



ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY OF STUDENTS – YEAR 9-12

The religious and educational philosophy of St Mary's Christian Brothers' Grammar School for boys is that of a Christian and Catholic School.

It is expected that an application to attend St Mary's will indicate that there is an acceptance to respect the ethos and traditions of the school and to comply with all school rules and regulations.

Grammar schools are required to accept children up to the school's admission number as set by the Department of Education. If that number is exceeded by the number of those applying for places, the Criteria below will be used to select those who will be admitted. The Board of Governors reserves the right to apply to the Department of Education for a reduction in the admission number if it considers that to be educationally appropriate.

- 1 The Board of Governors delegates to an Admission Panel, comprising of the Principal and the Executive Leadership Team with responsibility for School Admission, the application of the admissions criteria to Years 9-12.
- 2 Boys will be considered for admission provided that, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of school resources.
- 3 Boys resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be admitted before boys not so resident.
- 4 Admissions to Years 9-12 will be within the limit set by the School in order not to exceed the overall Enrolment Number or Admission Number for Year 8 agreed with the Department of Education or the limit for the numbers in science classes in Years 9-12.
- 5 Before transfer to Years 9-12 can be contemplated, consultation must have taken place between parents and Principal of pupil's present school. The School will have the right to contact the pupil's present school.
- 6 Candidates for transfer into Year 9-12 should contact the Principal's Secretary for an application form.
- 7 Applicants are required to provide a copy of the most recent school report at the time of application.
- 8 Academic ability is the first criterion for entry to the school, and those seeking admission will be asked to show that they have the capacity to cope soundly with the academic demands of the grammar school. In most cases candidates will be invited into the school to complete a test.

8.1 All prospective pupils will be given a test in English and Mathematics

- 8.2 A rank order of applicants will be drawn up and places offered, where vacancies are identified, to pupils whose performance in the tests indicates that they have the ability to make academic progress in courses which are distinctly academic in content.

For pupils with a Special Educational Need (verified by supporting documentation*), 25% extra time will be allowed for written Mathematics and English assessments. Parents should make the school aware of any Special Educational Need by completing the relevant section of the application form, referred to in paragraph 6 above.

***Examples of appropriate supporting documentation would be:**

- written confirmation of current special educational need by the present school's SENCO on headed notepaper;
- a psychological assessment carried out at the request of the pupil's primary/and or secondary school by a qualified psychologist;
- an assessment by a medical doctor of physical or medical requirements.

- 9 In the interest of successful transition to a new school, as well as GCSE Subject Choices, transfer to Year 12, the year of the principal examinations, is unlikely to be considered.

WAITING LIST POLICY

St Mary's does not operate a waiting list for students who apply for a place and are unsuccessful. Each application is decided upon at the time of receipt.