



Villiers School Frequently Asked Questions for Form I Admission Updated 6th October 2021

1. We missed the Villiers School Open Night on 4th of October; can we watch it on-demand?

The Villiers School Open Night was recorded and can be rewatched on-demand on [YouTube](#) or on [Zoom On-Demand](#). (Use password [EFk?Qm9R](#) to access the Zoom On-Demand Recording). We also have an introductory video about our school available [here](#), where you can meet some of the students and staff and learn more about our school community.

2. How can I apply to Villiers School?

More information about admissions is available on our website [here](#). Please note, Villiers School is working towards a paperless admissions office, and our application processes, forms and documents are now almost entirely online.

Please follow these three steps to submit your application:

- Please submit an [Expression of Interest](#) form online.
- Villiers is part of the [Common Application System \(CAS\)](#) for admission to Limerick Area Post-Primary Schools. Applications to Form I must include a completed [Common Application Form](#). This form can be returned to the attention of Ms. Michelle Tuite by email, by post, or it can be uploaded to your child's applicant profile in our [Online Admissions System](#).
- All applicants to Form I in 2022-2023 are invited to make an appointment to meet with the Headmistress, Ms. Storey in-person. Please contact Ms. Michelle Tuite (secretary@villiers-school.com) to confirm your appointment.

3. Can we visit and have a tour of Villiers School?

Each appointment, as mentioned above, will be one hour in duration, and will include a brief tour of the school campus.

4. Can prospective students come to Villiers to 'shadow' current Form I students?

Unfortunately, we don't expect to be able to have 'shadow days' this year, due to Covid-19.

5. What are the contact details for the Villiers School Admissions Office?

You can contact our office by phone +353 (61) 451447, or by email Ms. Michelle Tuite – secretary@villiers-school.com / Ms. Susan Peña – admissions@villiers-school.com. Normal office hours are 9am-5pm Monday-Friday.

6. Does my child have right of entry to Villiers School?

Please refer to our [Admissions Policy and Annual Admissions Notice 2022-2023](#) for more information about how we allocate school places in Villiers School.

7. When is the deadline to apply for a place in Villiers School?

Early application is advisable, but in any event, Common Application Forms for Form I admission 2022-2023 must be submitted no later than 12.30pm, Monday, 10 January 2022. Boarding applicants are encouraged to apply early, as boarding places are limited.

8. When will I know if my child has been offered a place in Villiers School?

Offer letters for day places in Form I 2022-2023 will be issued by post on Tuesday 25th of January 2022. Boarding applicants may receive earlier notification.

9. What subjects will my child study in Form I in Villiers School?

Junior Cycle students in Villiers School study eight core subjects – English, Irish, Mathematics, History, Geography, Science, Religious Education, and a modern European Language (Choice of French, German or Spanish).

Students also choose two choice subjects from the following – Business Studies, Visual Art, Home Economics, Graphics, Applied Technology or Music. Form I students will have the opportunity to try these choice subjects in the beginning of the first term, prior to making their choice.

Students also take part in a Junior Cycle Wellbeing programme, which includes the teaching of Civic, Social and Political Education (C.S.P.E.), Physical Education (P.E.), Social, Personal and Health Education (S.P.H.E.) and Digital Wellbeing/Media Literacy.

All Junior Cycle subjects are studied at Common Level in Form I. Maths and Irish can be studied at Higher or Ordinary Level for Junior Cycle. All other subjects are studied at Common Level (i.e., The Department of Education now requires all students to study these subjects at the same level and sit the same exam).

More information on the Junior Cycle at Villiers School is available [here](#).

10. Who will be my child's Year Head and Form Tutor?

The Form I Year Head is Mr. Tim Fennell. Students will be assigned a Form Tutor in Year I who will stay with the same class for three years. Read more about Pastoral Care [here](#).

11. What is boarding like in Villiers School?

Read more about boarding on our website [here](#), and in our [Boarding Handbook](#). We offer 5 day and fortnightly boarding options, as well as full 7 day boarding for students whose parents reside overseas. We have approximately 150 boarders in Villiers (approximately ¼ of our students) and approximately 40 students stay in school on weekends.

12. What is day boarding?

Read more about [day boarding](#) on our website here. This is particularly popular in exam years and for senior students (Form III, Form V and Form VI). Day boarders can choose from study-only options, study and dinner, or lunch, study, and dinner. There is an additional fee for day boarding.

13. What are the options for lunch?

Day students have three options for lunches – students can bring their own lunch, prepay for [hot lunches](#) from our dining hall, or purchase items in the school café. There is an additional fee for hot lunches. We have both a junior and a senior café, which utilise a cashless fob system. Students receive their fobs in the first days of term and parents can load money online for students to spend on food from the school cafés.

14. What are the options for after-school study?

Day students in all form groups have the option to do supervised study, which is on Monday-Friday from 4pm-6pm. Students who do supervised study can do their homework and study in a structured, supervised environment. Supervised study also offers the flexibility to book from 1-5 days per week to suit your family's schedule. There is an additional fee for supervised study.

Supervised study is also available on a Saturday for students in exam years and senior cycle (Forms III, V and VI). Saturday study is included for day boarders and boarders, but does incur an additional fee for day students.

15. What sports do you offer in Villiers School?

Our main school sports are hockey and rugby, but we also offer basketball, soccer, cricket, badminton, table tennis and athletics. We encourage all students to play sports at least one to two days per week. Many of our sports are played competitively with other schools. More information is available on our website [here](#). Our on-site after-school sports are included in school fees. Depending on demand and availability, we may offer off-site after-school sports which incur an additional fee, including equestrian and tennis.

16. What clubs and societies do you offer in Villiers School?

We offer several clubs and societies, both at lunchtime and after-school, all of which are supervised. Please find more information about our current offering [here](#). Our on-site clubs and societies are included in school fees. Extracurricular trips away often incur additional fees.

17. How will my child make friends in Villiers School?

Our new student intake generally includes students from lots of primary schools, both locally and nationally, so most students may know nobody, or only know one or two others, when they arrive in Villiers in Form I. This means that friend groups are not formed yet, giving all students the opportunity to be included and to foster friendships with their peers. The school has a very friendly atmosphere, aided by form tutors, the prefect programme, buddy systems and lunch time clubs, which all encourage friendship and inclusion.

18. Is there a school bus which services Villiers School?

For boarding students, we offer a weekly bus service to midlands areas, including Nenagh, Borrisokane, Portlaoise (and surrounding areas). This bus leaves from Villiers on Friday afternoon and returns on Sunday evening. There is an additional fee for this bus service, which is payable to the school.

For day students, Bus Eireann School Transport division operates daily school bus services to Villiers School. These services are operated and managed by Bus Eireann and subject to change. Historically, these bus routes have included Tuamgraney/Scariff, Killaloe/Ballina, Croom and Adare. Find more information on these services [here](#). There is an additional fee for this bus service, payable to Bus Eireann, and the deadline for applications for the 2022-2023 school year is in April 2022.

19. Are there financial assistance/grants available to students attending Villiers School?

The Secondary Education Committee (SEC) offers assistance by way of grants to parents of the Protestant community, who wish to send their children to a secondary school of their own faith tradition within the Republic of Ireland. More information is available [here](#). Please contact our School Bursar, Ian Jacob (bursar@villiers-school.com) if you require assistance with the SEC application process. Eligible applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

20. What scholarships are available to students attending Villiers School?

Scholarship exams, held in the beginning of Form I, are used to award scholarships to top academic performers. There are four scholarships awarded each year. Each scholarship is valued at €1000 per annum, and is tenable for the full six years, subject to satisfactory work and performance.

Students selected to represent their Provincial Hockey team and / or the Irish Hockey Team may be awarded a Hockey scholarship. Hockey scholarships only apply to the academic year following representation. The maximum Hockey scholarship available is €1500 (awarded if a boarding student represents both their provincial and national team).

21. What are the class sizes at Villiers School?

The standard class size for fee-paying schools is 23 students. Most classes in Villiers School, especially in Form I, will have between 20 and 22 students. At senior cycle, a wide range of subject options means that many classes may be smaller than this.

22. What is Transition Year like at Villiers School?

More information on our TY curriculum is available [here](#). The Transition Year Programme in Form IV acts as a bridge between the teacher led type of learning associated with Junior Cycle and the more independent learning environment associated with Senior Cycle. Students study core subjects, sample subjects, as well as modules and an outdoor pursuits programme. More information on the many opportunities available to our TY students is available [here](#).

23. Is Transition Year (TY) compulsory at Villiers School?

Approximately 97% of Villiers School students do Transition Year. In extraordinary cases, students can apply to proceed directly to Form V, however, this is not recommended. Transition Year helps students to make informed choices for senior cycle, and we view it as an essential element of the secondary school experience, when students gain maturity, experience, and perspective.

24. What level of Leaving Certificate Results are achieved at Villiers School?

On average, 30% of Villiers School students achieve more than 500 points in the Leaving Certificate. In 2021, two of our students achieved the maximum of 625 points. We have double the national average of students who achieve more than 400 points in the Leaving Certificate. We also have double the national average of Leaving Certificate students who achieve Higher Level Mathematics.

25. What percentage of Villiers School students progress to university each year?

98% of our students typically progress to third level education each year. Most of these would attend Irish universities, applying through the CAO, but because of the increasingly international nature of our school, growing numbers of Villiers students pursue university courses overseas, applying through UCAS, UNICAS, or directly to universities. Several recent graduates are studying overseas in Spain, Germany, Thailand, Italy, Poland, the UK, the USA, and the Netherlands.

26. What is the IBDP?

Villiers was officially authorised to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IBDP) and became an IB World School in March 2017. The IBDP is an international alternative to the traditional Leaving Certificate at senior cycle. In 2022, our fifth cohort of students will begin the IBDP at Villiers School. More information is available [here](#), or contact Ms. Susan Peña (admissions@villiers-school.com).

27. How many students study Leaving Certificate, versus IBDP at senior cycle?

Typically, $\frac{1}{6}$ of our senior cycle students study the IBDP, and $\frac{5}{6}$ study Leaving Certificate.

28. I've heard that Villiers is a diverse school. Is this really the case?

Yes, we take pride in the diversity of our student population. We welcome students of differing nationalities, genders, races, socio-economic backgrounds, learning styles and faiths. We value and enjoy the rich community that this fosters, and we work hard to ensure that all of our students feel safe, seen and supported. We also have student representation from more than 30 nationalities in the school, which adds an unique element of peer-based cultural learning to the Villiers School experience.

29. Does Villiers School have a Student Council?

Yes, we do. Our Student Council has nominees from each year group and meets regularly. It is an important part of the consultative process which our school values.

30. Does Villiers School have a Parent-Teacher Association?

We are fortunate to have an active and involved PTA who work to support our school. The PTA organise many important events each year, such as parent information evenings, a school garden fete, and prior to the pandemic, the PTA ran a very useful second-hand uniform sale. They also provide school management with parent input on important policies and decisions.