



18 June 2020

Transfer Arrangements to St Mary's Grammar School in 2021

The Board of Governors of St Mary's Grammar School 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.

After lengthy consideration of the issues, the Board of Governors of St Mary's Grammar School intends to use academic selection in its admissions criteria for pupils wishing to transfer to the school in September 2021. The GL Entrance Assessment will be conducted in accordance with the most up-to-date Public Health Agency guidance 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 pupils this year. We hope that parents can be reassured 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, 10 June 2020)*

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

The Board of Governors will also develop a contingency plan in the event that the GL Entrance Assessment cannot take place. Should it be required, the implementation of this plan will include alternative admission criteria, the details of which will be published for parents at that time.

Any change of circumstances would have to be considered in the local context, acted upon and communicated to parents at the earliest possible date. We hope this statement provides some reassurance and clarification for P6 pupils and their parents.