

Admissions criteria for entry September 2017

SLEMISH COLLEGE

Larne Road

Ballymena BT42 3HA

Telephone: 028 2563 0156

Fax: 028 2563 2944

E-Mail: info@slemish.ballymena.ni.sch.uk

Web: www.slemishcollege.org.uk

Principal: Dr P H McHugh, BSc (Hons), PhD, PGCE, PQH (NI)

Chairperson of Governors: Mrs J Jervis BSc(Hons)



Maintained Integrated School

Age range of pupils: 11-18

Admission Number: 120

Enrolment Number: 720

On behalf of the Board of Governors of Slemish College the Education Authority has received a development proposal for an increase in the Year 8 admissions from 120 to 140. If approved the increase is planned to take effect from 1st September 2017.

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

- 1. Wednesday 25th January, 2017 at 7.00 pm**
- 2. Thursday 26th January, 2017 at 7.00 pm**

Students wishing to transfer to the College Sixth Form in September 2017 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 16th December 2016 at 2.00 pm
- For AQE – a SC15 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 2017. You should provide full details of the Special Circumstances and independent supporting evidence.

Further details for GL Assessment can be found in the section 'Access Arrangements and Special Circumstances Policy' on the College website.

SLEMISH COLLEGE – 2017/18 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. The decisions of the Admissions Committee are subject to the final ratification of the Board of Governors. 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. Our aim is to effect an intake which is as close as possible to the ratio of 40% Catholic, 40% Protestant and 20% of pupils 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

Selection by GL Assessment Result or AQE Assessment Result

For the Academic Year 2017/18 Slemish College will continue to use academic criteria to select pupils for our stage 1 Academic Entry.

Admissions criteria for entry September 2017

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.

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 2016. The College will use this standardised score as set out in the table below, and allocate pupils 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

GLA 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 pupils to a Band as outlined in the table below:

	GLA 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

who, having been considered under the Section on Special Circumstances/Special Provisions are deemed by the admissions sub-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 pupils 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 sibling* currently enrolled at the College, living at the same address.

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 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 compulsory education, who have had a sibling previously attend Slemish College at least until the completion of Key Stage 4.

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 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. Children who are the eldest, or only, child of the family, who are currently enrolled at a grant maintained or controlled integrated primary school and have attended a grant maintained 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 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, or only, child of the family.**

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 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 to allocate places in ascending order.

* Sibling is defined as another child of the family (Article 2(2) of The Domestic Proceedings (NI) Order 1980), to include adopted/fostered children, half brothers and sisters and orphaned cousins being brought up with a family and living at the same address.

** Twins and other multiples who are the eldest in the family are treated as joint eldest children.

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 II.**

Stage II - All Ability Entry

A minimum of 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% Pupils of other faiths or none ('Other' Category)

40% Roman Catholic pupils ('Catholic' Category')

40% Protestant pupils ('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 pupils from Catholic Maintained Schools as 'Catholic' pupils and pupils from Controlled schools as 'Protestant'. If the pupil 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 pupils 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 pupils. Should an odd number of places remain, the additional place will be allocated to the main tradition having the greatest number of pupils. The criteria will then be applied separately to Catholic and Protestant pupils. Should there be fewer from either tradition than there are places available for that tradition then the balance of places will be allocated to the other tradition.

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

Admissions criteria for entry September 2017

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.** In the case of a surname, the final decision will be based on the surname shown on the birth certificate, or any subsequent court order. 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 pupils for admission than there are places available, the Board of Governors has determined that the following criteria shall be applied.

1. Children who have a sibling* currently enrolled at the College, living at the same address, 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 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. Children who have a sibling/twin/multiple accepted through Stage 1 Academic Based entry for the academic year 2017/18, living at the same address, 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 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 compulsory education, who have had a sibling 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 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. Children who are the eldest, or only, child of the family, who are currently enrolled at a grant maintained 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 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, or only, child of the family.**

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 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 and used to allocate places in ascending order.

* Sibling is defined as another child of the family (Article 2(2) of The Domestic Proceedings (NI) Order 1980), to include adopted/fostered children, half brothers and sisters and orphaned cousins being brought up with a family and living at the same address.

** Twins and other multiples who are the eldest in the family are treated as joint eldest children.

Admissions criteria for entry September 2017

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 of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the letters of the first forename appearing on the Transfer Form will be used.

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 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 16th December 2016**.

In the case of the AQE Assessment you should obtain the form SC15 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 Sub Committee as to the Band within which the Applicant will be placed. Criteria as outlined in Section A 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 will be made by the Board of Governors for children:

Moving or recently moved to Northern Ireland:

- 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 Transfer Form.

Admissions criteria for entry September 2017

For those applicants currently in P7 in Primary Schools in Northern Ireland, claims for Special Provision should be made on Slemish College's form SP1 and attached to the Transfer Form. The SP1 Form is available from the College or its website. Parents/guardians wishing to claim Special Provision should also forward a completed copy of Form SP1 directly to the College by **2.00 pm on Friday 16th December 2016**.

The sub-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 Section 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 2017

Parents who wish to have their child considered for admission in the event of a place arising after 1 September 2017 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.

If the application is made by a child who arrived in Northern Ireland after the transfer process has been concluded and the College's Admission Committee determines that the child is suitable to be admitted, the College will then seek Department of Education approval to admit the child as an additional place. If such approval is given, the child will be admitted.

Number of Applications and Admissions

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2014/15	120	218	120
2015/16	120	193	120
2016/17	120	202	120

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