

ST COLMAN'S COLLEGE

Violet Hill

46 Armagh Road

NEWRY BT35 6PP

Telephone: 028 3026 2451

Fax: 028 3026 7422

Email: info@stcolmans.newry.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.stcolmans.org.uk

Principal: Mr Cormac McKinney BA(Hons), PGCE, MEd, PQH(NI)

Chairperson of Governors: Mr Liam Quinn (Acting Chair)

Voluntary Grammar School Boys

Age Range: 11 – 18

Admissions Number: 140

Enrolment Number: 860

Open Day

Due to Covid restrictions schools are not permitted to host Open Days in the academic year 2020-21.

Further information about the College including an online video presentation will be available at

www.stcolmans.org.uk

A Voluntary Contribution of £60 per annum is charged in regard to all pupils.

Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to Admissions to the school

The Board of Governors has delegated the responsibilities for the task of applying the criteria as indicated below to a Subcommittee. Where this policy refers to the decision taken by the Board of Governors, it is with reference to the work of the Subcommittee set up by the Board, with its full approval and subject to its final ratification.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

St Colman's College, Newry, is a Catholic grammar school for boys. This College normally accepts boys who are academically suited for the type of education it offers and whose parents/guardians are in agreement with the philosophy and aims of the College.

St Colman's College previously used the outcomes of **GL Entrance Assessment** as the basis of selection of P7 pupils for admission.

The Board of Governors considered the impact of school closures on our local community as a result of the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic and recognised there has been disruption to the education of pupils since March 2020.

The Board of Governors agreed, in light of the current Covid-19 circumstances and for one year only, that academic admissions criteria will **not** be used for the academic year 2021-22. As a result, St. Colman's College will **not** use outcomes from GL Entrance Assessment as part of its Admissions Criteria for the academic year 2021-22. Pupils applying will **not** be required to provide a GL Entrance Assessment result.

The College's Admissions Criteria for the 2021-22 academic year has been amended accordingly and is now based on the College's sub-criteria from previous years.

Careful consideration was given to the decision to temporarily remove the academically selective element for the academic year 2021-22. St. Colman's College remains committed to its own ethos and academic focus on high quality teaching and learning. Those who would normally apply to be admitted are encouraged to continue to do so.

When considering which children can be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which parents/ guardians detail on the online Transfer Application. Parents/ guardians should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admission criteria is stated on the online Transfer Application or included as an uploaded attachment. Examples of such information include whether the child has or had a sibling (list name of sibling) at the school or whether the father was a past pupil of the school (list dates when father attended).

Please note:

St Colman's College has been directed by regulations to select for admission all children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission before any child not so resident may be selected for admission.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

The Board of Governors will admit boys strictly on the following basis:

All boys who have applied to be admitted to St Colman's College will be selected according to the following criteria applied in the order set down below:-

1. Boys who, at the date of their application, have a parent/guardian who is a member of the permanent teaching, administrative, or non-teaching staff of St Colman's College.
2. Boys who, at the date of their application, have another boy of the family (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance) attending the College or having been selected for admission to the College in the coming College year.
3. Boys who have had another boy of the family (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance) previously attend the College.
4. Boys whose father/guardian attended the College.
5. Boys who are the first boy of the family (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance) to transfer to secondary education, i.e. the eldest boy of the family as defined above.
6. Boys who are the first boy of the family (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance) to apply to a Grammar School.
7. Boys, who at the date of their application, are entitled to Free School Meals Provision (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance).
8. Other boys ranked by date of birth with the youngest boy admitted first and all other boys admitted by age (youngest first) until all places have been filled.

If there are more boys who meet one of the above criteria 1 to 8 than there are places available, then the remaining criteria become sub-criteria and applied successively in the order set out until the final selection is completed. In the event of two or more boys having the same date of birth and thereby qualifying for the last place(s), the boys will be ranked by alphabetical order of surname and then forenames as listed on the birth certificate.

Verification of all Information

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on the online Transfer Application or appended to the online Transfer Application by parents/guardians.

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide any requested verifying documents within the deadline set by St Colman's College will result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of the College to offer a place.

The responsibility to ensure that:

- **The online Transfer Application and other necessary documentation is correctly completed;**
- **Any required verification documents are provided within specified deadline**

lies with the parents/guardians of the child. Failure to ensure that this occurs will lead to the application not being considered by the Board of Governors and/or the withdrawal of a place in the College. Information on the College's waiting list is available from the College or Website.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Admissions No	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2018/19	125	186	128*
2019/20	125	193	129*
2020/21	140	156	140

*Includes pupils admitted on Appeal

ADMISSIONS POLICY TO YEARS 9 to 14

The Board of Governors delegates the admission of pupils other than to Year 8 to the College Principal.

Admissions to Years 9 -12

The following criteria will be applied to applicants for **Admissions to Years 9 -12** in the following order:

1. There must be a place available in the required year, within the College's approved enrolment number.
2. In every case, suitability for Grammar School education will be an over-riding consideration. Convincing evidence of this suitability must be provided from his former school including reports, examples of classwork and homework and copies of completed examination papers. The College may also require applicants to complete assessments in Literacy and Numeracy.
3. The parent/ guardian must provide all additional relevant information in a timely manner to allow decisions to be made in the best interests of the pupil and for the efficient discharge of the College's resources.
4. A pupil must come with the recommendation of the Principal of his previous school.

Conditions

Application for entry will include an interview with the Principal and/or Vice-Principal;

- The applicant must show an acceptance of the required academic standard and a willingness to achieve and maintain this standard.
- The applicants must have demonstrated a very good behaviour and attendance record in his previous school.
- The applicant and his parent(s)/guardian(s) must accept the rules and regulations of the College.

ADMISSIONS POLICY FOR SIXTH FORM

The following criteria will be applied to applicants who wish to study AS/A2 in St Colman's College.

As a Catholic Grammar School, St Colman's College aims to ensure that every individual pupil will realise his full potential in spiritual, moral, social and academic terms. While it is assumed that pupils who enrol in St Colman's in Y8 – Y12 will remain to study A Levels, entry into Sixth Form for existing St Colman's pupils is conditional on:

- A very good academic record of 7+ A* - C or equivalent at GCSE including English and Mathematics.
- A very good behaviour and attendance record.
- A very good level of performance in the subjects or curriculum areas that he wishes to study in Sixth Form, normally a B grade or equivalent or better.
- Attending a meeting on results day with a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) to confirm subject choices.

These conditions reflect that which would have been expected from a St Colman's pupil throughout his education at the College. If a pupil's achievements do not meet the conditions listed above but he wishes to apply to return to the College to study A Levels, he will have to attend an interview with the Principal and/or Vice-Principal for his individual case to be considered.

In the best interests of each pupil, it is expected that a good level of achievement, application, behaviour and attendance is demonstrated at AS level and consideration is given to this as the pupil progresses from AS to A2 Level.

Pupils applying to join Sixth Form from other Colleges and Schools

The Department of Education may, on request, increase the number of pupils that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for Sixth Form study (as below) and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down.

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in St Colman's College, Newry.
2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at St Colman's College, Newry has been agreed by the Department of Education*.

* Parents/ guardians should note how the Department of Education (DE) will, in response to a school's request, increase the school's enrolment number in order to allow an extra post-16 pupil to enrol. DE will first check whether there is another school or schools of a type suitable for that pupil within an hour's journey of where the pupil lives. If there is, DE will check whether this other school or schools may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue. If these checks find that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue – then DE will agree a school's request for a place.

What is a school of a type that is suitable for a pupil? To determine this, DE first considers all schools to be one of 4 types: (1) denominational (2) non-denominational (3) integrated and (4) Irish-medium. A School requesting an extra place for a post-16 pupil will belong to one of these 4 types and DE will consider any other school or schools from this same type as suitable for the pupil. DE will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school from the same type as the type of school that the child attended in Year 12.

Pupils applying to join Sixth form from other colleges and schools will be required to attend an interview with a member of the SLT. The interview process will establish if St Colman's College is the most appropriate option for the individual candidate.

Conditions

- There must be a place available in the College for the pupil.
- There must be a place available in the specific subject(s) that the pupil wishes to study.
- The pupil must be able to demonstrate a very good level of performance in the subjects or curriculum areas that he wishes to study in Sixth Form, normally a B grade or better at GCSE or equivalent.
- The pupil must be able to demonstrate a very good academic, behaviour and attendance record.
- The pupil must show an acceptance of the required academic standard and a willingness to achieve and maintain this standard.
- The pupil and his parent(s)/guardian(s) must accept the rules and regulations of the College.
- The parent/ guardian must provide all additional relevant information in a timely manner to allow decisions to be made in the best interests of the pupil and for the efficient discharge of the College's resources.

Applicants must bring a copy of their GCSE or equivalent results slip and their two most recent school reports with them to their interview.

In the event of there being more applicants than places available either in the year group or in an individual subject then the applicants shall be ranked according to a points score for GCSE subject(s) or equivalent according to the following scale, with the higher ranking pupil(s) being offered a place. Numerical scored subjects shall be included according to the respective numerical score achieved from 9 – 1 as outlined below.

A*(9) = 5 points A(8,7) = 4 points B(6) = 3 points C*(5) = 2 points C(4) = 1 point

In the best interests of each pupil, it is expected that a good level of achievement, application, behaviour and attendance is demonstrated at AS level and consideration is given to this as the pupil progresses from AS to A2 Level.