



18 June 2020

Transfer Arrangements to St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon in 2021

The Board of Governors of St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon is acutely aware of the unprecedented circumstances in which we find ourselves and particularly, of the impact that this is having on the educational progress of all of our young people. We want, therefore, to provide as much certainty and clarity as possible to P6 pupils and their parents.

Having considered the issues at length, The Board of Governors of St Patrick's Academy intends to use academic selection as one of its admissions criteria for pupils wishing to transfer to the school in September 2021. The GL Transfer test will be conducted in accordance with the most up-to-date guidance from the Public Health Agency available to schools at that time.

The Board of Governors welcomes the mitigating measures taken by PPTCNI to take account of the disruption experienced by this year's P6 entrants. We hope that parents can be reassured also by the standardisation process.

"The marking and standardisation process carried out by GL Assessment will ensure that the overall outcomes for pupils sitting the Entrance Assessment will be very comparable to those achieved in past years. It will not, for example, be harder to achieve an A grade this year. Every year, regardless of how many pupils sit the Entrance Assessment or of whether the papers prove to be slightly easier or more difficult than a previous year, the marking and standardising processes ensure that similar proportions of pupils will achieve similar grades."
(PPTCNI, 10th June 2020)

The Education Authority requires every school to review its admissions criteria in the Autumn term each year and, accordingly, the Board of Governors will publish its admissions criteria for 2021 in the normal way.

Should there be any change of circumstances, these would have to be considered in the local context and acted upon. Any such change will be communicated to parents at the earliest possible date.

Should it be required, the Board of Governors will develop a contingency plan which will be implemented in the event that the GL Assessment cannot take place. Should such a plan be required, the details will be published for parents in a timely fashion. The school is committed to admitting children in the fairest alternative way that the Board can determine at the time, should the GL Assessment not take place.

The Board of Governors acknowledges that there has been uncertainty around the process for transfer in 2021 and we hope that this provides clarity and assurance for P6 pupils and their parents.

The Principal and Board of Governors of St Patrick's Academy