

STRANGFORD INTEGRATED COLLEGE

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Principal: Mrs Clare Foster, B.Ed (Hons), MBA, P.Q.H.(NI)

Chairperson Board of Governors: Mr R Murray OBE

Grant Maintained Integrated College

Age Range: 11-18

Admissions No: 130

Enrolment No: 760

OPEN EVENING INFORMATION

Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th January 2024 from 7.00pm – 9.00pm. Parents and P6/ P7 children are welcome to attend. Principal's address will be at 7pm and 8pm on both evenings. A separate open afternoon will be held in Spring 2024 for Parents and Year 12 pupils considering transfer to the College for Sixth Form.

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

The Board of Governors draws up the Admissions Criteria and delegates to an Admissions Committee which includes the Principal and Bursar, the responsibility for applying these criteria.

The Criteria have been determined by the Board of Governors and will be applied by the College's Admissions Committee. Through the application of the Criteria, the Board of Governors **seek to establish an overall balance between religious affiliations and academic abilities**. This is the pre-eminent feature which distinguishes an integrated school from all other schools.

The College wishes to cater for Grammar and All-Ability entry. With our all-ability pathway, our aim is to achieve an intake which is as close as possible to the ratio of 35% Catholic, 35% Protestant and 30% of applicants from other faiths or none (Other), however the College cannot guarantee that the admissions intake for Year 8 will equate to those exact ratios.

Strangford Integrated College is an integrated school, Christian in ethos. Our student body represents all faiths and all abilities. Students of Protestant and Catholic backgrounds, all other faiths and none are not only welcome at Strangford Integrated College but they also enrich the highly successful school that Strangford Integrated College has become. The College also aims to care for and meet the needs of children of all abilities, at a learning pace that is appropriate to help each individual child flourish and achieve their potential. We are truly **a school for all the family**.

STRANGFORD INTEGRATED COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8 for SEPTEMBER 2024

For September 2024 entry, Parents naming Strangford Integrated College as a preference on their child's transfer application for the *Grammar Pathway* entry must provide a scan of their child's original SEAG test result. This is not required for All-Ability Pathway entry.

Strangford Integrated College has been directed to select for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission before any applicant not so resident may be selected for admission. Parents naming Strangford Integrated College as a preference on the transfer application must include their child's religious affiliation. Religious affiliation will be determined by information supplied by the parent/guardian on the Transfer Application. It is the responsibility of parents to designate children using the wording 'Catholic', 'Protestant' or 'Other' to categorise their child's religion.

Applications will be considered in two stages:

Stage 1 Grammar Pathway (35% (46 places) of the intake will be selected by reference to SEAG tests only)

Stage 2 All-Ability Pathway (65% (84 places) of the intake will be selected with no reference to the SEAG test)

Parents only need to make one application to the College. Applications accompanied by a SEAG score will first be considered for Stage 1 Grammar pathway. Those applications not accompanied by a SEAG score will be considered for Stage 2 All-Ability pathway along with those applications which have not gained a place in Stage 1 Grammar Pathway.

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria, punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 30th January 2024 at 12 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 22nd February 2024 at 12 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on 22nd February 2024 and up to 4pm on 4th March 2024 will be treated as a late application.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA - STAGE 1 GRAMMAR PATHWAY ENTRY (35% (46 PLACES) OF THE INTAKE WILL BE SELECTED BY REFERENCE TO SEAG TESTS ONLY)

For 2024/25 entry, Strangford Integrated College will select applicants based on SEAG Scores – Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS).

The Board of Governors will consider applications from Primary 7 children who have taken the SEAG test anywhere in Northern Ireland. Parent/Guardian(s) should upload a scan of the original SEAG assessment result with the transfer application.

The 46 places will be allocated in accordance with the rank order of Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) achieved in the SEAG assessment (Highest score first).

If places remain following the allocation of places based on TSAS, these places will be allocated to the All-Ability Pathway.

If there are more applicants than there are places available and more than one applicant is ranked equal on the SEAG score for the final place or places, priority between applicants will be determined by the application of the criteria below:

1 Applicants who have a sibling currently enrolled at the College.**

Criterion 1 will be applied, and eligible applicants awarded a place. If Criterion 1 is oversubscribed, Criteria 3 & 4 will be applied in that order.

2 Applicants who are the eldest* or only child of the family****.**

Criterion 2 will be applied, and eligible applicants awarded a place. If Criterion 2 is oversubscribed, Criteria 3 & 4 will be applied in that order.

3 Applicants who are transferring from either a grant maintained or controlled integrated primary school.

Criterion 3 will be applied, and eligible applicants awarded a place. If Criterion 3 is oversubscribed, Criterion 4 will then be applied for the remaining places.

4 Selection for any places remaining will be based on a unique random computerised number* (which will be allocated on receipt of applications from EA Connect). The random computerised number* will be used to allocate remaining places in ascending numerical order.

*Any reference in the criteria to the unique random computerised number refers to a list of unique random computerised numbers in the range of 1-500, which is generated by a computerised programme 'Randomizer.org' and verified by the College's Board of Governors by 30th November 2023, before the Transfer 2024 process begins.

If the number of applications considered at Stage 1 exceed the number of places available, the remaining applications will automatically be considered for Stage 2 All-Ability Entry.

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

Special circumstances (SC) may arise in relation to an applicant for admission who has achieved a score in the SEAG assessment but where their parent claims that their performance has been affected because of medical or other problems.

A parent who wishes to apply for consideration for special circumstances on behalf of an applicant should do so by:

1. Downloading SC Form from the College's website
2. Completing the SC form and uploading with your transfer application together with:
 - a. Detailed evidence to demonstrate how your child has been impacted together with all necessary documentary evidence, independent where possible, medical, or otherwise, where medical means examined by a GP or other suitably qualified medical practitioner in relation to the illness /condition, and
 - b. Detailed evidence of the applicant's educational performance, including PTE and PTM scores over the past 3 years (P5 – P7)

The school must receive applications for Special Circumstances with or at the same time as the Transfer application.

The admissions committee of the Board of Governors will take claims for special circumstances into consideration before the application of the criteria. Where this is granted, the committee will determine and assign, on the basis of the information available, an appropriate Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) for the applicant. Such applicants will then be considered with all other applicants who have received a Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) using criteria as outlined in Stage 1 Grammar Pathway entry.

SPECIAL PROVISION

Special provision (SP) may be made by the Board of Governors for children:

- a. Whose parents/carers 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 impacted by a serious medical or other problem which is supported by independent verifiable documentary evidence and who were not able to sit both the SEAG Entrance Assessment papers or who have an estimated outcome from SEAG because they only sat one of the two SEAG Entrance Assessment papers.

Applicants in categories a & b above, who wish to apply under Special Provision do not need to take the SEAG assessment unless their parent/guardians so wish, in which case the result obtained would also be considered.

The sub-committee may require an applicant to sit an independent assessment approved by Strangford Integrated College.

Parents/guardians are responsible for providing precise reasons why the applicant did not take part in the SEAG assessment and for submitting appropriate documentary evidence to the College. Parents/guardians wishing to claim Special Provision should download the Special Provision form (SP Form) available from the College's website. This form along with documentary evidence should be submitted with their child's transfer application.

The admissions committee will consider each application for Special Provision. Where this is granted, the committee will determine, based on the information available, an appropriate TSAS. Such applicants will then be considered with all other applicants using criteria as outlined in Stage 1 Grammar entry.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA - STAGE 2 ALL-ABILITY PATHWAY ENTRY (65% (84 PLACES) OF THE INTAKE WILL BE SELECTED WITH NO REFERENCE TO THE SEAG TEST).

Places are first allocated to students in the 'Other' category using the criteria detailed below until a maximum of 30% (25 places) have been allocated. If less than 30% (25 places) have been awarded, the balance will be equally divided between Catholic and Protestant applicants. Should an odd number of places remain, the additional place will be allocated to the main religious tradition having the greatest number of applications. Should there be fewer applications from either tradition then the balance of places will be allocated to the other tradition.

Religious affiliation will be determined by information supplied on the transfer application. It is the responsibility of parents to designate students using the wording 'Catholic', 'Protestant' or 'Other' to categorise their child's religion.

If there are more students for admission than there are places available, **the Board of Governors has determined that the following criteria shall be applied to the applicants in each of the three religious categories.**

1 Applicants who have placed Strangford Integrated College as first preference.

Criterion 1 will be applied, and eligible applicants awarded a place. If Criterion 1 is oversubscribed, Criteria 2, 3, 4 & 5 will be applied in that order.

2 Applicants who have a siblingcurrently enrolled at the College.**

Criterion 2 will be applied, and eligible applicants awarded a place. If Criterion 2 is oversubscribed, Criteria 4 & 5 will be applied in that order.

3 Applicants who are the eldest*, or only child of the family****.**

Criterion 3 will be applied, and eligible applicants awarded a place. If Criterion 3 is oversubscribed, Criteria 4 & 5 will be applied in that order.

4 Applicants who are transferring from either a grant maintained or controlled Integrated Primary School.

Criterion 4 will be applied, and eligible applicants will be awarded a place. If Criterion 4 is oversubscribed, Criterion 5 will then be applied for the remaining places.

5 Selection for any remaining places will be based on a unique random computerised number* (which was allocated on receipt of applications) and will be used to allocate remaining places in ascending numerical order.

*Any reference in the criteria to the unique random computerised number refers to a list of unique random computerised numbers in the range 1-500 which is generated by a computerised programme 'Randomizer.org' and verified by the College's Board of Governors by 30th November 2023, before the Transfer 2024 Process begins. A unique random computerised number will be added to each application on the spreadsheet of applications downloaded from EA Connect.

** 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 siblings and orphaned cousins being brought up with a family. The name and date of birth of the child of the family the application is being linked to must be included on the application.

*** Eldest child is defined as children who at the date of application, are the eldest child of the family. This wording covers 'only' children and is also intended to treat twins (or other multiples) as joint eldest. The Board of Governors wish for this criterion to cover other circumstances where a family has not had the opportunity to have an elder child enrolled, e.g. cases where a family has moved residence into the area; or cases where an older sibling cannot attend mainstream school, e.g. attends a special school. Applicants who are an eldest/ only child must satisfy the verification requirements as set out below:

The verifying letter must state that the child is the eldest/only child and confirm that the 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:

- A school principal
- A medical practitioner
- A solicitor
- A member of the clergy.

**** Child of the family is defined by the Department of Education Circular 2022/15:

Any criterion with reference to 'child of the family' will be defined in relation to parties living together in the same household, interpreted in accordance with Annex 2 paragraphs 3-5 of 'The Procedure for Transfer from Primary to Post-Primary Education' where it is stated that: 'The Department considers that 'child of the family' covers:

- A child born to a married couple or a couple in a civil partnership;
- A child born to a co-habiting couple;
- A child born to a single parent;
- A child of either/any of those people by a previous marriage, civil partnership or relationship;
- A child living with a couple who has been treated as a 'child of the family whether there is a marriage or civil partnership or not;
- A child living with an individual, who has been treated as a 'child of the family';
- An adopted or fostered child;
- A situation where for example an orphaned cousin is being brought up with a family or individual.'

The Child should be a child of the family as at the date of application.

Twins or other multiples will be treated as joint eldest.

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserve the right to authenticate or verify supplementary evidence to support or verify information on the transfer application or appended to the transfer application by parents/carers. For verification purposes, original documents are required and not facsimiles or photocopies.

The failure to provide verifying documents according to the required timescales, may result in the inability of the College to offer a place. All information must be clearly stated by the parents in accordance with the requirements of the Transfer Procedure conducted through the Education Authority.

It is the responsibility of the Parents/Carers to ensure that:

- **The transfer application is correctly completed.**
- **All relevant information is included on or uploaded with the transfer application *including the religion of the applicant.***
- **Any required verification documents are provided within specified deadlines.**

WAITING LIST POLICY

The Board of Governors make provision for a Waiting List for applicants that were initially refused, new applicants, late applicants and applicants where added information has been provided. Should a place become available between the conclusion of the transfer process and 31st August 2024, it will be filled from the Waiting List using the College Admissions Criteria.

From 1st September 2024, Parents/Carers who wish to have their child considered for The College’s waiting list should write to the College Admissions Officer clearly stating this.

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

Further information about Strangford Integrated College can be obtained from the school office or the College’s Admissions Officer.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Year	Admissions No	Total Applications <i>i.e. All preferences</i>	Total Admissions
2021/22	130	223	130
2022/23	130	261	135*
2023/24	130	241	131*

*Additional students admitted by appeal/exceptional circumstances

(Students admitted with Statements of Educational Needs under the Code of Practice are not included in the above admission number)

Admissions outside of this process

The College has a policy on ‘Admission to the College Outside Normal Transfer Processes.’ A copy of this policy is available from the College website www.strangfordcollege.net