



FOYLE COLLEGE

25th January 2021

Dear Colleague

As you will be aware the deadline for the submission of the admissions criteria for Foyle College for September 2021 was 4pm on Friday afternoon. Over recent weeks the Board of Governors has put in many hours of deliberation in an attempt to make the criteria as fair as possible for all those who had applied to sit the AQE Common Entrance Assessment. Unfortunately, those deliberations could not identify a satisfactory source of data that would consistently recognize, and reward, the hard work of your P7 pupils over many months. As a result, the Board will use non-academic criteria to allocate the places for September 2021 with the intention of returning to the use of an assessment for 2022. Below are the sections which I think are particularly relevant to you in the discussions that you will, undoubtedly, be having with the relevant parents from your school.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 2021

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
Culmore	Cumber Claudy	Donemana	Drumahoe
Ebrington	Eglinton	Fountain	Greenhaw
Groarty Integrated	Lisnagelvin	Newbuildings	Strabane
Londonderry Model	Oakgrove		
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 Transfer Form.

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
- b. a solicitor
- c. 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 signed their post-primary Transfer Form, or at any date up to and including 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.

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.

I appreciate that this year's transfer process will be challenging for all of us in the coming weeks and months, but it is the hope of the Board of Governors that these criteria will award places to as many young people as possible as would have been the case in normal circumstances. If you have any questions regarding the information contained in this letter, please contact me at school either through info@foylecollege.derry.ni.sch.uk or on (028) 7126 9321; if I'm not actually in school I will respond as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

