

BBNI

THE NORTHERN IRELAND BOYS' BRIGADE



5th Carrickfergus Company - Woodlands Presbyterian

Information for Parents - 2026/2027 Season

Welcome back to a new season of Boys' Brigade at Woodlands Church. BB Starts Back on Thursday 10th September 2026, Registration Night is Thursday 3rd September 2026 from 6.30pm-7.30pm.

This letter will give you some important information. If you have any more questions here is how to get in touch:

Whatsapp Text or Call: Stephen on 07778594772 (anytime)
Email: Stephen on stephen.k@bigwetfish.com
Facebook Message: <https://www.facebook.com/5thcarrickbb/> (please like our page)

Church Suite

In an effort to enhance GDPR and Data Protection Compliance Church is requiring all organisations to use Church Suite again this year. All registrations are required to be completed on Church Suite so there will be no paper forms this year. Leaders will be available on registration night or on any BB night if you need assistance completing the consent form on line.

Here is a link to the Registration Form for 2026 2027:

<https://woodlandschurch.co.uk/bb-registration>

Whatsapp Community

In an effort to help with communication, we have set up a Whatsapp Community that you can opt in to and receive relevant communications about BB. Just click the link below and you can choose to join one or more groups depending on what section your boys are in.

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/BrveaBSxvJNHKXeh9mGNUL>

You are in full control of this and you can leave the group at any time.

Registration Form

You can register for BB using the following link: <https://woodlandschurch.co.uk/bb-registration> - as mentioned above there are no paper forms this year.

Registration Night

Our registration night is on **Thursday 3rd September 2026 from 6.30pm - 7.30pm in Woodlands.** Come along and meet the leaders, have a coffee, ask any questions and complete the BB online registration form if required. You can also see around the building if you are new and also browse our pre loved uniform table. This is an excellent opportunity for parents of boys with additional needs to chat to the leaders so we can learn more about your son's needs.

Section Times

Anchor Boys :	Primary 1 - Primary 4	6.15pm - 7.30pm*
Junior Section :	Primary 5 - Primary 7	7.00pm - 8.45pm*
Company Section:	Year 8 - Year 10	8.00pm - 10.00pm*
Seniors :	Year 11 - Year 14	8.00pm - 10.15pm*

* where possible please register before you arrive on your first night on the link above and If you need help registering speak to a leader when you arrive.

Safeguarding

The Presbyterian Church in Ireland have asked all Churches to review Safeguarding within all Church Organisations and Lillian and Julie our Safeguarding Officers will be at Registration to chat to parents. There are new Safeguarding posters up throughout the building with more information and we would encourage you to read them.

More information can be read here: <https://woodlandschurch.co.uk/safeguarding/>

Uniform

Details of uniform is on the back page of this letter. ***If you have any old uniform that no longer fits please bring it to us and we can make it available in a box at the door for other parents to avail of free of cost.***

Winnie one of our Officers will have a Pre Loved Uniform table at Registration night where you can browse what stock we have and take anything you need free of charge. She will accept any old uniform you can bring back.

You can buy uniform from The BB Shop in Belfast and you can find details on the Belfast BB Website here: <https://www.bbshopni.org/> - any problems getting Uniform please reach out to The Captain using the details above. You can also visit the BB Shop in Belfast in person. The staff in BB Belfast Shop are amazing and will be so glad to help you out. Current opening hours available here:

<https://belfastbb.org.uk/stedfastsupplies/>

We are aware that some local Primary Schools have changed their uniform policy to allow track suit bottoms for P1/P2 instead of normal school trousers. We don't want parents to incur additional expense for BB Uniform so this is also acceptable in Anchor Boys.

New Members Joining BB for the First Time

For new boys joining our BB for the first time (especially Anchor Boys) we appreciate parents may want to wait a few weeks to ensure their son settles in BB before buying Uniform or paying Dues. That's all perfectly fine and only pay dues or buy uniform when you are sure your son has settled. For the first few weeks we will have tea/coffee available in the coffee bar if any parent wants to wait. For peace of mind you are welcome to peek through the hall glass doors to make sure your son has settled in.

Additional Needs / Medical Conditions / Allergies

Sometimes the consent form does not really paint a true picture of any additional needs or how we can cater best for your son. Parents should speak to the Captain / Section leaders regarding any members with additional needs, members with medical conditions we need to be aware of or members with allergies so we can cater as best we can for all our members and provide a safe and enjoyable BB experience for everybody.

We also have some members with very **severe** nut & egg allergies so it's important no young person brings anything containing nuts into the building (this more applies to older members who maybe walk to BB and go via the local shop).

Dues 2026/2027

Dues are £40 for the year for your first boy with £30 for each additional boy. We'd ask if possible you pay your dues before 1 November but we never want fees to be a deterrent from you sending your son to BB.

We accept cash, cheques made payable to Woodlands Presbyterian Church Boys' Brigade and Bank Transfer (see below). There will be a card machine available at registration night for card / apple pay.

Danske Bank, Carrickfergus Branch

Sort Code:	95-06-89
Account Number:	70088129
Account Name:	Woodlands Presbyterian Church
Payment Reference:	Your Son's Name (IMPORTANT so we can ensure we mark you as paid)

We are very sensitive to the fact that September is an expensive month for all families. There is **no rush** on the payment of your BB fees. All we ask is you try to pay by November as that is the time we need to pay our fees back to Headquarters.

Why fees? In case you were not aware we need to pay £25 per boy direct to BB Headquarters and we also need to pay £18 per leader to Headquarters. This covers all mandatory registrations, insurances and affiliations. The small amount left helps run our programme.

Dates for your Diary:

Thursday 3 September 2026:	Registration Night 6.30pm-8.00pm
Thursday 10 September 2026:	First Night back at BB
Sunday 11 October 2026:	Enrolment Service at 4pm in Woodlands
Thursday 29 October 2026:	Half Term Holiday - no BB
Thursday 17 December 2026:	Christmas Party - all Sections
Thursday 24 December 2026:	Christmas Holiday - no BB
Thursday 31 December 2026:	Christmas Holiday - no BB
Thursday 11 February 2027:	Half Term Holiday - no BB
Thursday 25 March 2027:	Easter Holiday - no BB
Thursday 1 April 2027:	Easter Holiday - no BB
Friday 23 April 2027:	BB Display Night at 7pm
Thursday 29 April 2027:	Last night of BB for all Sections

Duke of Edinburgh Award 2026 2027

We're pleased to confirm that we have now registered with Boys' Brigade Headquarters as our own Duke of Edinburgh's Award Centre. We will still be working closely with Kilbride BB as well.

This means that, from this year, we will be able to offer the Bronze Award directly through our own BB Company to young people in Year 10 and Year 11. More information about the Award and how to get involved will be provided during the first few weeks of BB.

Any Senior boys who have not yet completed the Bronze or Silver Award may also want to consider entering the Gold Award directly. If you are interested in this, please speak to Paul Martin, our Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator, who can explain the additional requirements for direct entry to Gold.

We're also delighted that Paul Martin has stepped up to coordinate the Award for us. Paul holds Level 4 in Mountain Leadership and has many years of experience running the Duke of Edinburgh's Award through St John Ambulance Cadets.

Paul's wife, Janet, is assisting with the administration of the Award. Johnny Reid and John Morgan have already been approved by Boys' Brigade as leaders to assist Paul. Clarke Stockman has also stepped up to assist with the award too and will shortly complete his paperwork.

We're looking forward to being able to offer this fantastic opportunity to our young people and helping them develop new skills, challenge themselves and enjoy some great adventures along the way.

BB Week

BB Week is in March 2027 and is a very important week to raise money for the many BB activities that happen throughout the year. We will distribute donation envelopes and we would ask you to be as generous as possible.

Donations to the work of 5th Carrick Boys' Brigade

Donations towards the work of BB are always appreciated and accepted throughout the year. Wendy Boyd is our Treasurer and donations can be given to her via our Captain or sent to the bank account on the previous page. Please message us on 07778594772 if you do donate to our bank so we can acknowledge it formally.

Thanks so much for your commitment to BB and I look forward to seeing you in the next week or two. If you have any questions about anything contained in this letter please reach out to us using the contact details on Page 1.

Stephen Kinkaid (Captain)

5th Carrickfergus Company - Woodlands Presbyterian

Uniform 2026 / 2027

Belfast BB Shop (Operated by Belfast Battalion of the Boys' Brigade here in NI)

Steadfast Supplies Limited, 14 May Street, Belfast. Telephone Orders: 028 9032 4853 and the opening hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 10am and 4pm (please call to confirm though). You can also order on line: <https://www.bbshopni.org/>

For any advice on Uniform the staff in the Belfast Battalion Shop are very helpful.

Please note Section Leaders will let Boys know what is needed for Sports activities the uniform below is what is needed for fall in and other BB formal events.

Pre loved Uniform

If you have any uniform that no longer fits you may donate it to BB. We will have a box available with pre loved uniform at the information desk every night at BB for the first month.

Anchor Boys

Red Sweatshirt with the BB crest

Blue Polo Shirt (no need for BB Logo so Tesco's etc is much cheaper)

School Trousers (whatever is accepted in your school) & Black Gym Shoes / Trainers

Junior Section

Royal Blue Juniors Sweatshirt with the BB crest

Blue Polo Shirt with the BB crest

School Trousers

Black or Grey Socks & School Shoes

Armband for Badges

Company Section (Years 8-10)

Dark Navy Company Sweatshirt & Blue Polo Shirt with the BB crest

School Trousers

Black or Grey Socks & School Shoes

Armband for Badges

Bible (we will provide if needed) and notepad

Seniors (Years 11-14)

Navy Blue BB Shirt & BB Tie *

School Trousers (BB Belt from BB Shop optional)

Black or Grey Socks & School Shoes

Armband for Badges

Bible (we will provide if needed) and notepad

* Shirt and Tie is optional for senior boys but strongly encouraged.