



Ashfield Boys' High School

Information Booklet

Year 8

2023-24



Ashfield Boys' High School

Vision:

A learning community that provides a safe nurturing child centred environment with an atmosphere of high expectation. A school that facilitates the development of all of our pupils to become adults with the skills, qualifications and capabilities to thrive in the world in which they live.

Aims:

We have four key aims:

For our **Students** to become positive role models within school, and their local community, and who fulfil their potential whilst realising their ambitions in adult life.

For our **Staff** to have a child centred educational philosophy and for whom we are the employer of choice, providing a fulfilling place in which to work and an environment where their contribution is valued.

For our **Parents/Carers** to know that Ashfield Boys' High School cares about, and meets, the individual needs of their sons.

To contribute to a **Community** for whom we are the natural partner of choice in improving the life chances of our young men.

Values:

The values we expect from all of our pupils, staff and parents are:

HEART - HONESTY: EXCELLENCE: ATTITUDE: RESPECT & TEAMWORK.



A WORD TO OUR YEAR 8 PARENTS

At Ashfield Boys' High School, we believe that parents have a critical role to play in the education of their children. We are certain that, like us, you are ambitious for your son and that you will take an active interest in his education and make him aware that you care.

Please make sure that he is adequately equipped in terms of uniform, schoolbag, USB pen drives, pens and pencils and Physical Education clothing (**PE kit available directly from Club Sport NI via <https://link-clubsportni.synckit.info/teamwear/code/9YRAW3>** or the supplier's website can be accessed on <https://clubsportni.com/shop/> where you will see a link for Ashfield Boys', **and in person from David Crawford School Wear**) and footwear.

There are a number of occasions throughout the school year when you will be invited to meetings or information evenings. We would highly recommend that you attend on these occasions or on any other occasion by appointment when you think it necessary. Parents of Year 8 pupils are invited to visit the school in October in order to discuss, with the Form Teacher and or Head of Year, how their son is settling into life in Ashfield. You will receive regular progress reports on your son's work throughout the year with a second Parent / Form Teacher Information Afternoon held in April / May.

In Ashfield Boys' High School, we are committed to providing a high-quality education. We have excellent standards of teaching and by working together we will do everything in our power to help your son, our boys, achieve their goals, aspirations, and dreams.

I look forward to working with you and your son, over the next seven years, and watching your son grow into the man he was born to be.

Mr A Duffield

Interim Acting Principal



Year 8 Boys

When do you start?

Your first few days are as follows:

Tuesday 22 August 2023:	9.00 am – 12.00 noon
Wednesday 23 August 2023:	9.00 am – 12.00 noon
Wednesday 30 August 2023:	9.00 am – 12.00 noon
Thursday 31 August 2023:	9.00 am – 12.00 noon

Full Timetabled classes will begin on Friday 1 September 2023 –

Canteen facilities offering break and lunches for all boys will be available from this date.

WHAT TO BRING

- A pen, pencil, USB pen drive and school bag.
- £20 for School Fund (One payment per family) payments to be made directly to school office.
Method of payment – Cash envelopes are available upon request
Cheque – to be made out to Ashfield Boys High School
Bank Transfer – Sort Code 95-01-28 A/C # 10141763 please state name of eldest child
- Your dinner money (*£2.80 per day) *subject to change by Education Authority.

If you got free school meals in Primary school, you should already have received your renewal application from the education authority. If not, an application form is available on www.eani.org.uk.

WHAT SHOULD I DO AT LUNCH TIME

There are very good meals in the school canteen.

Pupils may bring packed lunches which are eaten in the packed lunch area.

Some school clubs meet at lunch time.

Pupils are asked not to bring in kiwi fruit or any food which may contain nuts.



School Uniform

ALL PUPILS MUST WEAR FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM

Pupils are expected to be in full school uniform at all times, including travelling to and from school.

Shoes: -

- Plain black **leather** formal school shoes are to be worn by all boys. TRAINERS (including leather Nike Air Max and similar), CANVAS OR SHOES WITH LOGOS / SPORTS MOTIFS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED

Blazers: –

- All pupils must wear the school blazer with school badge

Trousers: –

- Black School Trousers

Coats/ Jackets: –the following coats are acceptable

- A Black or Navy Coat (FOOTBALL TEAMS / BENCHCOATS etc. WILL NOT BE PERMITTED)

All other coats including hoodies will be confiscated and returned to a parent/ guardian only.

Ashfield Boys' own 'V' neck Mid-Grey Jumper: –

- compulsory from Hallowe'en to 30th April

***Please Note that our school jumper and school ties can only be purchased from the following suppliers:**

- Lyttle's
- School Days
- David Crawford's School Wear
- Gowdy's

School Tie: -

- Year 8 must wear the school striped tie: available from the aforementioned suppliers
- Tie on, Knot up to top button of collar. Five sets of stripes to be visible below the knot.

Shirts: –

- White shirt; tucked in, top button done up.

Jewellery: -

- No earrings or facial piercings. No plasters to be given out.

Hair: -

- Shaved hair is to be blended. Design work in short haircuts is not acceptable. Excessive use of colour/ bleaching or design work using colour/ bleaching is not acceptable. Shoulder length hair must be tied back for health and safety reasons whilst in school.

It is a matter for the school to determine what is deemed acceptable in relation to school uniform.



PE Uniform / Kit

Games and Physical Education are an essential part of a boy's development.

All boys are expected to take part in both PE and Games unless excused by a medical certificate.

Mr B Reid, Head of Physical Education, will be pleased to discuss with parents any concerns in relation to PE, Games and sporting activities.

Compulsory School PE Kit for all Year Groups: -

PE kit available directly from Club Sport NI via -

<https://link-clubsportni.synckit.info/teamwear/code/9YRAW3> or the supplier's website can be accessed on <https://clubsportni.com/shop/> where you will see a link for Ashfield Boys', **and in person from David Crawford School Wear**

- ABHS Nike Branded Shorts
- ABHS Nike Branded T-Shirt
- Nike Royal Blue Matchfit Cushioned Socks
- Trainers / gym shoes
- Football boots and shin guards

Optional PE Kit

- ABHS Nike Branded $\frac{3}{4}$ Zip Top
- ABHS Branded Skinny Tracksuit Bottoms
- ABHS Branded School Hoodie

Full PE kit can be worn to school on days only when your son has PE. Full PE kit comprises of the ABHS Nike Branded Shorts and T-Shirt, Nike Royal Blue Matchfit Cushioned socks, ABHS Branded Skinny Tracksuit Bottoms and an ABHS Nike Branded $\frac{3}{4}$ Zip Top.

If your son does not have the proper tracksuit bottoms and $\frac{3}{4}$ zip top or hoodie, then he should come to school in full school uniform and change into the compulsory branded shorts and T-shirt for PE only.

It is essential that PE kit / clothing has the name of the pupil clearly marked on it.

Mobile Phones & Valuables

As the school is not insured for lost or stolen personal belongings, it is our recommendation to parents to ensure that boys leave all valuables at home. Pupils who are seen using a mobile phone during school hours will be asked to put it away. If it is used again, it may be confiscated and deposited in the school office where it can be collected by the pupil at the end of the school day. Therefore, boys should have their mobile phone switched off when in school.



Bicycles

If any boy is coming to school on a bicycle, then the following rules must apply: -

- Written permission must be sought from the school
- The bicycle must meet the normal safety requirements
- The bicycle must be chained to the bike racks first thing in the morning, and collected at the end of the school day
- The bicycle must not be lent to any other pupil
- The normal road safety regulations must be adhered to on the way to and from school

Attendance

We strive for full attendance from all of our boys. However, we appreciate that, from time to time, boys can become ill. With this in mind we set every boy a minimum attendance target of 95%. We will inform you on a monthly basis of your son's attendance record. If attendance falls below unacceptable levels then we refer to the Educational Welfare Service at the Education Authority, Belfast Region.

To encourage good attendance, we regularly reward boys with credits, school trips, certificates and various other special prizes. If your son is absent from school, you must verify his absence by sending in written confirmation of the dates he was off school and the reason for his absence. This written explanation should be sent to his Form Teacher

THE SCHOOL DAY

Ashfield Boys' High School operates a timetable on a two-week cycle with the school day starting at 8.45 am. Year 8 Pupils are to line up in the front playground and will enter the school through the reception doors.

Below is a breakdown of the timetable. Please note that early days are on Tuesday and Friday with school finishing at 2.10pm for all boys.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
8.45-9.15am	Pupil arrival/ Registration- 8.45-9.15am	Pupil arrival/ Registration- 8.45-9.15am	Pupil arrival/ Registration- 8.45-9.15am	Pupil arrival/ Registration- 8.45-9.15am	Pupil arrival/ Registration- 8.45-9.15am
1	9.15-10.05	9.15-10.05	9.15-10.05	9.15-10.05	9.15-10.05
Junior Break	10.05-10.20	10.05-10.20	10.05-10.20	10.05-10.20	10.05-10.20
2	10.05-10.55	10.05-10.55	10.05-10.55	10.05-10.55	10.05-10.55
Senior Break	10.55-11.10	10.55-11.10	10.55-11.10	10.55-11.10	10.55-11.10
3	11.10.11.55	11.10.11.55	11.10.11.55	11.10.11.55	11.10.11.55
Junior Lunch	11.55-12.30	11.55-12.30	11.55-12.30	11.55-12.30	11.55-12.30
Junior period 4	12.30-1.20	12.30-1.20	12.30-1.20	12.30-1.20	12.30-1.20



4	11.55-12.45	11.55-12.45	11.55-12.45	11.55-12.45	11.55-12.45
Senior Lunch	12.45-1.20	12.45-1.20	12.45-1.20	12.45-1.20	12.45-1.20
5	1.20-2.10	1.20-2.10	1.20-2.10	1.20-2.10	1.20-2.10
6	2.10-3.00	Early finish	2.10-3.00	2.10-3.00	Early finish

***Please note that there is also an early finish every other Thursday - Week B**

Form Teachers

The school door opens at 8.45 am for Year 8 boys. Each morning at 8.45 am boys will report to their Form Room for registration class. The Form teacher will call the class roll, collect any absence or lateness notes and will arrange for dinner tickets to be issued.

Heads of Year (HOY)

The Head of Year 8, Mrs Beattie, has overall responsibility for the whole year group. The Head of Year, along with the Assistant Head of Year, will regularly monitor the behaviour, attendance, punctuality, uniform, class reports and progress of the Year 8 boys. The Head of Year is happy to discuss with you your son's progress or any concerns that you might have. If you ever wish to speak with the Head of Year, then please contact the school office and make an appointment at a time that is mutually suitable.

All Enquiries, Issues or Concerns should be made, in the first instance, to Head of Year.

It is important that parents do not approach teachers directly in school without a prior appointment. As a school we will help all parents and boys with any issues or concerns they might have. However, it is important that we do so via the correct channels.

If you would prefer not to meet with the Head of Year, then a suitable time can be made for you to meet with either the school's **Pastoral Coordinator, Assistant Vice Principal or Vice Principal** (appointments to be made via the school office): -

- Pastoral Coordinator:- Mrs C. White
- Assistant Vice Principal: - Mr. K. Millar
- Vice Principal: - Mr. C. McKnight

Alternatively, the Interim Acting Principal, Mr A Duffield, is available to discuss any concerns you might have. If you would like to meet with the Interim Acting Principal, please contact the school's office to arrange a mutually suitable time.

Counselling Support

Boys sometimes have concerns which they need to discuss with someone. In Ashfield Boys' High School, we have a full-time Counsellor Support Coordinator. Any pupil, or parent, can make an appointment to see our Counsellor at any time. If you would like to arrange a confidential consultation, then please contact the school office who will arrange a suitable time for you to meet.



We want all boys and parents to know that we are here to help. If at any time you want to discuss a concern, worry or issue then please do not hesitate to contact us. If you are faced with an emergency and believe that it would be best to meet with someone in school, then please contact us immediately. Alternatively come up to the school office and someone will meet with you as soon as is humanly possible. We will do all we can to help you.

We also have access to the Department of Education's counselling service Family Works and a number of useful outside agencies who are equally willing to help.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Promoting Positive Behaviour is essential for the smooth running of the school. The school recognises the importance of teaching positive behaviour and does this explicitly through the curriculum and implicitly through example, credits and rewards.

All members of the school are expected to help maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning with respect, courtesy and consideration for others basic requirements.

Our fundamental core values are stated as HEART

Honesty

Excellence

Attitude

Respect

Teamwork

Our overarching aims are: -

- To enable effective teaching and learning
- To promote positive behaviour and encourage achievement
- To support pupils in learning self-discipline and respect
- To create a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff
- To teach pupils to understand, accept and tolerate differences in individuals

Expectations of our Students

- To be prepared for all classes
- To listen and to learn
- To control and be responsible for their own behaviour
- To let others, work and make progress
- To discuss any concerns with staff and not resort to physical or verbally aggressive behaviour



- To respect property. Not to damage, take or misuse the property of other people or the schools
- To make their best effort to understand and accept differences and the individuality of everyone and to be particularly supportive to minorities in terms of race, religion, abilities, sexual orientation and background
- To work to the best of their ability
- To wear full school uniform
- To follow school rules
- To adhere to the **4 R's**
 - **R**espect for yourself
 - **R**espect for all others; treat others with dignity and tolerance
 - **R**espect for the environment we work and live in
 - **R**esponsible for all of your actions

Expectations of our Parents

- To ensure their son's regular attendance and punctuality
- To encourage their son to bring the right equipment and wear full school uniform
- To fully co-operate with the school and to ensure that their son follows the school's Positive Behaviour Strategy / Policy
- To keep the Head of Year/ Form Teacher aware of any circumstances which may affect their son's learning and behaviour
- To maintain regular contact with the school through attendance at parents' evenings, and, as appropriate, through diaries, letters, reports and telephone calls
- To encourage and support their son in completion of homework

Tracking Pupil Progress

Throughout the school year we will formally monitor your son's academic progress. This will happen at Hallowe'en, February, and June. We will contact you, on each of these key dates, and let you know how your son is progressing. If your son is not working to his full potential, then we will meet with you directly and discuss strategies to ensure that we help your son get back on task.

On these key dates we will: -

- **November/December** contact parents directly informing them of how their son is progressing. If a meeting is needed, it will be arranged with the Assistant Head of Year for Year 8



- **February** contact made with parents outlining progress to date; also an invitation and appointment to attend your son's parents' information afternoon. If necessary, a meeting will be arranged with the Assistant Head of Year for Year 8
- **June** end of year report

There are a number of occasions throughout the school year when you will be invited to attend meetings or parent information afternoons/ evenings. We will do all that we can to arrange a suitable time for you to meet with us. I am sure that you agree with us in recognising the importance of attending such meetings.

Homework

We believe that all boys should complete homework regularly. A homework timetable and a Homework Record Book / Student Planner is issued to each pupil in September.

- **Pupils** must keep a record of their homework.
- **Subject teachers** will only sign the homework page where work has not been done properly.
- **Form teachers** will sign the homework page each Friday
- **Parents** are asked to check their son's diary regularly and sign it for each Friday. Where a boy's work is unsatisfactory, parents are asked to complete the comment section stating what action they have taken.
- **Boys** will normally receive homework every day, Monday to Thursday. A homework timetable will be issued to each boy at the start of the year. If boys appear to have no homework on a regular basis, parents should contact the Head of Year.

CLUBS, SPORTS AND EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

SPORTS include

Soccer - there are under 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18.

Rugby Teams; Athletics; Swimming; Table-Tennis; Basketball

Cross Country; Badminton; Hockey; Golf; Cricket

CLUBS include

Fitness Clubs, Art and Design Club, ICT App Design Club, Science Club, Elite Soccer Coaching,

Film Animation and Photography club, KS4 & Post 16 Study Club, School 'Inform' Magazine Club,

Spanish Club, French Club, Sunrise Soccer, Scripture Union, Library and Formula 1 Racing.



The school has a first class band which plays at assemblies and other functions. There is also a Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. We also have a thriving Army Cadet Corp that meets weekly.

If a group of boys express a desire to create a new interest group, they are given every encouragement and help to do so.

TRIPS

Educational trips take place to various locations throughout the year. Optional overseas trips in the last years have included trips to Alton Towers, trips to Paris and Belgium, football trips to see Northern Ireland at the Euros, Man Utd, Liverpool, Glasgow Rangers and skiing trips in Bulgaria, Italy, France, New Hampshire, USA, and Spain.

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING

In this regard we are informed by the regional Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

The area of child protection often causes anxiety. It is the aim of Ashfield Boys' High School to address this issue in a clear and direct manner.

It is our statutory responsibility to ensure that procedures are in place that will offer our pupils as much protection as possible. Section 3.96 of the Regional Policy and Procedures highlights the ways schools can help to protect pupils.

Child protection in schools has three main elements:

- Through the curriculum pupils are encouraged to develop strategies to keep safe.
- Through vetting to ensure that only suitable persons work with pupils.
- Through responding appropriately when child abuse concerns are raised about an individual

The school has in place a **Safeguarding Team** which is responsible for the safety and protection of pupils. This group includes: The Designated Teacher for Child Protection, the Principal, nominated member from the Board of Governors, Vice- Principal / Head of Pastoral care and Deputy Designated Teacher.

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is **Mr N Forbes**. In his absence, **Mr K Reid** or **Mr C McKnight** will assume responsibility for child protection matters.

If a child makes a disclosure to a teacher or other member of staff which gives rise to concerns about possible abuse, or if a member of staff has concerns about a child, **the member of staff must act promptly**.



He/she should not investigate - this is a matter for the PSNI and or Social Services - but should report these concerns immediately to the designated teacher, discuss the matter with him, and make full notes.

The designated teacher will discuss the matter with the Principal as a matter of urgency to plan a course of action, and ensure that a written record is made.

The Principal, in consultation with the designated teacher, will decide whether, in the best interests of the child, the matter needs to be referred to Social Services and or PSNI. **If there are concerns that the child may be at risk, the school is obliged to make a referral.** Unless there are concerns that the parent may be the abuser, the parents will be informed immediately.

The Principal may seek clarification or advice and consult with the Education Authority's designated officer or the Senior Social Worker before a referral is made. No decision to refer a case to Social Services will be made without the fullest consideration and on appropriate advice.

The safety of the child is our first priority and our 'Duty of Care'.

Bullying

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in our school. All staff are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring, and will take immediate steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the target of bullying type behaviour. Parents of both the target of bullying type behaviour and the pupil displaying bullying type behaviours will be personally contacted immediately bullying behaviour is identified.

Any complaint regarding bullying will be fully investigated by the Pastoral Care and Support Team and supports will be offered to help and protect the target of bullying type behaviour. The pupil displaying bullying type behaviours will be dealt with in line with the School's Positive Behaviour Policy and their future behaviour monitored very closely.

Information for Students

- If you have something important to talk to staff about
- If you are worried about something that is happening to you, or to someone you know
- If you need help, or if you need to know how to get help
- The staff are here to listen and to help you – they will support you and try to do what they can to help you.
- If you are still unsure about talking to a member of staff, you can telephone

Childline



0800 1111

NSPCC



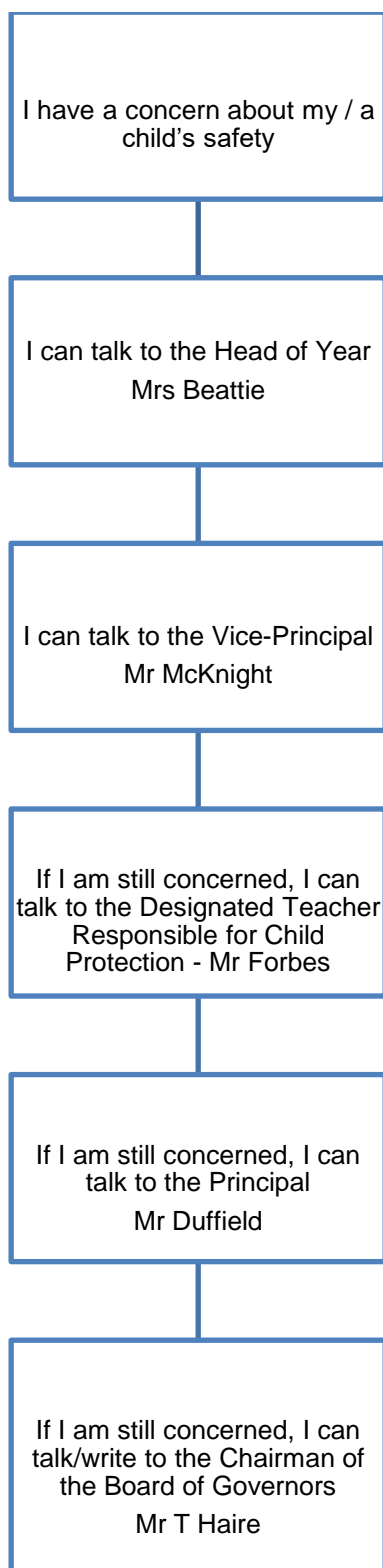
0808 800 5000

These calls are free, and they will not show up on your phone bill.

They will help you work out what to do next.



If a Parent has a concern about any student



The safety of the child is our first priority and our 'Duty of Care'.



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS/ PLANNED CLOSURES

INSET	Friday 29 September 2023 – Monday 2 October 2023 (2 days)
HALLOWE'EN	Monday 30 October 2023 - Friday 3 November 2022 (5 days)
CHRISTMAS	Friday 22 December 2023 – Friday 5 January 2024 (11 days)
MID TERM	Monday 12 February 2024 – Friday 16 February 2024 (5 days)
ST PATRICKS	Monday 18 March 2024 (1 day)
EASTER	Monday 25 March 2024 - Friday 5 April 2024 (10 days)
MAY DAY	Monday 6 May 2024 (1 day)
SPRING HOLIDAY	Monday 27 May 2024 (1 day)
INSET	Tuesday 28 May 2024 (1 day)

School closes Thursday 27 June 2024



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chairman Mr T Haire - Education Authority Representative

Vice Chair Rev D Rankin – Transferor Representative

Members Mr C Buckland – Education Authority Representative
Mr J Nicholson – Education Authority Representative
Mrs M Andrews – Education Authority Representative
Mr G Robinson – Transferor Representative
Mrs L McAllister – Transferor Representative
Mr G Hamilton – Transferor Representative
Mr T Conway – Parent Representative
Mr M Bates – Parent Representative
Mr G Allen – Parent Representative
Mr A Duffield – Teacher Representative
Mr C Duff – Teacher Representative

In line with Department of Education guidance and recommendations; all of our Board of Governors are vetted and 'Access NI' checked

Useful Contact Information

ASHFIELD BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL
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