

Admissions Criteria for Entry September 2020

SLEMISH COLLEGE

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Principal: Mr M. Bennett BSc(Hons) PQHNI

Chairperson of Governors: Mrs J Jervis BSc(Hons)

Maintained Integrated School

Age range of pupils: 11-18

Admission Number: 140

Enrolment Number: 810

The College will be open for visits by parents and transferring applicants on: -

1. Wednesday 22nd January, 2020 at 7.00 pm

2. Thursday 23rd January, 2020 at 7.00 pm

Students wishing to transfer to the College Sixth Form in September 2020 are also welcome to attend.

To Parents naming Slemish College, (the College) as a Preference on your child's Transfer Form for Academic Based Entry:

Entrance Test Results

Please ensure that you provide the following information on section C of your child's Transfer Form

- GL Assessment Test result with the Cohort Percentile achieved by your child in the GL Assessment test and their candidate number and / or
- AQE Test result with Standardised Score achieved by your child in the AQE test and their candidate number

Special Circumstances

If you are making a claim for your child to be considered under Special Circumstances, please note that you are required to:

- For GL Assessment - Register your claim for Special Circumstances with the College using the Special Circumstances Registration Form (SCR), available from the school at which your child sat the assessment, by Friday 13th December 2019 at 2.00 pm
- For AQE – a Special Circumstances form should be obtained from AQE and attached to the Official Transfer form
- Present all such material as you consider will assist the Board of Governors in determining Special Circumstances when you complete the Transfer Form in February 2020. You should provide full details of the Special Circumstances and independent supporting evidence.

Further details for GL Assessment can be found in the section 'Claiming Special Circumstances' on the College website.

SLEMISH COLLEGE – 2020/21 ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8

Slemish College has been directed to select for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission before any child not so resident may be selected for admission.

The criteria have been determined by the Board of Governors and will be applied by the College's Admissions Committee who have been delegated by the Board of Governors to apply these criteria. Through the application of the criteria the Board of Governors seeks to establish an overall balance between religious affiliations. This is the pre-eminent feature which distinguishes an integrated school from all other schools. The College wishes to cater for academic and all ability entry. With our all ability intake our aim is to effect an intake which is as close as possible to the ratio of 40% Catholic, 40% Protestant and 20% of applicants of other faiths or none ('Other' category), however the College cannot guarantee that the admissions intake for Year 8 will equate to these exact ratios.

Admissions Criteria Stage I - Academic Entry (49 places)

Selection by GL Assessment Result or AQE Assessment Result

For the Academic Year 2020/21 Slemish College will continue to use academic criteria to select applicants for our Stage 1 Academic Entry.

The Board of Governors will consider applications from Primary 7 girls and boys who have taken the Entrance Assessments anywhere in Northern Ireland provided by the Association for Quality Education (AQE) or GL Assessment.

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Applicants will be allocated to a Band in the order stated below – all applicants allocated to Bands will be admitted in priority order of Band I, Band II, Band III, Band IV, Band V, Band VI and Band VII.

There is no requirement that an applicant should sit both the AQE and GL Entrance Assessments, however, in the case where an applicant has sat both Assessments, the Board of Governors will consider whichever outcome places the applicant in the higher Band.

AQE will provide parents with an age-adjusted standardised score for each applicant that has taken that Assessment in Northern Ireland in 2019. The College will use this Standardised Score as set out in the table below, and allocate applicants to a band accordingly.

	AQE Standardised Score
Band I	113 or above
Band II	106 – 112
Band III	103 – 105
Band IV	99 – 102
Band V	94 – 98
Band VI	88 – 93
Band VII	87 or below

GL will provide the results to the entrance assessment to parents as a Standardised Aged Score, a Grade and a Cohort Percentile. The College will use the Cohort Percentile to allocate applicants to a Band as outlined in the table below:

	GL Cohort Percentile
Band I	80 or above
Band II	60 – 79
Band III	50 – 59
Band IV	40 – 49
Band V	30 – 39
Band VI	20 – 29
Band VII	19 or below

or

applicants who, having been considered under the Section on **Special Circumstances/Special Provisions**, are deemed by the admissions committee on the basis of documentation provided by parents to have achieved an appropriate band equivalent.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should attach the original AQE Assessment Result form and/or the original GLA Result form to the Transfer Form.

Selection within a Band

If there are more applicants holding the appropriate Bands than places available for academic based entry, (maximum of 35%) preference will be given at that Band, according to the following criteria, in the order listed until all available places have been allocated:

1. Applicants who have a ‘child of the family’* currently enrolled at the College.

Criterion 1 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 1 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned and used for Criterion 1 applicants to allocate places in ascending order. If not all the places have been filled Criterion 2 will then be applied for the remaining places.

2. Applicants who are the ‘eldest child’ currently in education, who have had a ‘child of the family’* previously attend Slemish College at least until the completion of Key Stage 4.**

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Criterion 2 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 2 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned and used for Criterion 2 applicants to allocate places in ascending order. If not all the places have been filled Criterion 3 will then be applied for the remaining places.

3. Applicants who are the 'eldest child' who are currently enrolled at a grant maintained integrated primary school or controlled integrated primary school, and have attended a grant maintained primary school or controlled integrated primary school for all of Key Stage 2.**

Criterion 3 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 3 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned and used for Criterion 3 applicants to allocate places in ascending order. If not all the places have been filled Criterion 4 will then be applied for the remaining places.

4. Applicants who are the 'eldest child'.**

Criterion 4 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 4 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned and used for Criterion 4 applicants to allocate places in ascending order. If not all the places have been filled Criterion 5 will then be applied for the remaining places.

5. All other applicants

Criterion 5 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 5 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned and used for Criterion 5 applicants to allocate places in ascending order.

* **'Child of the family'** – Article 2(2) of the Domestic Proceedings (NI) Order 1980: 'Child of the family' in relation to the parties to a marriage or parties living together in the same household means:

- A child of both of them; and
- Any other child who has been treated by both of those parties as a 'child of their family'.

'Child of the family' covers:

- A child born to a married couple;
- A child born to a co-habiting couple;
- A child of either of those people by a previous marriage or relationship;
- A child living with same sex partners whether there is a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership Act 2014 or not;
- An adopted or fostered child;
- A situation where, for example, an orphaned cousin is being brought up with a family.

The child should be a child of the family as at the date of the application since these complex living arrangements may change rapidly

** **'Eldest child'** is defined as 'children who, at the date of the application, are the eldest child of the family.' This wording covers 'only' children and is also intended to treat twins (or other multiples) as joint eldest.

The Board of Governors wish for this criterion to cover other circumstances where a family has not had the opportunity to have an elder child enrolled, e.g. cases where a family has moved residence into the area; or cases where an older sibling cannot attend mainstream school, for example attends a special school.

NB. All information relevant to the above must be clearly stated by the parents according to the requirements of the Transfer Procedure conducted through the Education Authority.

In the event that applications considered at Stage 1 exceed the number of places available (35% of the intake), all applications which are not admitted at Stage 1 **will automatically be considered at Stage 2 All Ability Entry.**

Admissions Criteria Stage 2 - All Ability Entry (91 places)

65% of the intake will be selected with no reference to academic selection.

In the application of the criteria set out below the places will initially be divided as follows:

20% Applicants of other faiths or none ('Other' Category)

40% Roman Catholic applicants ('Catholic' Category)

40% Protestant applicants ('Protestant' Category')

Religious affiliation will be determined by information supplied on or with the Official Transfer Form. It is the responsibility of parents to designate students using the wording 'Catholic', 'Protestant' or 'Other' to categorise their child's religion.

In the event that the category is not clearly stated by the inclusion of the wording of 'Catholic', 'Protestant' or 'Other', or where more than one category may be applicable, the Board of Governors will regard applicants from Catholic Maintained Schools as 'Catholic' applicants and applicants from Controlled schools as 'Protestant'. If the applicant has not attended a Controlled, or Catholic Maintained Primary school and the parent has not clearly and unambiguously stated the category, then the Board of Governors will regard the child as being in the 'Other' category. The criteria will be applied first to applicants in the 'Other' category until a maximum of 20% of the places, have been allocated. In the event that less than 20% of the places have been awarded, the balance will be equally divided between Catholic and Protestant applicants. Should an odd number of places remain, the additional place will be allocated to the main category having the greatest number of applicants. The criteria will then be applied separately to Catholic and Protestant applicants. Should there be fewer from either category than there are places available for that category then the balance of places will be allocated to the other category.

Parents should use the Official Transfer Form to provide information to assist the College in the application of its criteria.

NB: The provision of inaccurate, ambiguous or misleading information provided on or attached to any such application, may prejudice the offer of a place and may subsequently lead to the withdrawal of a place awarded to any child who shall be deemed to have gained unfair and improper advantage by submitting such information. **The Board of Governors reserve the right to authenticate and seek verification of the content of any application.** The failure to provide verifying documents according to the required deadline, may result in the inability of the College to offer a place. Applications for admission to the College from students residing within Northern Ireland at the time of proposed admission will take precedence over applications from those not so resident. In the event that there are more applicants for admission than there are places available for Stage 2 admission, the Board of Governors has determined that the following criteria shall be applied.

1. Applicants who have a 'child of the family'* currently enrolled at the College who have selected Slemish College as their First Preference Post Primary school.

Criterion 1 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 1 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned for Criterion 1 applicants and used to allocate places in ascending order. If not all the places have been filled Criterion 2 will then be applied for the remaining places.

2. Applicants who have a 'child of the family'* currently accepted through Stage 1 Academic Based entry for the academic year 2020/21 who have selected Slemish College as their First Preference Post Primary school

Criterion 2 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 2 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned for Criterion 2 applicants and used to allocate places in ascending order. If not all the places have been filled Criterion 3 will then be applied for the remaining places.

3. Applicants who are the 'eldest child' currently in education, who have had a 'child of the family'* previously attend Slemish College at least until the completion of Key Stage 4, who have selected Slemish College as their First Preference Post Primary school.**

Criterion 3 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 3 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned for Criterion 3 applicants and used to allocate places in ascending order. If not all the places have been filled Criterion 4 will then be applied for the remaining places.

4. Applicants who are the 'eldest child', who are currently enrolled at a grant maintained integrated primary school or controlled integrated primary school; have attended there for all of Key Stage 2 and who have selected Slemish College as their First Preference Post Primary school.**

Criterion 4 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 4 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned for Criterion 4 applicants and used to allocate places in ascending order. If not all the places have been filled Criterion 5 will then be applied for

the remaining places.

5. Applicants who are the 'eldest child'.**

Criterion 5 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 5 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned for Criterion 5 applicants and used to allocate places in ascending order. If not all the places have been filled Criterion 6 will then be applied for the remaining places.

6. All other applicants

Criterion 6 will be applied and eligible applicants awarded a place, however if Criterion 6 is oversubscribed, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned for Criterion 6 applicants and used to allocate places in ascending order.

* **'Child of the family'** – Article 2(2) of the Domestic Proceedings (NI) Order 1980: 'Child of the family' in relation to the parties to a marriage or parties living together in the same household means:

- A child of both of them; and
- Any other child who has been treated by both of those parties as a 'child of their family'.

'Child of the family' covers:

- A child born to a married couple;
- A child born to a co-habiting couple;
- A child of either of those people by a previous marriage or relationship;
- A child living with same sex partners whether there is a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership Act 2014 or not;
- An adopted or fostered child;
- A situation where, for example, an orphaned cousin is being brought up within a family.

The child should be a child of the family as at the date of the application since these complex living arrangements may change rapidly

** **'Eldest child'** is defined as 'children who, at the date of the application, are the eldest child of the family.' This wording covers 'only' children and is also intended to treat twins (or other multiples) as joint eldest.

The Board of Governors wish for this criterion to cover other circumstances where a family has not had the opportunity to have an elder child enrolled, e.g. cases where a family has moved residence into the area; or cases where an older sibling cannot attend mainstream school, for example attends a special school.

NB. All information relevant to the above must be clearly stated by the parents according to the requirements of the Transfer Procedure conducted through the Education Authority.

Parents should ensure that all relevant information is included on or attached to the Official Transfer Form, as additional information which is subsequently received will only be considered in the event of a place becoming available after the issue of the initial placement letters.

Special Circumstances and Special Provision Related to Stage 1 Academic Entry Applications only

Special Circumstances

The Admissions Sub Committee will admit students strictly in the order to the Band they obtain in either the GL Assessment or the AQE Assessment, subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected performance in the Assessment(s) and which are supported by documentary evidence of a medical or other appropriate nature. These 'medical or other problems' are commonly referred to as **"Special Circumstances"**.

Sufficient documentary evidence must be provided by the parent. In addition to medical or other appropriate evidence all the applicant's standardised English and Maths scores at Key Stage 2 (preferably P6 and P7 scores) should be submitted and this information should be attached to the applicant's Transfer Form. These scores must be obtained from your son/daughter's Primary School and verified by their School Principal.

In applying their admissions criteria to the Stage 1 Academic Entry, the admission sub-committee of the Board of

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Governors will take claims of special circumstances and special provision into consideration before the application of the criteria set out in Stage 1 Academic Entry.

If you feel that your child's performance in the GL Assessment or AQE Assessment has been affected by a medical or other problem, you should make a claim for GL Special Circumstances directly to the Assessment Centre on Form SCR by **2.00 pm on Friday 13th December 2019**. You should then obtain the Special Circumstances form for GL assessment and attach it with supporting evidence to the Transfer Form.

In the case of the AQE Assessment you should obtain the Special Circumstances form from AQE and attach it with supporting evidence to the Transfer Form.

Having considered applications for Special Circumstances, a decision will be taken by the Admissions Committee as to the Band within which the Applicant will be placed. Criteria as outlined in Stage 1 Academic Entry will then be applied as necessary.

A copy of the Special Circumstances Form(s) should be attached to the Transfer Form.

Special Provision

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

- a whose parents/guardians wish them to transfer to post-primary schools from schools outside Northern Ireland.
- b who have received more than half their primary education outside Northern Ireland.
- c whose educational provision has been negatively affected by serious medical or other problems which is supported by independent verifiable documentary evidence and who have not taken either the GL Entrance Assessment or the AQE Assessment.

Applicants in categories a and b above, who wish to apply under Special Provision do not need to take either the GL Entrance Assessment, the GL Supplementary Assessment or the AQE Assessment unless their parents/guardians so wish, in which case the result(s) obtained would also be considered.

The sub-committee may require an assessment of an applicant's abilities to be carried out by a suitably qualified person or body approved by Slemish College.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to provide precise reasons why the applicant did not take part in the GL Entrance Assessment, the GL Supplementary Assessment or the AQE Assessment and to submit appropriate documentary evidence to the College. Parents/guardians wishing to claim Special Provision should apply in writing to the College directly by **2.00 pm on Friday 13th December 2019**.

The admissions committee will consider each application for Special Provision. Where this is granted, the committee will determine, on the basis of the information available, an appropriate Band equivalent for the applicant. Such applicants will then be considered with all other applicants. Criteria as outlined in Stage 1 Academic entry will then be applied as necessary.

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 Official Transfer Form or appended to the Official Transfer Form by parents. For verification purposes original documents are required and not facsimiles or photocopies. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide any requested verifying documents within the deadline set by the College will result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of the College to offer a place.

It is the responsibility of the Parents to ensure that:

- The Transfer Form and other necessary documentation is correctly completed.
- Any Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision being claimed are properly documented as described in detail above and in the guidance documentation available from the College.
- Any required verification documents are provided within specified deadlines

ADMISSIONS TO YEAR 8 AFTER 1 SEPTEMBER 2020

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Parents who wish to have their child considered for admission in the event of a place arising after 1 September 2020 should write to the Principal clearly stating this.

In the event of such application, the Board of Governors will only make an offer if there is a place available. Should there be more applications than places available, the procedure outlined in the College policy 'Admissions to Slemish College Outside Normal Transfer Processes (Years 8 – 12)' will be applied.

Number of Applications and Admissions			
Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2017/18	140	214	140
2018/19	140	224	145
2019/20	140	270	145

This table does not include children who were admitted to the school with a statement of special educational needs.

The College policy "Admissions to Slemish College Outside Normal Transfer Processes (Years 8 – 12) is available on request from the College