

FOYLE COLLEGE

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Principal: Mr P W J Allen BSc., PGCE., PQH(NI)

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr G Killeen

**Voluntary Grammar School
Non-Denominational**

Co-Educational

Age Range: 11-18

Admissions No: 126

Enrolment No: 850

Roll: 873

Open Evening

Due to guidance in relation to COVID-19 Foyle College will be holding a Virtual Open Night this year. Further details are available on the school's website and provided to all Primary Schools for distribution.

To: Parents/Guardians naming Foyle College, Londonderry as a Preference on your child's Transfer Application.

Supporting Information:

Please ensure that you provide the relevant information to demonstrate how your child meets the admissions criteria in support of their Transfer Application:

- Attach/upload an image of the relevant documentary evidence to the Online Transfer Application

Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision

Specific information required for each of these is detailed in the relevant paragraphs below.

AIM

Foyle College is an academically selective, co-educational, non-denominational Voluntary Grammar School. It is the aim of the Board of Governors, through the application of their Admissions Criteria, that Foyle College will be:

- a school where everyone can feel valued and secure in a caring, happy and healthy community.
- a school where pupils develop academically, athletically and artistically to fulfil their potential and be the best that they can be.
- a school that links with our community and society as an historic, but evolving, institution which values service and inclusion.

FEES

Parental Contribution – This is used to meet the shortfall in funding between what we receive from the Department of Education and we feel must be spent in order to maintain the standard of education offered by Foyle College. The fee is £10 per month by Standing Order for each child you have in school. If you pay Income Tax, this contribution can be Gift Aided which allows the school to claim Basic Rate Tax Relief from HMRC.

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

The Board of Governors has delegated the task of applying the criteria to 'The Selectors' - a committee consisting of the Principal, a Vice-Principal nominated by the Principal, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Chairman of the Education Committee of the Board of Governors and one other member of the Board of Governors, nominated by the Principal, except where a conflict of interest arises with any of the forenamed, in which case another Governor would be nominated by the Principal.

The Board of Governors has determined that, in the event of the number of applicants being greater than the Admissions Number for the school that the Admissions Criteria set out below will be applied in the order shown.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 2021

Recognising that this is an exceptional year due to the impact of COVID-19, and in the absence of suitable academic information following the cancellation of the AQE Ltd assessments, the following criteria will apply for admission to Year 8 for September 2021 only. The Selectors will, based on all the documented evidence available to them at the time of making their decision, admit pupils up to the school's enrolment number of 126 using the criteria below.

1. Foyle College will admit 126 pupils who had registered, and remain registered after 23rd January 2021, to sit the AQE Common Entrance Assessment. Where more than 126 pupils who had registered and remain registered to sit the AQE assessment apply for admission, priority among them will be determined by applying in order the criteria 2 to 6

2. Applicants who, at the date of application, have another child of the family currently enrolled at the school (Name and Form Class of current pupil to be provided)
3. Applicants who are transferring from the school's named contributory primary schools:

Artigarvan	Ashlea	Ballougry	Bready Jubilee
Culmore	Cumber Claudy	Donemana	Drumahoe
Ebrington	Eglinton	Fountain	Greenhaw
Groarty Integrated	Lisnagelvin	Newbuildings	Strabane
Londonderry Model	Oakgrove Integrated		
4. Applicants who at the date of application are the oldest child of the family to be eligible to apply for admission to the school (See Duty to Verify below)
5. Applicants who are entitled to Free School Meals (See Duty to Verify below)
6. Each criterion will be applied in the order set out above. Should the application of the criteria require the fifth criterion to be used and should the number of pupils who satisfy the requirements of the fifth criterion exceed the number of places remaining, then a tiebreaker, using random selection, will be applied. Each application to be considered at this stage is allocated a random number generated within Microsoft Excel; applicants will then be ranked in order of the random number with higher numbers having preference and the remaining places allocated accordingly up the school's admissions number.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's Online Transfer Application.

In the case of an applicant whom it is claimed is the eldest child in the family, a letter of confirmation must be attached or uploaded to the Online Transfer Application. This letter must state that the child is the eldest / first boy / first girl in the family and that the child and family are known to the verifier. The letter must be written on headed notepaper and signed by one of the following who is not a member of the applicant's family and who has known the applicant for at least two years:

- a. a primary school Principal
- b. a medical practitioner
- c. a solicitor
- d. a member of the clergy or PSNI

"Entitled to Free School Meals" will mean pupils who are listed on the Education Authority register as entitled to Free School Meals at the date on which their parent or guardian has submitted their post-primary Online Transfer Application, or at any date up to and including no later than 4pm on 12th April 2021

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

WAITING LIST POLICY

Candidates not admitted at this stage will be held on a Reserve List for consideration should places become available and will be admitted by application of the above criteria.

Parents/Guardians should be aware that the school's Admissions Number is fixed by the Department of Education and that extra places cannot be awarded by Governors.

Note on the treatment of Special Circumstances and Special Provisions

As Foyle College, under normal circumstances, has academic performance as its 1st criterion, subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected performance in the AQE Common Entrance Assessment, as the assessment or any educational evidence is **NOT** a selection criterion for this one year only, due to COVID-19 and the unavailability of a Common Entrance Assessment score, there will be no admission on the basis of 'Special Circumstances'. Applications for Special Circumstances will not be considered. Parents and Carers should familiarise themselves with the remit of the Exceptional Circumstances Body.

Furthermore, as the school has academic performance, in normal times as its first criterion but is not applying this criterion for one year only due to the unavailability of Common Entrance Assessment scores for applicants due to COVID-19, the Admissions Committee is 'standing down' its normal Special Provisions Application.

All applicants to the schools will be prioritised using the criteria 1 to 5 only.

NUMBERS OF APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2018/19	126	175	*129
2019/20	126	173	*132
2020/21	126	175	*133

* Total admissions include pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need and those pupils admitted under the Appeals process.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 9 - 14

- Class sizes permitting, pupils may be admitted into Years 9-14 up to, but not exceeding, the school's maximum enrolment number of 850.
- Preference will be given to pupils applying for a place at Foyle College from outside the school's traditional catchment area especially those families relocating to the area for employment reasons.
- Preference will be given to pupils who have sat the AQE Common Entrance Assessment and whose score would place them within the cohort for which they are seeking admission.
- Pupils who have not sat the Common Entrance Assessment must be able to demonstrate evidence from their previous school of academic ability commensurate with the cohort for which they are seeking admission.
- Pupils seeking admission to 6th Form must have met the criteria for Foyle College's own pupils i.e. a minimum of 10 Points at GCSE (A*=4, A=3, B=2, C*= 1½ , C=1) including Maths & English plus B grades preferably in at least two of the subjects to be studied at A-Level. If a subject is over-subscribed criteria may be enhanced.
- Entering, or returning to, Sixth Form is dependent on a pupil's disciplinary and attendance records.