

**FOYLE COLLEGE**

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Londonderry BT47 6LR

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**Website:** www.foylenet.org.uk

**Acting Principal:** Mrs D McLaughlin BSc., PGCE., Med., PQH(NI)

**Chairperson of the Board of Governors:** Archdeacon R Miller

**Co-Educational, Non-Denominational, Voluntary Grammar School**

**Age Range:** 11-18

**Admissions No:** 126

**Enrolment No:** 850

**Roll:** 882

**Open Evening**

**6.00pm, Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

**To: Parents/Guardians naming Foyle College, Londonderry as a Preference on your child’s Transfer Application.**

**Entrance Test Results:**

Please ensure that you provide the following information in the appropriate section of your child’s Transfer Application:

- Upload the results slip for your child, which you have downloaded from your dashboard from the Schools’ Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG) Website (seagni.co.uk) to the-Online Transfer Application.
- Record/upload/enter your child’s SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) on the Online Transfer Application.

**Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision**

Specific information required for each of these is detailed in the relevant paragraphs below.

- Information for a claim for Special Circumstances, as detailed below, should be uploaded to the Online Transfer Application and sent to the school with that application.
- Information for consideration under Special Provisions, as detailed below, should be received by the school by 4.00pm, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

**AIMS OF THE SCHOOL**

Foyle College is an academically selective, co-educational, non-denominational Voluntary Grammar School. It is the aim of the Board of Governors, through the application of their Admissions Criteria, that Foyle College will be:

- a school where everyone can feel valued and secure in a caring, happy and healthy community.
- a school where pupils develop academically, athletically, artistically and technologically to fulfil their potential and be the best that they can be.
- a school that links with our community and society as a historic, but evolving, institution which values service and inclusion.

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

The Board of Governors has delegated the task of applying the criteria to ‘The Selectors’ - a committee consisting of the Principal, a Vice-Principal nominated by the Principal, the Chairman of the Board of Governors, the Chairman of the Education Committee of the Board of Governors and one other member of the Board of Governors, nominated by the Principal, except where a conflict of interest arises with any of the forenamed, in which case another Governor would be nominated by the Principal.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that ALL information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school’s admissions criteria is provided to the School, either on the online transfer application or uploaded with it. When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will ONLY take into account information which is detailed on or uploaded with the online transfer application.

The Board of Governors has determined that, in the event of the number of applicants being greater than the Admissions Number for the school that the Admissions Criteria set out below will be applied in the order shown.

Foyle College will not use as a criterion the position of preference given to the School on the online transfer application for example, a child who has chosen Foyle College as a second preference school will be considered in the same way as all first preference applicants.

Please note: sibling is defined as another 'child of the family'. This includes: 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 it is a marriage or a 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; or, a situation where for example an orphaned cousin is being brought up with a family or individual.

#### ADMISSIONS CRITERIA 2024

The Selectors will, on the basis of all of the documented, provided in the online application process, admit pupils using the following criteria:-

- 1 Applicants who will be resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be considered before other applicants.
- 2 Applicants will be admitted in relation to their Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) in the SEAG Assessment, as reported by SEAG, as amended under Special Circumstances, or allocated under Special Provisions, in rank order, highest mark first.
- 3 If there are more applicants with a particular mark than places remaining, then pupils at that mark will be selected by applying the following criteria in the order set down:

**3.1** Applicants who have a sibling ('child of the family' as defined above) who is a pupil in the school or will be in the academic year under consideration at the time of application;

**3.2** Applicants who are transferring from the following contributory primary schools:

Artigarvan	Ashlea	Ballougry	Bready Jubilee
Culmore	Cumber Claudy	Donemana	Drumahoe
Ebrington	Eglinton	Fountain	Greenhaw
Londonderry Model	Lisnagelvin	Newbuildings	Strabane
Oakgrove Integrated			

**3.3** Applicants who are the eldest child in the family, as evidenced on the Online Transfer Application;

**3.4** Other applicants ranked by Date of Birth - eldest first. **Note:** Should two or more such applicants have the same Date of Birth, the initial letter of the surname in alphabetical order as it appears on the Birth Certificate will be used.

- 4 In the event of there being fewer applicants for admission with SEAG Assessment marks than the school's Admissions Number, the above criteria will also be applied to applicants who did not sit the test. The Selectors reserve the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Application Form/Transfer Application. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by the school can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of the school as nominated on the applicant's Transfer Application.

When applying the above criteria, should the number of pupils who satisfy the requirements of any criterion exceed the number of places remaining, then the candidates will be listed by Date of Birth, eldest first, and admitted in that order. **Note:** Should two or more such applicants have the same Date of Birth, the initial letter of the surname in alphabetical order as it appears on the Birth Certificate will be used.

#### **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 Online Transfer Application.

In the case of an applicant whom it is claimed is the eldest child in the family, a letter of confirmation must be uploaded to the Online Transfer Application. This letter must state that the child is the eldest 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
- c. a solicitor
- d. a member of the clergy or PSNI

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.

#### **WAITING LIST POLICY**

Candidates not admitted at this stage will be held on a Reserve List for consideration should places become available and will be admitted by application of the above criteria.

**Parents/Guardians should be aware that the school's Admissions Number is fixed by the Department of Education and that extra places cannot be awarded by Governors.**

#### **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

The purpose of a claim for Special Circumstances is so that a child who has sat the SEAG Assessment, and whose performance may have been affected by medical or other problems, can be assigned a score, by the Selectors, equivalent to that which he/she would have obtained in the SEAG Assessment under normal circumstances.

Applicants claiming under Special Circumstances i.e. that medical or other problems affected the performance of their child at the time of the test(s) should complete a **Form SC** available from the school website. The Selectors will expect that parents/guardians will provide supporting medical or other evidence which would set out the likely impact of the problem or difficulty on the child's performance in the test(s). Parents/Guardians should also supply documentary evidence, e.g. drawn from results of any standardised tests conducted in P5, P6 or P7 that would indicate that the child's academic ability is greater than the outcome of the SEAG Assessment would suggest. The Selectors will consider whether there is sufficient material to permit a child to be considered as having Special Circumstances. Such consideration requires an educational judgement to be made so that a Score equivalent to that which the child would have obtained in the SEAG Assessment under normal conditions can be awarded. Where Special Circumstances are accepted, the Selectors will determine, on the basis of the information provided in comparison with the performance of other applicants, the score for the pupil. Such pupils will then be considered with all other pupils who have received a SEAG Assessment score, and the Admissions Criteria will be applied.

It is the responsibility of parents/carers to present such material as they consider will assist the school in performing both parts of the consideration described above. It should be noted by parents/guardians that both parts of the consideration referred to involve an exercise in judgement by the admissions panel and not precise calculation.

#### **SPECIAL PROVISION**

Applicants claiming under Special Provision should complete a **Form SP** available from the school website. Special Provision applies to:

- (i) children who have received more than half their primary education\*\* outside Northern Ireland; or  
*\*\*based on the time from the start of Primary 1 (1<sup>st</sup> September 2017) to the 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 i.e. more than 3 years and 3 months.*
- (ii) children whose parents/guardians wish them to transfer to a post-primary school that uses the SEAG Entrance Assessment from a school outside Northern Ireland; or
- (iii) children, who due to a serious medical or other problem, which are supported by appropriate documentary evidence, were EITHER unable to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment OR have an estimated outcome because they only sat one of the two Entrance Assessment papers.

Please note that it may not be possible to process claims for Special Provisions after **4.00pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024**. The Selectors will consider the application for Special Provisions. Where Special Provisions are accepted, the Selectors will determine on the basis of the information available, including comparative data, an appropriate

score for that pupil. The Selectors may require an assessment of an applicant’s abilities to be carried out using an additional assessment provided by a body approved by the School. Such pupils will then be considered with all other pupils who have received a SEAG Assessment score and the Admissions Criteria applied.

***The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Application Form/Transfer Application. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by the school can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of the school as nominated on the applicant’s Transfer Application.***

**Parents/Guardians should be aware that the school’s Admissions Number is fixed by the Department of Education and that extra places cannot be awarded by Governors.**

**NUMBERS OF APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Admissions No.</b>	<b>Total Applications All Preferences</b>	<b>Total Admissions</b>
<b>2021/22</b>	126	155	*128
<b>2022/23</b>	126	177	*130
<b>2023/24</b>	126	141	*132

\* Total admissions include pupils with a Statement of Special Educational Need and those pupils admitted under the Appeals process.

**ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR ENTRY TO YEARS 9 – 12**

- Class sizes permitting, pupils may be admitted into Years 9-14 up to, but not exceeding, the school’s maximum enrolment number of 850.
- Preference will be given to pupils applying for a place at Foyle College from outside the school’s traditional catchment area especially those families relocating to the area for employment reasons.
- Preference will be given to pupils who have sat the Common Entrance Assessment and whose score would place them within the cohort for which they are seeking admission.
- Pupils who have not sat the Common Entrance Assessment must be able to demonstrate evidence from their previous school of academic ability commensurate with the cohort for which they are seeking admission.