

ST COLUMB'S COLLEGE

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Principal: Mr FJM Madden BA, MSc, PGCE, PQH (NI)

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr P Kelly BA

Voluntary Grammar School

Boys Age Range 11 – 18

Admissions Number: 220

Enrolment Number: 1540

Roll: 1337

Open Day

As we are not able to hold our usual Open Day for our September 2021 intake, we will be making use of our digital platforms to reach out to our prospective parents and pupils right throughout January, February and March 2021.

In this way we will offer you a variety of opportunities to discover what life is like at St Columb's College.

Please follow us on Facebook (StColumbsCollegeDerry) and Twitter (@ColumbCollege) for further information.

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION

The College seeks a Parental Contribution of £50 per family, which is used to enhance and enrich pupils' educational experience through activities that otherwise could not be financed from the school budget.

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

In order to select pupils for admission in 2021, the Board of Governors has delegated to the authorised Sub-Committee, including the Principal and three Governors, the responsibility for applying these criteria.

ADMISSIONS OF PUPILS TO YEAR 8

Boys who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs will have their application dealt with by the Education Authority under separate arrangements and are supernumerary to the College's Admissions and Enrolment Numbers.

NORTHERN IRELAND RESIDENTS

Applicants who are domiciled in Northern Ireland or who will be so domiciled by the start of the 2021/2022 academic year shall be admitted before applicants who are not domiciled in Northern Ireland or who will not be so domiciled by the start of the 2021/2022 academic year.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 2021

The Board of Governors has determined that, in the event of the number of applicants being greater than the Admissions Number for the school, applicants shall be selected in the order of priority set down below, based on the information provided at the date of application.

1. Applicants of whom a brother* is a pupil in the school or will be in the coming year.
2. (i) Applicants who are the first** boy of the family or,

(ii) in the case of a family which has arrived on or after 1 January 2016 in the College's traditional catchment area (*details of which are to be found in a leaflet available from the College*), applicants who are the first boy to reach transfer age of that family since its arrival in the College's traditional catchment area; or

(iii) Applicants of whom a brother* previously attended the school but has since left.
3. Applicants of whom a parent or step-parent or legally adopted parent is a permanent member of staff of St Columb's College.
4. Applicants other than those satisfying any one of the criteria (1) – (3) above.

If there are more applicants who satisfy any one of criteria (1) – (4) when they are being applied in the order of priority set down above than there are places available, the authorised Sub-Committee shall fill the remaining places by selecting on the basis of initial letter of the surname (as appears on the birth/ adoption certificate) in the order set out below:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
X	G	L	I	A	K	D	W	P	J	Mc/Mac	B	C	Z	U	H	R	N	Y	E	M	F	V	O	T	Q	S

The order was determined by a random selection of letters, witnessed by the Board of Governors. In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in the order set out above.

In the event of two identical surnames, the initial and the subsequent letters of the forenames as they appear on the birth certificate etc. will be used in the order set out above. In the event of over-subscription in the last criterion that can be applied, selection for available places will be decided by lot.

* Brother refers to the phrase ‘child of the family’ as defined in Article 2 (2) of the Domestic Proceedings (NI) Order 1980. The term 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 2004 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 application since these complex living arrangements may change rapidly.

** This would include cases where an older brother cannot attend mainstream school, for example attends a special school.

Advice re the Submission to the Governors of Relevant Information and Documentary Evidence

To enable the Board of Governors to apply the above criteria, it is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all relevant information is given on, or attached to, the EA Post-Primary Application (with the exception of information required to verify an applicant’s age or address). This is particularly important for Criteria (1) – (3) where full details should be provided of siblings who are/will be/have been pupils at the College.

DUTY TO VERIFY

The authorised Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any EA Post-Primary Application. **Therefore, information contained within an application that qualifies the applicant for admission will be verified (See above: ‘Advice re the Submission to the Governors of Relevant Information and Documentary Evidence’).** This information will be requested from those applicants who have been admitted to St Columb’s when they are being notified of their allocation of a place in the school. **(This information does not need to be supplied with the EA Post-Primary Application).**

VERIFYING INFORMATION

To enable the Board of Governors to verify information regarding an applicant’s age or address, information will be requested from those applicants who have been admitted to St Columb’s College when they are being notified of their allocation of a place in the school. The following should be provided:

any **one** of the following five documents **(to verify your son’s age)**:

- The child’s Birth Certificate;
- A letter awarding Child Benefit to the child or another letter relating to this benefit;
- The child’s Medical Card;

Admissions criteria for entry September 2021

- The child's Passport;
- The child's Adoption Certificate.

and any **two** of the following eight documents (**to verify your son's residential address**):

- A bank or building society statement of the parent(s)/guardian(s) or child which shows the address at which the child is resident;
- A utility bill (electricity, gas, Television Licence, telephone {excluding mobiles}) of the parent(s)/guardian(s) which shows the address at which the child is resident;
- A letter awarding Child Benefit to the child or another letter relating to this benefit;
- Driving Licence;
- Addressed payslip;
- Mortgage Statement;
- Rental agreement;
- Land and Property Services Rate demand.

Original documents are required and not facsimiles or photocopies.

All supporting documentary evidence should be supplied to the Education Authority in time for its dispatch together with the EA Post-Primary Applications of first preference to post-primary schools.

All **verifying information** regarding an applicant's age or address should be supplied as requested by the authorised sub-committee of the Board of Governors.

It is emphasised that the onus is on the parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that the above verifying or other information is provided. PARENTS/GUARDIANS SHOULD NOTE THAT THE PROVISION OF FALSE OR INCORRECT INFORMATION, OR THE FAILURE TO PROVIDE VERIFYING OR OTHER DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE BY THE REQUIRED DEADLINE, MAY RESULT IN EITHER THE WITHDRAWAL OF A PLACE OR THE INABILITY OF THE COLLEGE TO OFFER A PLACE.

WAITING LIST POLICY

If a place(s) become(s) available in Year 8 between Friday 18 June 2021 and Friday 24 September 2021 and there are more applicants than there are places available in Year 8, pupils will be selected to fill the available place(s) by applying the criteria for admission of pupils in Year 8. Thereafter, parents/guardians who wish their child to be considered, should a place become available, must make a new application in writing. Should a vacancy arise following this, the admissions criteria above will be applied to select pupils from this waiting list.

NUMBERS OF APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2018/19	220	224	220
2019/20	220	197	197
2020/21	220	205	205

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 9 – 12

CRITERIA FOR THE ADMISSION OF BROKEN COURSE PUPILS (YEARS NINE-TWELVE INCLUSIVE)

The school wishes to accept boys who are suitable for the type of education it offers, and whose parents are in agreement with the Philosophy and Aims of the school and who will give an undertaking of continuing support of the aims and acceptance of responsibility for the pupil's meeting the school's standard of behaviour.

Applications for admission to the school will normally be considered by the Board of Governors in late August. An application for admission to the school for a pupil whose family are arriving from outside the Traditional

Catchment Area (see current Prospectus) to reside within it will be considered by the Board of Governors as soon as practicable after the application is received.

A pupil will be considered for enrolment at the school provided that:

- (1) his admission will not cause the school to exceed its approved enrolment number; and
- (2) in the opinion of the Board of Governors, his enrolment would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources; e.g. the admissions number set for a particular year group would be exceeded.

If, at the time of consideration of applications, there are more eligible applicants than there are places available, pupils will be admitted to the school in the order determined by the application of Criteria (1) to (4) of the school's Admission Criteria to Year 8, applied in the order of priority set down therein. If a place (places) subsequently becomes (become) available after 1st September in any academic year and there are more eligible applicants than there are places available, pupils will be selected to fill the available place(s) by the application of Criteria (1) to (4) of the school's Admission Criteria to Year 8, applied in the order of priority set down therein.

No accommodation will be made for a pupil to repeat Year 12 except where the Governors deem that 'special circumstances' (i.e. medical or other problems which, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, may have affected a pupil's performance in Year 12 or in the GCSE examinations) pertain.