

## ST PATRICK'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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**Website:** [www.spgs.org.uk](http://www.spgs.org.uk)

**Principal:** Mr Joe McCann BEd, MEd, PQH (NI)

**Chairman Board of Governors:** Dr Aidan Hamill

## Voluntary Boys Grammar School

**Age Range:** 11-18

**Admissions No:** 96

**Enrolment No:** 665

If you have any queries regarding the school or its Admissions Criteria please contact the Principal, Mr Joe McCann.

### OPEN EVENING INFORMATION

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, we are unable to provide a first-hand experience of life in St. Patrick's Grammar School through our usual Open Night. Please see our website for information: [www.spgs.org.uk](http://www.spgs.org.uk)

The Board of Governors has determined that preference will be given to pupils who are resident in Northern Ireland at the time of the proposed admission to the school over pupils who are not resident.

To Parents/Guardians naming St Patrick's Grammar School as a preference on their child's Transfer Application.

#### Entrance Assessment Results

PPTC/AQE have cancelled all assessments scheduled for the period 9 January – 27 February 2021.

For those applicants that wish to apply for a place in St Patrick's Grammar School in September 2021, and who had registered to sit the GL Assessment or AQE Assessments, and, as a result of Covid-19, the Assessments were unable to take place, no academic data or scores are required to be submitted. Places will be allocated using the criteria in the following order outlined herein.

### RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL

The Board of Governors draws up the Admissions Criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term, the Board of Governors includes the Admissions Panel appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the Admissions Criteria set out herein.

### ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEAR 8 IN SEPTEMBER 2021

The number of places available in Year 8 is limited to the admission number set by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland (DE) and is currently 96 places. The cut off for admission will therefore be the 96<sup>th</sup> place.

For the academic year 2021-22, the Board of Governors **will not** use academic criteria to select pupils. The Board of Governors will consider applications from boys who were registered to take the entrance assessments anywhere in Northern Ireland provided by GL Assessment (GL) or the Association for Quality Education (AQE).

It is the sole responsibility of the parent/guardian of a prospective pupil to ensure that there is submitted, either on the Transfer Application or together with the Transfer Application, all the information required to enable the Admissions Panel to apply the Admissions Criteria of the school to the application of the prospective pupil. Only evidence submitted either on the Transfer Application or attached to that application at the time of submission to the school, shall be considered by the Admissions Panel in the allocation of a place to the applicant.

Due to the cancellation of the GL/AQE assessments, **all** applicants will be admitted using Criteria (a)-(f) to determine the allocation of places until the admission number has been reached. Please note for entry in September 2021, due to the cancellation of GL Assessment and AQE tests scheduled between 9 January -27 February, academic scores **will not be used** in determining places **for this year only**.

In the event of there being over-subscription, applicants will be admitted using the following criteria in the order given: i.e. (a), then (b), then (c), then (d), then (e), then (f). If, on application of the criteria in order, there is an oversubscription in a particular criterion, then the next subsidiary criterion will be applied to determine the allocation of places.

In applying its criteria, the Admissions Panel will consider the following:

- (a) Applications from boys who were registered to take the entrance assessments anywhere in Northern Ireland provided by GL Assessment (GL) or the Association for Quality Education (AQE).

**The Board of Governors will also consider applications from those applicants who meet the criteria for Special Provision:**

- i. who are transferring from Primary Schools outside Northern Ireland;
- ii. who have received more than half of their primary education outside of Northern Ireland;

**It is the responsibility of parents/guardian/carers to provide precise reasons why the applicant did not register to take part in the GL/AQE assessments and to submit appropriate documentary evidence, stating the case for eligibility under this category, and attach/upload it to the pupil's online transfer application.**

Claims for Special Provision, verified by the child's primary school Principal, should be made on Form SP1 and submitted with the Transfer Application accompanied by independent, verifiable documentary evidence, as appropriate. Using the information provided, the Board of Governors will determine whether Special Provision applies. If it does, those children whom the Board of Governors considers to be eligible, will be considered under Criterion A of the Admissions Criteria.

**Form SP1** is available from the school or its website at [www.spgs.org](http://www.spgs.org). Parents/Guardians wishing to claim Special Provision should forward a completed copy of **Form SP1** directly to St Patrick's Grammar School by **Tuesday, 16 March 2021**. After this date, claims for Special Provision should be made directly to St Patrick's Grammar School, and parents should notify the Education Authority's School Admissions Team. The final date for receipt of new applications/additional information is **Monday, 12 April 2021, no later than 4pm**.

- (b) pupils who are siblings of present or past pupils enrolled at the school at the time of selection; (Name and form of sibling to be stated on the transfer application). [sibling will be defined in accordance with Department of Education guidance]
- (c) pupils who are the eldest boy in the family eligible to transfer to mainstream post primary education. ["Child of the Family" will be defined in accordance with Department of Education guidance].
- (d) Pupils who are transferring from the school's traditional feeder primary schools as listed in **Annex 1**. A pupil from one named school will not be given precedence over a pupil from another named primary school.
- (e) Pupils for whom St Patrick's Grammar School is the nearest Catholic Grammar School which caters for boys. The distance will be measured using the OSNI distance website from the boy's permanent place of residence, in a straight line, to the front gates of the respective schools.

\*In the case of twins, if one twin meets the criteria sufficiently to be allocated a place, the other will be considered as having a sibling at the school, i.e. criterion b.

#### **Annex 1**

A Feeder Primary School is defined as a Primary School from which at least one pupil has transferred to St Patrick's Grammar School within the last 8 years.

All Children's IPS Newcastle	Downpatrick PS	Portaferry IPS
Annsborough IPS	Drumlins IPS Ballynahinch	Sacred Heart PS, Dundrum
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche, Castlewellan	Holy Family PS, Teconnaught	St Bernard's PS, Belfast
Cedar IPS, Downpatrick	Millennium IPS	St Brigid's PS, Downpatrick
Christ the King PS, Drumaness	Our Lady & St Patrick PS, Downpatrick	St Caolan's PS, Darragh Cross

St Colman's PS, Annaclone	St Joseph's PS, Tyrella	St Mary's PS, Portaferry
St Colman's PS, Lisburn	St Macartan's PS, Loughinisland	St Mary's PS, Saintfield
St Colmcille's PS, Downpatrick	St Malachy's PS, Castlewellan	St Matthew's PS, Magheramayo
St Francis' PS, Drumaroad	St Malachy's PS, Kilclief	St Michael's PS, Belfast
St Ita's PS, Belfast	St Malachy's PS, Kilcoo	St Michael's PS, Finnis
St Joseph's PS, Ballycruttle	St Mary's PS Kircubbin	St Nicholas' PS, Ardglass
St Joseph's PS, Carnacaville	St Mary's PS, Aghlissnafin	St Patrick's PS, Ballygalget
St Joseph's PS, Carryduff	St Mary's PS, Dechomet	St Patrick's PS, Ballynahinch
St Joseph's PS, Crossgar	St Mary's PS, Dunsford	St Patrick's PS, Burrenreagh
St Joseph's PS, Killough	St Mary's PS, Killyleagh	St Patrick's PS, Legamaddy
St Joseph's PS, Strangford	St Mary's PS, Newcastle	St Patrick's PS, Saul

- f) Should there be over-subscription at the last criterion that can be applied, selection for all places remaining in this category will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as identified on the Transfer Application. The order will be determined by random selection, witnessed by at least three members of the Admissions Committee on a date prior to receipt of transfer applications.

In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter, the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order using the above randomised selection. In the event of two or more identical surnames the alphabetical (randomised) order of the initial of the forenames will be used. Where names cannot be separated by this process, children will be accepted by date of birth, with preference given to the oldest.

#### **WAITING LIST POLICY AND ADMISSION TO YEAR 8 AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SCHOOL YEAR**

The Criteria used to select pupils into Year 8 prior to the commencement of the 2021 school year will also be used for later entry into Year 8. This will apply should places become available after the start of the 2021 school year.

#### **APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Admissions No</b>	<b>Total Applications <i>i.e. All preferences</i></b>	<b>Total Admissions</b>
<b>2018/19</b>	96	129	*100
<b>2019/20</b>	96	121	*101
<b>2020/21</b>	96	124	*104

\* inc SEN Students

#### **ADMISSION TO YEARS 9-12**

**Available upon request from the school.**