



Blackrock College

Admission Policy

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Introduction

Blackrock College is a Roman Catholic school for boys only owned by the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, known as Spiritans, under the patronage of the Spiritan Education Trust.

We aim to support Parents in their responsibility for the spiritual, religious, moral, academic and physical needs of their children.

The rules and policies of the College aim to create a community environment in which each student can develop his full human and spiritual potential. They are intended to ensure a high standard of behaviour in the community and to encourage courtesy and consideration for all.

We believe that education flourishes in an environment where good relationships are encouraged, where people feel valued and respected and where there is a genuine tolerance, fairness and support for all. Blackrock College pupils' conduct should always be governed by consideration for others.

Against a background of the educational philosophy of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit in Ireland (reference www.spiritaneducation.ie), Blackrock College aims to provide an environment in which:

- ◆ Faith is nurtured.
- ◆ Pupils can develop their full potential.
- ◆ Personal responsibility is promoted.
- ◆ Pupils are prepared for an appropriate career.
- ◆ Pupils are made aware of their cultural heritage.
- ◆ Parental collaboration is promoted and encouraged.

**Each pupil is entitled to an education free from fear and intimidation.
Bullying is not tolerated in Blackrock College.**

Blackrock College is a recognised Voluntary Secondary School for boys, providing Junior Certificate, Transition Year (which is compulsory) and Leaving Certificate as prescribed by the D.E.S. which may be amended in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998). Blackrock is a mixed ability school with a total enrolment in excess of 1,000 pupils including 90 Boarders.

There are ninety staff members directly involved in the educational provision - Teachers, Counsellors, Chaplains, Additional Needs, IT, Games and Arts personnel. The D.E.S. fund staff members based on the pupil-teacher ratio of the day plus 4 ex-quota posts.

A support staff, involved in administration, maintenance, medical, catering, accommodation, and grounds of the College numbers a further forty-six.

Applications for Admission

Applications for admission to Blackrock should be made in writing to The Registrar or online.

The application form will request personal details including (i) name/ address of boy and parents/ guardians, (ii) date of birth, (iii) contact telephone numbers/e-mail address, (iv) details of any medical/psychological condition, (v) religion, (vi) previous schools attended.

Allocation of Places - General

Willow Park 1st Year has priority as the main feeder school for the College. The pupils of Willow Park 1st Year transfer to 2nd Year in the College subject to suitability. Other places are typically awarded, if available, three months in advance of commencement. Boys who have applied and have not received an offer remain on a waiting list.

Blackrock College, within the context and parameters of D.E.S. regulations and programmes, the rights of the Patron, as set out in the Education Act and the funding and resources available, supports the principles of inclusiveness particularly with reference to the enrolment of children with a disability or other additional educational needs.

It is expected that parents who enrol their sons will support the College ethos as espoused by the Mission Statement.

Blackrock College is a Catholic school. Priority is given to boys of the Catholic Faith. The College considers the applications of those from other faiths when they are willing to support the ethos of the College.

We strive to engage with the family, not just the boy, as per the Mission Statement.

Order of Priority in Admission to the College

1. Pupils of Willow Park 1st Year
2. Brothers of existing pupils and past pupils
3. Sons of Teachers and nephews/grand-nephews of the Spiritan Community
4. Sons of past pupils of the College
5. Grandsons and nephews of past-pupils of the College
6. The College reserves the right to allocate a limited number of places (not to exceed twelve in any one year) to applicants on grounds of compassion, or special circumstances. The decision to award any such place will be based on an objective assessment of the particular pupil and his circumstances, including an interview of the pupil and his parents/guardians.
7. Allocation of further places will be based on date of application, with priority given to those who applied earlier.

There is specific provision for Boarders with up to 14 reserved places in 2nd Year.

Assessment - including Additional Needs

All students who transfer to the College have been assessed by Willow Park 1st Year. Other entrants should have been assessed in their previous secondary school. The purpose of the assessment is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child.

If further resources are required, we, prior to enrolment, request the D.E.S. to provide the resources to meet the needs of the child as outlined in the report. These resources may include, for example, access to or provision of a combination of the following: - visiting teacher services, resource teacher for additional or an inclusive support assistant, specialised equipment or furniture, transport services or other. The College will meet with the parents to discuss the child's needs and the College's suitability or capability in meeting those needs.

It may be necessary to defer enrolment until the provision of the appropriate resources by the D.E.S.

Willow Park Secondary

Willow Park first year is situated in the Willow Park area of the campus. This facilitates an unique inductive process allowing the pupils to adjust to their new subjects, range of teachers and the challenges of secondary education in a self-contained milieu before transferring to the College for second year.

Willow Park First Year has its own dedicated administrative structure, specialist secondary teachers, counsellors, chaplain and games staff providing the necessary attention, care and concern for the boys.

Pupils transferring to other years may do so subject to availability of a place and D.E.S. approval. There are reserved places for boarders in each year group. 2nd Year - 14; 3rd Year - 14; 4th Year - 18; 5th Year and 6th Year-24 places. All applications should be made in writing to the Registrar or online. Information concerning previous attendance and the pupil's educational progress to date and the reasons for the proposed transfer will be required in accordance with the Education Welfare Act. The College reserves the right to refuse admission to pupils seeking to transfer from other schools.

The criteria for enrolment are above under 'Order of Priority in Admission, Nos. 2 through 6'.

Blackrock College Personnel

Principal Mr A MacGinty

Deputy Principals Mr B Herlihy
Ms Y Markey
Ms S Nolan

Deans
6th Year Mr T Ryan
5th Year Mr J Brunswick
4th Year Mr P O'Neill
3rd Year Mr O Brennan
2nd Year Ms R Harlowe

**Director of Hall
of Residence** Mr N MacDermott

The School Day

Classes commence at 8.45 am and finish at 3.45 pm (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday). Wednesday class finishes at 12.45 pm.

BLACKROCK COLLEGE

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

160TH ACADEMIC YEAR

PRINCIPAL – MR A MACGINTY

DEPUTY-PRINCIPALS – MR B HERLIHY, MS S NOLAN AND MS Y MARKEY

SPIRITUAL DIRECTOR – FR. C O'BROLCHAIN, C.S.SP.

DEAN

6 th Year	Mr T Ryan	6dean@blackrockcollege.com
5 th Year	Ms J Brunswick	5dean@blackrockcollege.com
4 th Year	Mr P O'Neill	4dean@blackrockcollege.com
3 rd Year	Mr O Brennan	3dean@blackrockcollege.com
2 nd Year	Ms R Harlowe	2dean@blackrockcollege.com

DIRECTOR OF HALL OF RESIDENCE Mr Niall MacDermott boarding@blackrockcollege.com

CHAPLAINS

Ms A McGlynn	amcglynn@blackrockcollege.com
Ms L Crimmins, 6 th Year	lcrimmins@blackrockcollege.com

COUNSELLORS

6 th Year	Ms N Drew
5 th Year	Ms L Crimmins
4 th and 3 rd Year	Mr G Sullivan
2 nd Year	Mr D Brennan

CAREER GUIDANCE

6 th Year	Ms N Drew
5 th Year	Mr D O'Nuallain
4 th Year	Mr G Sullivan

AUGUST INTERVIEWS

The Deans will be available for interview each weekday from Monday 19th August to Friday 23rd August. We are convinced of the importance of meeting parents with their sons during this week. Pupils are expected to be **formally dressed** for this meeting. Appointments may be made during office hours through Reception only (Tel: (01)2752100). **Parents of Boarders should also schedule a meeting with Mr Niall MacDermott.** If it is not possible to arrange an appointment during these days, arrangements should be made with the Dean by email.

RE-OPENING & VACATIONS

Boarders return on **Sunday 25th August** (evening) from 7.00 pm.

Classes for all will begin on Monday, 26th August, 9.30 am - 12.00 noon, 1.00 pm - 2.30 pm (8 x 30 minute classes).

An Induction Programme for Second Years will be held on Friday, 23rd August (1.30 pm - 3.30 pm).

Induction for 2nd Year Boarders will take place on Sunday evening at 8.00 pm.

On regulation days classes commence at 8.45 am; afternoon classes at 1.30 pm.

Hallowe'en: **Friday 25th October** (3.45 pm) to **Monday 4th November** (Boarders return)
Classes resume on **Tuesday 5th November**

Christmas: **Friday 20th December** (12 noon) to **Sunday 5th January** 2020 (Boarders return)
Classes resume **Monday 6th January** 2020

Mid-Term: **Friday 14th February** (3.45 pm) to **Sunday 23rd February** (Boarders return)
Classes resume Monday 24th February

Easter: **Friday, 3rd April** (12 noon) to **Sunday 19th April** (Boarders return)
Classes resume **Monday 20th April**

End of Year: **Tuesday 26th May** for 6th Year. **Wednesday 27th May** for 3rd & 4th Year.
Friday 29th May for 2nd and 5th Year

CODE OF BEHAVIOUR

POLICY DOCUMENTS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE WEBSITE.

THERE ARE 4 FUNDAMENTAL SCHOOL RULES:

BE CARING	BE THERE	BE TRUTHFUL	BE GRATEFUL
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Adherence to these rules is required at all times, not only in school, but also in the surrounding area. A boy's conduct should always be courteous and governed by respect for the person, property and reputation of others.

Each student and a parent/guardian are required to sign a contract at the start of the academic year. This contract confirms your commitment to the Code of Behaviour for 2019-2020.

GENERAL REGULATIONS

- A pupil, or a pupil party to a group, who brings the College Community into disrepute whilst identifiable as a member of the College, is subject to sanction. Sanctions such as detention or suspension will be imposed for serious offences - proportionate to the offence committed.
- Further, the College authorities reserve the right to resign the charge of a pupil for persistent idleness, violation of College rules or for any other reason judged by them to be in the interest of the common good.

**Each pupil is entitled to an education free from fear and intimidation.
Bullying is not tolerated in Blackrock College.**

SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

- On regulation days the pupils **must check-in twice daily before 8.35 a.m. and 1.20 p.m. Pupils are deemed late after these times. Check-in commences at 8.10 am.**
- 2nd and 3rd Year students may not leave the school grounds at lunchtime.
- Absence from class without permission or the display of an uncaring attitude towards any member of the school community, or towards its property, is unacceptable. **Breach of this regulation will incur external suspension.**
- Unauthorised use of mobile phones or other electronic devices is prohibited in the classrooms, the Study Hall, the Lecture Hall, between classes and during formal school activities. **Any misuse of these appliances will result in their confiscation. Sanctions will be at the discretion of the Dean.**
- 2nd and 3rd Year pupils are only permitted to have talk/text phones. No phone with internet access is permitted at any time on campus. **Breach of this regulation may incur suspension.**
- Water bottles are prohibited in the classrooms, Learning Centre, Chapel, Lecture and Day Study Halls. **Sanctions are at the discretion of the Dean.**
- Chewing gum is forbidden within the College. **A fine of €10.00 will apply.**
- Smoking or vaping is forbidden within the College buildings and precincts. Pupils may not smoke or vape whilst engaged in a school activity or identifiable as a member of the school community. **Breach of this regulation will incur external suspension.**
- Possession of alcohol or illegal substances is prohibited while engaged in any school or school-related activity. **Failure to observe this regulation may lead to the College resigning the charge of a pupil.**

OUT OF BOUNDS

In the interest of Health & Hygiene, Propriety and Safety, areas in the College Grounds and surrounding areas (listed on the College Noticeboards) are Out of Bounds. It is the responsibility of each pupil to be aware of these areas. Sanctions for breach include suspension.

DETENTION

Detention may be imposed at the discretion of the Dean for unsatisfactory application, department, punctuality or behaviour. Saturday detention is held from **9.45 a.m. - 10.45 a.m.** and is an integral part of the College's disciplinary procedure. School uniform is required. **Failure to attend, without written explanation, will result in internal suspension.**

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

In the interests of the health and safety of the pupils, an e-mail or phone call to the Dean, early on the day of absence, is required. An explanatory letter/signed copy of the e-mail from the Parent or Guardian, is also required on the day of his return. The Education Welfare Act obliges the College to inform the relevant authority of cumulative absences in excess of **twenty days**, and reasons thereof, during the course of the school year.

HEALTH

The school authorities should be given information of any medical issues, history or medication that a pupil must take on a regular basis. We strongly recommend that parents have appropriate medical cover in the event of injury or accident and also that student vaccinations are up to date.

TRANSPORT

Pupils may not bring electric scooters, motor cycles or cars into, or through, the College grounds. In the interest of safety, access to the Cross Avenue exit by motorists is not permitted between **8.00 a.m. and 9.00 a.m.** Cyclists should wear helmets at all times - at night, a light and reflectors should be used. **Unauthorised vehicles parked in the College grounds will be clamped. A release fee will apply. Suspension may apply.**

ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION

There are two types of Report Card in use in the College:

1. **Weekly Application Cards** give an individual teacher's assessment of the EFFORT made by a pupil during that week.
2. **Progress Cards** are marked every four/five weeks. The marks based on class tests/assessments indicate the STANDARD attained by a pupil in the subject matter covered in class in the preceding weeks.

We attach a great deal of importance to our Card system. Cards are returned to boys every Monday. Please make sure that you review them with your son. Failure to do so, on a weekly basis, forfeits the many opportunities that arise for affirmation of your son's efforts. It also diminishes opportunities to assist where a deterioration in work is evident and an immediate response is the priority.

EXAMINATIONS

1. **There are full-scale examinations at the end of the Christmas and Easter terms.** Marked scripts are returned to pupils. Reports are sent to parents giving examination results and comments by the Dean of the Year on a pupil's punctuality, conduct, attitude and involvement in extra-curricular activities. In all years, adjustments may be made to classes based on these results.
2. **Formal examinations take place in 2nd and 5th Year** at the end of Term 3. A summer report will follow. The result will be based on both the exam result and continuous assessment. **Portfolio Assessment Interviews** will take place at the end of Term 3 in Transition Year. Parents are afforded an opportunity of discussing all aspects of their son's education in the College with class teachers at Parent-Teacher meetings during the course of the year or with Deans by appointment at any time.

COLLEGE HOMEWORK DIARY

Each pupil is required to have and to use the official College Homework Diary on a daily basis. This should contain a record of both the oral and written assignments given by the teacher in class during the course of the day. **Each class period should have an entry.**

Parents are asked to check the College Homework Diary on a weekly basis.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Each pupil should be involved in some aspect of the College's extra-curricular programme - sport, music, debates, etc. There is concern when a boy's involvement is exclusively attendance at class.

NIGHT STUDY

A number of places are available for 3rd, 5th and 6th Year dayboys **with priority given to pupils involved in extra-curricular activities after school on a regular basis**. School uniform is required. Non participation, indiscipline or irregular attendance will result in loss of place without refund. Applications to nightstudy@blackrockcollege.com.

DRESS AND DEPORTMENT

1. A high standard of dress and deportment must be maintained. **Pupils must travel to and from school in full College uniform, including footwear**. Deans are the judges of acceptable standards of dress and deportment.
2. A pupil wearing excessively long (**Hair should not be below the collar**) or excessively short hair (**Blade 3 is the minimum acceptable**) or hair that has been bleached or dyed will be considered improperly dressed for class or activities associated with the school.
3. Pupils must be clean-shaven.
4. The wearing of jewellery, other than watches, whilst in school uniform or involved in school activities, is not permitted.
5. Except for games and Physical Education, the wearing of runners is not permitted during school hours unless excused by parents on medical grounds.
6. The top button of the shirt should be closed and shirts should be tucked in. College training tops should not be worn to class. Hooded sweatshirts are not permitted and maybe confiscated.

CLOTHING LIST

Uniform items will be available at the College during the week of interviews at the end of August. These items can be purchased from Uniformity (Tel: 2300501) www.uniformity.ie

a) Second and Third Year

Plain white shirt and the College tie.
Grey v-necked pullover with College crest.
Standard grey uniform trousers.
Black leather conventional shoes.

b) Transition Year and Fifth Year

Plain white shirt and the College tie.
Grey v-necked pullover with College crest. Standard grey uniform trousers.
Black leather conventional shoes.
All pupils require a College Blazer.

c) Sixth Year

Conventional shirt, tie, pullover and beige chino trousers. Skinny trousers and denims are not permitted.
Black or brown leather conventional shoes.
All pupils require a College Blazer.

Final Year pupils are expected to be neatly dressed, setting a lead in this as in all other matters.

d) Physical Education: House T-Shirt

DeValera:	Red	Leman:	Black
Duff:	Yellow	McQuaid:	Green
Ebenrecht:	Purple	Shanahan:	Grey

Tracksuits/white shorts/white socks/sports footwear (runners and football boots).

Parents have an important role to play in the maintenance of good standards of conduct and deportment. We ask for full co-operation in this matter. Pupils failing to meet the standards outlined above will not be permitted to attend class or school activities.

LOSS OR DAMAGE OF PUPILS' PROPERTY

It is essential that all pupils have their clothes and other property clearly marked to facilitate identification. Pupils must be held responsible for the care and security of their own property. The College authorities do not accept responsibility for loss or damage of pupils' property; e.g. schoolbags, bicycles, electronic devices, mobile phones, sports equipment, musical instruments, clothes etc. Parents are advised that these items can be readily insured under the normal household policy. **It is strongly recommended that each pupil avails of the locker rental facility.** Lockers should be locked at all times. Padlocks are available for purchase at Reception at a cost of €6.00.