times by separate arrangement with a local taxi company.





...and Finally

Thank you for considering boarding at The Royal School Armagh for your child. Our aim is to provide its pupils with an education which in its wholeness will enable them to achieve their full potential in academic, social, moral and spiritual terms. Although the core values of the School, both implicitly and explicitly, reflect and are informed by the reformed tradition of the Christian faith, the School welcomes the presence of pupils and staff of other Christian traditions, other world faiths and those with no religious convictions.

To really get a feel for life at the Royal School Armagh we encourage you to arrange a visit. Term-time is ideal when you can meet with the Headmaster, Bursar, Head of Boarding, Houseparents, teaching staff and pupils in order to get a proper sense of all that the school has to offer.

We realise that a physical visit is not always possible and we would encourage prospective parents to view the boarding section on the school web page: www.royalschool.com.

To arrange a visit, or for further information, please email boarding@royalschool.com or directly by phoning **+44 (0) 28 37522807**.





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