



Why Choose
ULIDIA?



A Guide for Primary Principals and Parents 2018



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Why Choose Ulidia?

Ulidia is the right choice for your child because this is a school that knows each young person; that has unashamedly high standards and expectations and that delivers a dynamic and creative curriculum based on the evolving needs of our learners.

We are the right choice for students who aspire to A levels and University, and we are the right choice for students who are inspired by creative, practical and vocational Pathways.

Great success in education comes through getting the little details right; it comes in knowing what motivates and inspires each young person to excel and develop in their own way.

Happy pupils achieve more academically, and so we pride ourselves on the College's outstanding reputation for pastoral care. Each pupil feels a sense of belonging and knows they are valued.

Ulidia is a truly all ability College and we are committed to being a school for the whole family. We know all young people are individuals, and must be treated as such. Families who have one child who thrives in a highly academic environment are provided for through our Grammar Pathway, and another child who prefers a more vocational, practical route are provided for through our All Ability Pathway.



No matter which Pathway suits your children best, the important thing is that families can all attend the same school and have their needs fully met.

Our core values of respect and responsibility are founded in our Integrated Ethos and they underpin our commitment to each pupil; to awaken, inspire and nurture their unique potential for excellence.

Michael Houston
Principal

Admissions Criteria Y8

Please note this is a **summary only** – please refer to full admissions criteria available on www.ulidiacollege.com/admissions-criteria

The College will initially:

- Determine which Pathway each applicant has applied for
- Starting with the Grammar Pathway, allocate each applicant to their declared religious affiliation
- Rank order each applicant according to the criteria for determining rank order
- The College will then admit 100 year 8 pupils in total, 35% into the Grammar Pathway, 65% into the All Ability Pathway

Criteria for determining rank order

Please note that ONLY if the number of applicants for a Pathway exceeds the number of places available will the criteria for determining rank order be used, the detail of which can be found on the College Website.

Applicants must also complete a Ulidia Pupil Information Form

In order to facilitate the proper application of criteria, the Ulidia Board of Governors requests parents to ALSO complete a "Ulidia College Pupil Information Form". This is one of the criteria for determining rank order and an applicant who completes one is credited for doing so in the rank order.

The College's 'Pupil Information Form' is available from the Principal's Secretary and should be returned ONLY to the Principal's Secretary. The College will acknowledge receipt of this form within 7 working days

Admissions Q + A

Since Ulidia Integrated College is normally over-subscribed, is there any point in applying?

Definitely. Our enrolment is rising – 585 this year, up from 550 last year, so we have more places than ever before. Most importantly though, numbers of applications vary each year, and every year applicants are admitted with very low rank order scores because we strive for religious balance. The only way to completely rule your child out is to not apply at all.

Does sitting the transfer test increase my child's chances of getting in?

No. Ulidia caters for children of all abilities. We can use the transfer tests or any other form of robust assessment to decide if the Grammar or All Ability Pathways suits a child's learning best, but that only happens after they are already admitted.

Does 'All Ability' mean Ulidia has mixed ability classes?

In year 8, Form class, Art, PE, LLW, RE and Drama are taught in mixed ability groups. Pupils are then taught in their Grammar or All Ability Pathways (as they would be at GCSE) in English, Maths, Science, Technology, Geography, History, ICT, Languages, HE and Music. The classes are not streamed or ranked within each Pathway.

Can students achieve as highly at Ulidia as they might have in a Grammar School?

Absolutely – ask our Alumni. This is because of our Dual Pathway Admissions Criteria, the expertise of our staff, and our child-centred ethos. Our exam results and the university progression of our students speak for themselves. We also offer solid grounding in the tolerant attitudes that society so badly needs.

So is Ulidia a High school or a Grammar school?

It's both.

Are most admissions from an Integrated Primary School?

No. Whilst we obviously highly value our partners in Integrated Education, the majority of our intake comes from a wide variety of primary schools.

Is it more difficult to get a place at Ulidia if we live further away?

No. Distance plays no part in our admissions criteria, for applicants who live in Northern Ireland.

Is there any help available for us in the admissions process?

Yes. You are invited to contact the Principal if you would like to talk through the admissions criteria and the requirements of the transfer form.

We missed Open Day; is it too late to see the college?

No, it's never too late. You are warmly invited to contact the Principal's Secretary to arrange a visit and, if you wish, a tour of the college.

Is there any point in appealing?

Yes. A limited number of appeals have been successful in recent years.

Grammar and All Ability Pathways Tailored Learning at Ulidia

What is the advantage in offering Grammar and All Ability Pathways in one College?

The advantage is choice and challenge. Not all young people are able to decide if an academic Grammar route is definitely for them at age 11 and some young people do not academically mature until later than Primary 7.

Ulidia's Pathways ensure that no matter what abilities or needs a child has, options are kept open throughout their education where possible.

We tailor the learning to the pupil, and as they grow and explore possible career paths, we offer the best chance of attaining the most appropriate qualifications to open the right doors to achieving their ambitions.

Is the Grammar Pathway right for my child?

The Grammar Pathway is:

- Characterised by high academic pace and challenge level
- Non-selective, no streaming within the Pathway– Mixed Ability
- 35% of pupils (roughly 2 classes) placed on Grammar Pathway
- Pupils placed on Grammar Pathway by internal test (MIDYIS) as part of Induction Process. No guarantee of Grammar Pathway placement before acceptance
- As a recommended guideline only, we would suggest the range for robust academic evidence would be a score of:

- 90+ for AQE

- 110 plus for PiE, or PiM

- GL students, a C1+

- Likely Pathway: At least 9 pure GCSEs -> 3 pure A levels -> Academic University course -> Employment



Is the All Ability Pathway right for my child?

The All Ability Pathway is:

- Characterised by high expectations for personal excellence
- 65% of pupils (roughly 3 classes)
- No Streaming – Mixed Ability
- Placed on All Ability Pathway by internal test (MIDYIS) as part of Induction Process
- Opportunity to move between Pathways depending on verifiable internal data and space
- Likely Pathway: Mix of 8/9 GCSEs and level 2 BTECS -> mix of A levels and level 3 BTECS -> University course or Further Education -> Employment

Special Educational Needs

- Ulidia is highly dedicated to supporting all pupils of all abilities, and we are proud of our reputation for doing so. It is important to note however, that we support our SEN pupils within the context of a mainstream academic college – we unfortunately cannot offer small class sizes or any additional resources or time above that which any other mainstream school can offer. Our success with SEN pupils comes from a high level of engagement and partnership with parents and a caring and motivated staff who divide their time equally amongst all pupils. We support a large number of SEN pupils in this way and have an excellent track record of success
- Pupils with SEN can be placed on either learning Pathway, depending on the Pathway that best suits their needs
- We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs have a common entitlement to a broad and balanced academic and social curriculum which is accessible to them, and that they must all be fully included in all aspects of school life

If you would like to discuss your child's Educational Needs, please contact either the College SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) Mrs. Doig to arrange an appointment, or contact the Principal's Secretary to arrange a meeting with the Principal.

What do Prospective Parents say?

We brought our daughter along to the Open Day (she's in P7) and I just wanted to say how impressed we were.

The pupils were so helpful, confident and articulate, I can't praise them highly enough... The atmosphere was one of kindness, care and discipline, and I could feel that teachers were genuinely interested in the pupils, and that pupils were genuinely engaged in the school. So I suppose this is just a note to say thank you, and keep up the great work!

What do Former Pupils say?

I could honestly talk all day about my experiences at Ulidia but I will sum it up in a short sentence here: Ulidia didn't feel like a school, it welcomed me with loving arms and felt like home. From the staff to the students, everyone promotes positivity and this enriches everyone's lives in the college. LC

What do Current Pupils say?

"Ulidia has really developed my confidence and I am now able to approach new opportunities with enthusiasm." AB

"Ulidia has opened up the doors to my future – I am now sure of what my career will be." AA

"Ulidia has given me an open mind and the belief that I can achieve more than I ever thought possible" RM

"I come from a mixed background and the college has really welcomed me and treated me with respect – my opinion of life in Northern Ireland has completely changed." KDM

"I love that our religions are all equally celebrated – we are like a big family" AC

Recent Ulidia Alumni Careers

Architecture

Accountancy

Education

Graphics and Web Design

Law

Merchant Navy

Nursing

Software Development

Recent University admissions

Queens University Belfast

University of Ulster

University of Dundee

Stirling University

University of Leicester

Edinburgh Napier University

Liverpool Hope University



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