

ST PATRICK'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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Website: www.spgs.org.uk

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

Chairman Board of Governors: Mr Gerard Lundy

Voluntary 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

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

St. Patrick's Grammar School accepts applications from those applicants awarded a grade and an SAS Score by GL in completing the GL Entrance Assessment on **Saturday 13 November 2021** or the Supplementary GL Entrance Assessment on **Saturday 11 December 2021** or a score from the AQE Entrance Assessments on **Saturday 20 November 2021, Saturday 27 November 2021** and **Saturday 4 December 2021**. St. Patrick's Grammar School also accepts applications from those who qualify for Special Provision.

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. Consideration will be given to an applicant's performance in either the GL Assessment or the AQE Assessment before subsidiary criteria is applied.

Special Circumstances

Any Parent/Guardian claiming Special Circumstances must complete the documentation in the Special Circumstances Pack available from St Patrick's Grammar School or from its website. The closing date for registering for Special Circumstances is **Wednesday 15 December 2021 at 2pm**. This documentation, Form SC1 together with the appropriate independent documentary evidence which corroborates the Special Circumstances claim, **must be attached to the Online Transfer Form**.

Special Provision

Claims for Special Provision should be made on Form SP1 and **attached to the Online Transfer Form**. Form SP1 is available from the school or its website. Parents wishing to claim Special Provision should also forward a copy of Form SP1 directly to St Patrick's Grammar School by **Wednesday 23 February 2022 at 4pm**.

For further information, please see sections 1 and 2 below.

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 any Committee or Sub-Committee 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 2022

The number of places available in Year 8 is limited to the admission number set by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland and is currently 96 places. The cut-off for admission will therefore be the 96th place.

For the academic year 2022-23, the Board of Governors will continue to use academic criteria in the first instance to select pupils. The Board of Governors will consider applications from boys who have taken the entrance assessments anywhere in Northern Ireland provided by PPTCNI (GL Assessment) or the Association for Quality Education (AQE).

There is no requirement that an applicant should sit both the GL and AQE entrance assessments. However, in the case of an applicant who sits both assessments, the higher GL PERCENTILE RANK or AQE SCORE will be used to place applicants within the appropriate BAND. (see table below)

The results of the entrance assessments should be provided to the school attached to the Online Transfer Form. **It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to ensure the original copy of the respective result is available with the Online Transfer Form.**

In applying its criteria, the Board of Governors will consider the percentile rank or score of the applicant in the particular entrance assessment or assessment taken in order to allocate that applicant to a Band, as follows:

- Applicants will be admitted in the following order:

BAND	GL PERCENTILE RANK	AQE SCORE
1	60 or above	106 or above
2	50 - 59	103 – 105
3	40 - 49	99 – 102
4	30 - 39	94 – 98
5	20 – 29	88 – 93
6	19 or below	87 or below

- In the event of there being over-subscription within any of the bands as set out above the following subsidiary criteria will be applied in the order given i.e. (a), then (b), then (c), then (d), then (e). If on application of the subsidiary 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.

a) Pupils who have a sibling enrolled at the school at the time of selection or whose sibling has attended the school but is no longer enrolled; (Name and form group of sibling to be stated on the transfer form or the year of leaving for those siblings no longer enrolled). [sibling will be defined in accordance with Department of Education guidance]

b) Pupils who are the eldest eligible boy of the family to transfer to mainstream post primary education*. ["Child of the Family" will be defined in accordance with Department of Education guidance].

A Verification Certificate (S2b) must be completed and submitted with the Online Transfer Form. It must be signed by one of the following who knows the child and family for at least two years and has no familiar relationship with the applicant:

- a primary school Principal
- an elected public representative
- a medical practitioner
- a lawyer
- a member of the clergy

c) 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 preference over a child from another named primary school.

d) 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 (as stated on the Online Transfer Form), in a straight line, to the front gates of the respective schools.

*In the case of twins or other multiples, if one child meets the criteria sufficiently to be allocated a place, the other(s) will be considered as having a sibling at the school, i.e., criterion a.

Annex 1

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

All Children's IPS, Newcastle	St Brigid's PS, Downpatrick	St Joseph's PS, Tyrella	St Michael's PS, Belfast
Annsborough IPS	St Caolan's PS, Darraghcross	St Macartan's PS, Loughinisland	St Michael's PS, Finnis
Bunscoil Bheanna Boirche, Castlewellan	St Colman's PS, Lisburn	St Malachy's PS, Castlewellan	St Nicholas PS, Ardglass
Cedar IPS	St Colmcille's PS, Downpatrick	St Malachy's PS, Kilclief	St Patrick's PS, Ballygalget
Christ the King PS, Drumanness	St Francis PS, Drumaroad	St Mary's PS, Aughlisnafin	St Patrick's PS, Ballynahinch
Downpatrick PS	St Ita's PS, Belfast	St Mary's PS, Dechomet	St Patrick's PS, Burrenreagh
Drumlins PS, Ballynahinch	St Joseph's PS, Ballycruttle	St Mary's PS, Dunsford	St Patrick's PS, Legamaddy
Holy Family PS, Teconnaught	St Joseph's PS, Carnacaville	St Mary's PS, Killyleagh	St Patrick's PS, Saul
Millennium IPS, Saintfield	St Joseph's PS, Carryduff	St Mary's PS, Kircubbin	St. Bernard's PS, Belfast
Our Lady & St Patricks PS, Downpatrick	St Joseph's PS, Crossgar	St Mary's PS, Newcastle	St. Colman's PS, Annaclone
Portaferry IPS	St Joseph's PS, Killough	St Mary's PS, Portaferry	St. Malachy's PS, Kilcoo
Sacred Heart PS, Dundrum	St Joseph's PS, Strangford	St Mary's PS, Saintfield	St. Matthew's PS, Magheramayo

e) 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(s) of the surname as identified on the birth certificate presented at registration for the GL Entrance Assessment by **Friday 24 September 2021**. The order is set out below:

G F D N C S R K Y J U V T A B Q I L Mac Mc P H X E Z W M O

In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter, the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in order using the above randomised selection. In the event of two or more identical surnames the 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.

1. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Special Circumstances usually refers to the claim that as a result of medical or other problems and applicant's performance in the GL / AQE Assessment(s) was affected.

The Admissions Committee will admit pupils strictly in order of the BAND in which they are placed based on the percentile ranking or score obtained in the GL or AQE Assessments. This is subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected performance in the Assessments and which are supported by independent, verifiable documentary evidence which corroborates the Special Circumstances claim (SCR).

Claims for Special Circumstances must have been received by **2pm on Wednesday 15 December 2021** by the Assessment Centre where the applicant took the GL and/or AQE Assessments and uploaded when completing the Online Transfer Form by **4pm on Wednesday 23 February 2022**.

Note on COVID-19

Special Circumstances will not be applied solely due to lost teaching time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Lost teaching and learning is being addressed in the Entrance Assessments 2021 via the assessment methods and the reduction in content assessed. Specific COVID-19 impacts which are unique to the individual may still be applicable to Special Circumstances.

NB: The existence of special circumstances DOES NOT in itself lead to automatic admission to the school. Each case is considered on its own merits by the Admissions Committee.

EDUCATIONAL EVIDENCE:

Please note that sufficient independent, verifiable documentary evidence must be provided by the parents/guardians applying for Special Circumstances and accompany the Online Transfer Form. This should be verified by the Primary School where appropriate to enable the Admissions Committee to reach a decision.

The following information must be provided in relation to the applicant:

- 1) Any available standardised test results in English and Mathematics from the beginning of the Key Stage 2 period.
 - a) These test results must be dated and verified by the Primary School Principal's signature.
 - b) Results from all tests should be accompanied by the name of the standardised test and the supplier of test.
 - c) Results from such Assessment(s) should include scores for English, Mathematics and reading age.
 - d) Any other relevant material.

It is emphasised that the onus is on the parents/guardians to ensure that the above information is provided by the Primary School. Failure to provide such information may result in the school being unable to consider the application for Special Circumstances. Parents have a right to obtain such information under the Education (Pupil Records and Reporting) Regulations (NI) 2009 as amended and also the Data Protection Act. Further information on parents' rights can be obtained from the Information Commissioners Office at www.ico.gov.uk.

Once a decision has been reached, the applicant will then be considered along with all applicants within the same band for the purpose of applying the Admissions Criteria.

2. SPECIAL PROVISION

Special Provision may be made by the Board of Governors for:

- a) applicants who are transferring from primary Schools outside Northern Ireland
- b) applicants who have received more than half of their primary education outside Northern Ireland
- c) applicants whose educational provision to date has been negatively affected by serious medical or other problems which is supported by independent, verifiable documentary evidence and who have not taken the GL Assessment, its Supplementary Assessment or the AQE Assessments
- d) applicants who were entered for the GL Assessment or AQE Assessments but were unable to sit any of these as a result of COVID-19

If a parent / guardian claims that the applicant should be considered under this heading, the Admissions Committee shall consider all evidence submitted on behalf of the applicant.

It is the responsibility of parents / guardians to provide precise reasons and to ensure appropriate verifiable, independent documentary evidence is uploaded with the Online Transfer Application.

Applicants in categories a & b above who wish to apply under special provision do not need to take the GL or AQE Entrance Assessments unless their parents / guardians so wished, in which case, the band awarded would also be considered.

Applicants claiming that special circumstances and/or special provision exist will be considered first. Once a decision has been made the applicants will then be considered along with all pupils of the same Band for the purpose of applying the admissions criteria.

Parents wishing to claim Special Provision should complete Form SP1 available from St. Patricks Grammar School website stating the case for eligibility under this category and upload it as part of the applicants Online Transfer Form. This should be completed by **4pm on Wednesday 23 February 2022**. After this date, claims for Special Provision should be made directly to St. Patricks Grammar School. The final date for St. Patricks Grammar School to accept such requests is **2pm on Monday 4 April 2022**.

The Board of Governors will consider each application for Special Provision. Where this is granted, the Board of Governors will:

- contact parent(s) / guardian(s) of the applicant
- arrange a date and time for the applicant to sit the above assessment in St. Patricks Grammar School. As with the GL Assessment, Special Provision Assessment will also be marked by GL.
- the result of the test will be converted into a Grade / SAS / Band and parents informed.

Where St. Patricks Grammar School is not your first preference school, and you have sat the same acceptable Special Provision Assessment in another school, St. Patricks Grammar School will use the results of that Special Provision Assessment in the Special Provision procedure.

Such applications will **then** be considered with all other applicants who have received a GL / AQE Entrance Assessment Percentile Rank / Score and the Admissions Criteria Applied.

DUTY TO VERIFY

NB - It is the responsibility of parents / guardians to ensure that any information which is relevant to the above criteria, or to special circumstances which they wish to be considered is included on the Additional Information section of the Online Transfer Form. This includes, stating clearly, the names of family members' relationships and the years when they attended the school.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Online Transfer Form. Original documents are required. Photocopies or facsimiles are not acceptable. Applicants should note that the provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by post-primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's Online Transfer Form.

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 2022 school year will also be used for later entry into Year 8 in the event of a place becoming available. This will apply should places become available after the start of the 2022 school year.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8

Year	Admissions No	Total Applications <i>i.e. All preferences</i>	Total Admissions
2018/19	96	121	101
2019/20	96	124	104
2020/21	96	155	118*

* includes those pupils admitted on Appeal and through a Temporary Variation

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 9-12

St. Patrick's Grammar School operates a 'Waiting List' Policy. Please contact the school for further information – info@stpatricks.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk.