



ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8 IN SEPTEMBER 2017

OPEN DAY INFORMATION

Saturday 21 January 2017 from 9.30 am-12.30 pm - P7 pupils and their parents are invited to visit the school

TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS NAMING SULLIVAN UPPER SCHOOL ON A TRANSFER FORM.

ENTRANCE TEST RESULTS

Please ensure that you enter the score awarded by the Association for Quality Education (AQE) in the Common Entrance Assessment (CEA) in Section C of the Transfer Form in the following format: **'AQE CEA Score'**, followed by the score and the AQE Candidate Number.

The original notification from AQE indicating your child's CEA score should be attached to the Transfer Form.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES and/or SPECIAL PROVISIONS

If you are making a claim for consideration under Special Circumstances or Special Provisions please apply using Form SC16 which is available both from the school and AQE. All appropriate information including the completed SC16 should be attached to the Transfer Form.

Further details can be found in the section 'Special Circumstances & Special Provisions'.

Capital Fee

The Capital Fee is £140 per annum.

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND HEADMASTER IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL

The school's Board of Governors draws up and publishes the statement of policy and the admissions criteria for admissions to Year 8. The Transfer Procedure and Admissions Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Board of Governors, is responsible for applying the admissions criteria and for admitting or refusing to admit a pupil to the school. The Headmaster will provide the necessary information to the committee, co-ordinate the application procedure and offer professional advice to the committee.

This statement of policy has been adopted by the School's Board of Governors and sets out the criteria which will be used to determine which pupils will be admitted to Year 8 of the school for the 2017/2018 school year.

In this statement of policy, the term 'the School' is used throughout to denote Sullivan Upper School (both the secondary department and the preparatory department). References to the Board of Governors shall include references to the Board's Education Policy Committee and the Board's Transfer Procedure and Admissions Committee.

ADMISSIONS POLICY

The Board of Governors will consider for admission into Year 8 initially only those applicants who have taken the Common Entrance Assessment (CEA) provided by the Association for Quality Education (AQE) and who have been awarded a result in the form of an overall score. The score in the AQE CEA should be entered in Section C of the Transfer Form in the following format: 'AQE CEA score', followed by the score and the AQE Candidate number.

The original notification from AQE indicating the child's AQE CEA score should be attached to the Transfer Form.

Priority will be given to applicants resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission before all applicants not so resident.



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The Board of Governors will **not** use as a criterion for admission the position of preference given to the school by the applicant on the Transfer Form; for example a pupil who has chosen Sullivan Upper School as a second preference (and whose application to their first preference school has been unsuccessful) will be considered in the same way as all first preference applicants.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that all information relevant to the school's criteria is fully reported on the transfer form or attached to that form.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY OF PUPILS INTO YEAR 8 (2017/2018)

- 1 The first 120 places from the admissions total of 150 will be allocated to those applicants who have applied and provided a CEA score [including those to whom Special Circumstances or Special Provisions apply] on the basis of the rank order of their respective scores with those achieving higher scores being allocated places before those achieving lower scores. If several applicants are eligible for the 120th place because they have equal scores then all such applicants will be allocated places up to the school's admission number and on application, if necessary, of the criteria listed in paragraph 2 (below).
- 2 Following the allocation of places as described in paragraph 1 a limited pool of around 45 applicants will be identified from the remaining applicants, again by rank order of their CEA scores [including those to whom Special Circumstances or Special Provisions apply], who are ranked within the highest 165 CEA scores with those achieving higher scores being allocated to the pool before those with lower scores. If several applicants are eligible for the 165th place because they have equal scores then all such applicants will be included within the pool. Then all remaining available places up to the school's admissions number will be allocated from this pool upon application of the following criteria which will be applied in the order in which they are set out:
 - 2.1 Applicants who are entitled to free school meals ["entitled to free school meals" will mean applicants who are listed on the Education Authority register as entitled to free school meals at the date on which their parent/guardian signed the post-primary Transfer Form, or any date up to and including 3 May 2017];
 - 2.2 Applicants who have a child of the family currently enrolled at the school;
 - 2.3 Applicants who are transferring from one of the following schools (listed alphabetically):
 - Glencraig Integrated Primary School
 - Hollywood Primary School
 - St Patrick's Primary School, Hollywood
 - Sullivan Upper Preparatory Department;
 - 2.4 Applicants who are the eldest child to be eligible to be admitted to the school, including only children. [NB: twins and other multiple birth applicants will be regarded as joint eldest.]
 - 2.5 Applicants who are transferring from one of the following schools (listed alphabetically):
 - Clandeboye Road Primary School, Bangor
 - Crawfordsburn Primary School, Bangor
 - Grange Park Primary School, Bangor
 - Kilcooley Primary School, Bangor
 - Knocknagoney Primary School, Belfast
 - Rathmore Primary School, Bangor
 - St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor
 - St Malachy's Primary School, Bangor
 - Strandtown Primary School, Belfast
 - Victoria Park Primary School, Belfast;



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2.6 Applicants who are resident within the Holywood postal district of BT18;

In the event that there are fewer applicants complying with a particular criterion than there are places available or remaining, those applicants complying with that criterion will be admitted and the next criterion will be applied to the remaining applicants.

In the event that there are more applicants complying with a particular criterion than there are places available or remaining, those applicants complying with that criterion will go forward to be considered under the next criterion and those not complying will be eliminated.

2.7 In the event that there are more applicants than there are places available or remaining on the application of the last criterion above (2.6), applicants will be selected for the remaining places on the basis of their CEA scores, those achieving higher scores being allocated places before those achieving lower scores.

If more than one applicant is eligible for the final place because they have equal scores, preference will be given to the applicant whose normal place of residence is located nearest to the front entrance [Belfast Road entrance] of the school by the most direct route by road. The school will be responsible for determining the distance between the pupil's home and the school and will use the RAC Route Planner in conjunction with maps to establish the distance. "Normal place of residence" will be taken to mean the applicant's address appearing in Section A of the Transfer Form.

3 If, following the application of the criteria outlined above (paragraphs 1 and 2), all the available places for admission have not been filled, the Board of Governors will consider any other applications, firstly from applicants who have received a CEA score (those with higher scores being allocated places before those with lower scores), and then from applicants who have not taken the CEA. Allocation of these remaining places, if any, will be by application of the criteria outlined in paragraph 2 above.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS – GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions is so that a child can be assigned a score equivalent to that which he or she would have obtained in the AQE CEA under normal conditions. Consideration of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions consists of 2 parts: the first requires the consideration of whether there is sufficient material to permit a child to be considered as having special circumstances or attracting special provisions, or both; if a child is permitted to be considered as having special circumstances or as attracting special provisions or both, the second part of the consideration requires an educational judgement to be made on the material available so that a mark equivalent to that which the child would have obtained in the AQE CEA under normal conditions can be awarded.

It is for parents/guardians to present all such material as they consider will assist the School in performing both parts of the consideration described above. All such material should be attached to the Transfer Form. It should be noted by parents/guardians that both parts of the consideration referred to involve an exercise in judgement.

Educational Evidence to be provided in support of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions

In reaching the education judgement needed to award the mark that the child would have obtained in the AQE CEA under normal circumstances, the School will consider any material presented (and attached to the Transfer Form) by the parents/guardians. This material may include any or all of the following:

- i the score awarded by AQE in the CEA;
- ii the results for the child of any standardised tests conducted in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7 and the results in any end of year tests in English and Mathematics in Years 5 and 6;
- iii comparative information from the Primary School, including the results, without names, for other children in the child's Year 7 class of any standardised tests conducted in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7



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- and the results in any end of year tests in English and Mathematics in Years 5 and 6 and where available the respective CEA scores;
- iv any other relevant material.

The Information Commissioner's website www.ico.gov.uk contains guidance for parents with regard to how to access information held by schools in relation to their child.

Special Circumstances

Sullivan Upper School has academic performance as its first criterion, subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected performance in the Common Entrance Assessment (CEA) and which are supported by independent documentary evidence of a medical or other appropriate nature. These 'medical or other problems' are commonly referred to as 'special circumstances'.

Please note that if a claim for the consideration of Special Circumstances is made in respect of matters for which Special Access arrangements were granted for a pupil, the School will take into account the fact that the pupil was granted Special Access arrangements for those matters.

Parents who wish to apply to the School under Special Circumstances should complete Form SC16 obtainable from the School or AQE, and attach it, with appropriate documentary evidence, to the Transfer Form.

• **Details of Medical or Other Problems**

Where it is claimed that a pupil's performance in the CEA has been affected by a medical or other problem, it is the responsibility of the parents to set out in the Form SC16 precise details of the problem and append independent evidence of its existence.

Where the problem is a medical one of short term duration which affected the pupil only at the time of the CEA, the School will require the production of evidence that the pupil was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness at the time of the assessments.

Where the problem is of a non-medical nature the parents should append appropriate independent evidence.

A Panel of Governors will consider the application for Special Circumstances. Where this is accepted, the Panel will determine a score for the applicant. In determining a score, the panel will consider all of the academic information available (see Educational Evidence points i to iv above) and, in the absence of comparative information (see point iii above), other equivalent data collected by the school. Such applicants will then be considered with all other applicants who have received a CEA score and the admissions criteria applied.

Special Provisions

Special Provisions will apply for:

- Children whose parents wish them to transfer from schools outside Northern Ireland.
- Children who have received more than half their primary education outside Northern Ireland.
- Children entered for the AQE Common Entrance Assessment, who because of unforeseen and serious medical or other problems which are supported by appropriate independent documentary evidence, were unable to participate in any of the assessments.

Note: It is expected that all those seeking admission should sit the AQE CEA, with the exception of those applicants who take up residence in Northern Ireland after the 9 September 2016.

Parents who wish to apply to the School under Special Provisions should complete Form SC16, obtainable from the School or AQE, stating the precise reason why they believe the applicant is eligible for consideration under Special Provisions. This should be attached to the Transfer Form along with the appropriate documentary evidence.



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A Panel of Governors will consider the application for Special Provisions. Where this is accepted, the following procedure will apply:

- a) The School will consider any accredited assessments and may choose to commission an independent assessment eg of the applicant's ability in English, Mathematics, and Verbal Reasoning.
- b) The Panel will determine a score for the applicant. In determining a score, the panel will consider all of the academic information available (see Educational Evidence points i to iv above) and, in the absence of comparative information (see point iii above), other equivalent data collected by the school. Such applicants will then be considered with all other applicants who have received a CEA score and the admissions criteria applied.

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify qualifying information given on any Application/Transfer form. This evidence will be requested if and when the offer of a place is made. It is not necessary for parents to include verification information with the application. The letter offering a place in Year 8 will specify exactly the evidence required and how this will be disclosed to the school. It is important that all parents/applicants understand that, as stated in the Department of Education's verification procedures (Circular 2013/24) "the provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within deadlines set by post-primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's Transfer Form".

WAITING LIST

The school operates a waiting list policy. For Year 8, all applications for admission to Year 8 that were initially refused [ie in the Transfer Procedure] will be automatically added to the waiting list. Late applications and new applications received after the Transfer Procedure concludes and applications where new information has been provided will also be added to the waiting list. All applications on the waiting list are ranked according to the published criteria for entry of pupils into Year 8 for the academic year for which application is made. The waiting list will be in place until the end of the academic year for which application is made. Parents should contact the school if they wish their child's name to be removed from the waiting list.

Should a place become available after the day on which the Year 8 placement letters have been issued from the Education Authority, the waiting list will be used to select the pupil to be offered a place. The school and/or Education Authority will contact parents in writing if a child gains a place in the school by this method.