



**St Patrick's Primary School & Nursery**  
Bunscoil Naomh Pádraig  
Coilleach Eanách

Principal: Mr P.Quinn  
Email: pquinn475@c2kni.net

11 Tullynavall Road  
Cullyhanna  
Newry  
Co. Down  
BT35 0PZ  
Tel/Fax: 02830861608

### Primary Six - Transfer Procedure

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am sure you are aware that grammar schools in Newry will use academic selection for the September 2024 intake.

Parents who plan for their child to attend St Joseph's Crossmaglen, St Paul's Bessbrook or St Patrick's Boys' Grammar in Armagh do not need to sit an entrance assessment.

Children wishing to attend a Grammar school in Newry in September 2024 will have to register and sit an Entrance assessment test. This year a single entrance exam is planned across Northern Ireland with slight changes in the format of the exam. The Entrance Assessment will be held on two Saturday mornings in November and pupils must be registered to sit the test. Please see the letter attached from the Grammar schools in Newry with information about the process.

As most of our pupils transfer to St Joseph's in Crossmaglen, any entrance test preparation is facilitated outside of normal school teaching. This continues what was in place last year.

Our current P7 teacher, Miss Donnelly will facilitate an after-school class focused on the Entrance assessment preparation. All Pupils, intending to sit the transfer test or not, can attend a weekly hour long after school's class where past papers will be issued and completed. Specific topics and exam techniques will also be a focus of the class. Pupils will pay £2 per class to attend.

We intend to begin the classes for interested P6 pupils starting on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> of May**. The classes will continue until Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> June. The after-school class will also be on from Sept-November. A summer pack of work will also be made available to those who request it. These classes are entirely voluntary, and any work issued must be completed along with any other homework issued by the P6 teacher.

Please complete the form below and return to school so preparations can be made for the first after school class.

If you would like a meeting to discuss your child's transfer or would like any advice, information about the process, please contact the school office and I will arrange a time to meet you.

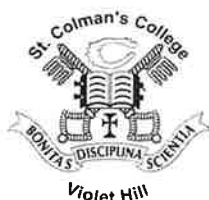
P.Quinn

Single Entrance Assessment test - After school class

Pupil Name \_\_\_\_\_

My child will / will not (delete as appropriate) be attending the classes starting on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Classes cost £2 per pupil each week.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Parent



2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

Dear P6 Parents/Guardians,

The **Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG)** is open to all post-primary schools in Northern Ireland which use academic selection for all or part of their Year 8 intake. SEAG includes Controlled and Voluntary Grammar Schools and Integrated Schools in its membership. The purpose of this letter is to offer a reminder that registration will open on **Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023** for parents/guardians who wish to enter their P6 child for SEAG Entrance Assessments in November 2023.

The five grammar schools in the Newry and Kilkeel area which previously operated as the Newry Kilkeel Consortium for the GL Assessment; i.e. Abbey Grammar School, Our Lady's Grammar School, Sacred Heart Grammar School, St. Colman's College, Newry and St. Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel will use the outcomes from the SEAG Entrance Assessments as part of their admissions criteria for admission to Year 8 for the academic year 2024-25. In the case of St. Louis Grammar School, which is a bilateral school, up to 40% of its intake will use SEAG outcomes as the basis of selection, with applicants from Lower and Upper Mourne not required to use SEAG outcomes to gain entry.

All information in relation to the registration process, the associated £20 cost, the nature of the assessment, sample papers and access arrangements is available on the SEAG website [www.seagni.co.uk](http://www.seagni.co.uk). This link will also be available on each school's website.

Parents and guardians are reminded that only pupils who have been registered to sit the Entrance Assessment by 5.00pm on **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023** will be able to sit the Assessment and there is no late registration after the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023 deadline.

The dates of the assessments are **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023** and **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023**. It is important to note that the SEAG Entrance Assessment Papers consists of **two** Assessment Papers taken a fortnight apart. Pupils sit both papers, it is not a choice between sitting Paper 1 or Paper 2. Both papers assess English (or Gaeilge) and Mathematics and both have an identical format.

In a change to arrangements which primary schools and parents/guardians may have been familiar with, all administration is being carried out centrally and online by SEAG. As part of the application process, parents/guardians select the school in which they would like their child to sit the assessment. It is important to note that the choice of assessment centre has no bearing on the school(s) that parents/guardians select as part of the admissions process. Pupils opting to use the Gaeilge version of the SEAG Entrance Assessment in our area, must select the Abbey Grammar School as their assessment location.

This information is being brought to your attention if you are considering registering for the SEAG Entrance Assessment.

Each individual school's Admissions Criteria will be published by the EA in January 2024.

With best wishes

**The Principals of Abbey Grammar School, Our Lady's Grammar School, Sacred Heart Grammar School, St. Colman's College Newry and St. Louis Grammar School Kilkeel**



# The SEAG 2023 Entrance Assessment –

## A Summary for Parents and Guardians

- Every post-primary school in N. Ireland which uses academic selection is a member of SEAG and plans to use outcomes from the 2023 Entrance Assessment within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria.

### Registration

- Registration is through a portal on the website [www.seagni.co.uk](http://www.seagni.co.uk) and the registration period runs from **9.00am Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023 to 5.00pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023.**
- Parents/ Guardians first register themselves to create an account with SEAG and then complete a Pupil Application to register their child.
- **There is NO late registration after the 5.00pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September deadline.** Only pupils who have been registered by then can sit the SEAG 2023 Entrance Assessment. If a pupil has not been registered he / she will NOT be able to sit the Entrance Assessment.
- When registering your child, the name and date of birth **must be identical to** the birth certificate information; you must provide a copy of the birth certificate and a passport sized photograph to confirm identity.
- During the pupil registration process you will be able to request Access Arrangements but you must provide supporting documentation with your request.
- During the pupil registration process you are required to pay a non-refundable administration fee of £20 through a secure online payment method. Those entitled to Free School Meals (FSME) are exempt from the administration fee, but must provide necessary verification of FSME status.

### SEAG Entrance Assessment Papers

- The Entrance Assessment consists of two Papers taken a fortnight apart – **Sat. 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023 and Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> November 2023.** The format is the same as for the Practice Papers and is set out in the SEAG website.
- Pupils sit **both** Papers. It is not a choice between sitting Paper 1 or Paper 2.
- Invigilators tell the pupils when they can start the Main Test and pupils will have 60 minutes\* to work through the paper (\*unless granted additional time through Access Arrangements).
- Each pupil is free to start with the English (or Gaeilge) or the Maths.

### SEAG Outcomes

- These will be available **online** from Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024.
- The key outcomes which are most likely to be used by SEAG schools within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria are the **Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS)** and the **Band**.
- The TSAS is the overall outcome based on answers to all the questions in Papers 1 and 2.
- The Total SAS range will be 138-282 with a mean (or average) of 200. An SAS takes account of a child's age when he/she took the assessment, the number of correct answers and the difficulty of the assessment.
- There will be six Bands – Band 1, Band 2, Band 3, Band 4, Band 5 and Band 6.

| SEAG Band         | 1    | 2      | 3      | 4      | 5      | 6    |
|-------------------|------|--------|--------|--------|--------|------|
| Cohort Percentile | 60%+ | 50-59% | 40-49% | 30-39% | 20-29% | <20% |

60%+ (Band 1) means pupils who are in the top 40% of those who sat the Assessment; 50-59% (Band 2) means pupils who are in the top 50% but not the top 40% of those who sat the Assessment, etc.

*Academically selective schools have tended to use 2 main types of outcomes within their Year 8 Admissions Criteria. Some schools have created a rank order using SAS; others have preferred to group scores together to create "grades", "bands" or "a pool". SEAG envisages that some schools will wish to use its outcomes to rank order using TSAS, others will prefer to use SEAG Bands and some may use both. SEAG is, therefore, providing TSAS and Bands.*