

Shimna Integrated College

Admissions Criteria for Years 9 to 12

The aim of the admissions policy is to achieve as even a balance as possible in each year group with regard to religious/cultural background. Shimna Integrated College is a grant maintained integrated school as defined by the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 and the Board of Governors is required to ensure that 'the management, control and ethos of the school are such as are likely to attract to the school reasonable numbers of both Protestant and Roman Catholic pupils'. The Board of Governors considers that this is the pre-eminent feature which distinguishes an integrated school from all other schools and will operate the criteria as outlined below in such a way as to ensure a balance in each year group which is as close as possible to a ratio of 40% Catholic, 40% Protestant and 20% of other faiths or none.

It is a matter for the parent(s)/guardian(s) to ensure that all the information required by the college be provided in order to apply the criteria.

1. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) must apply in writing to the principal and include:
 - the EA official application form, AP1, available from the college office or from the EA website;
 - the Shimna Integrated College enrolment form Year 9 To 12;
 - details of reasons for leaving the present school;
 - a copy of the two most recent academic school reports, including attendance record;
 - The religious tradition which an applicant belongs to will be determined with reference to any or all of the following:
 - (i) information supplied to the college by the applicant's parent/guardian on the college's own Admissions Information Form; or
 - (ii) the category of primary school which the student attended, ie controlled or maintained or other maintained status.
2. The Board of Governors delegates to the principal, in consultation with appropriate staff, the authority to determine the admission or not of an applicant to years 9-12 under the criteria set out below. The principal reports an in-year admission to the board of governors through the admissions committee.
3. Where a place may be available, without exception the parent(s)/ guardian(s) and the child will be interviewed by the principal prior to a decision being taken.
4. In the application of the criteria set out below, the Board of Governors will seek a balance between Catholic and Protestant traditions of 40 % of each tradition and 20% from 'other' traditions.
5. During the school year, parents/guardians will receive a reply to an application within 10 working days. Applications received during a holiday period will receive a reply within 10 working days of the school re-opening. Your patience is appreciated.

Criteria

When considering the offer of a place the Board of Governors will ensure that:

- (a) the college's approved enrolment number of 620 will not be exceeded;
- (b) the college's approved admissions number of 100 for the particular year group will not be exceeded;
- (c) the balance of the two main traditions in the college and in the particular year/group (as outlined above) will not be adversely affected;
- (d) the necessary resources are available in the particular year group applied for;
- (e) the Board of Governors must be satisfied that the offer of a place would be in the best interest of the student and the college;
- (f) the acceptance of the student would not prejudice the delivery of the curriculum to existing students at the college.

If there is more than one applicant for an available place, the following sub-criteria shall apply in the order set out below:

- (a) Applicants who presently attend a Grant Maintained Integrated School or Controlled Integrated School as defined by the Education reform order (NI) 1989;
- (b) An applicant whose sibling attends Shimna Integrated College;
- (c) Applicants whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is an employee of the Board of Governors or is due to take up such an appointment;
- (d) Child(ren) of a family moving to Northern Ireland;
- (e) Eldest child;
- (f) Other applicants

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In the event of being oversubscribed at the last sub-criterion which can be applied then selection for places remaining at that stage will be made by drawing a lot among the applicants under that criterion.

Shimna Integrated College does not operate a waiting list, and addresses each in-year application individually at the time of receipt.

Right to Appeal

A parent/guardian has the right to appeal to the Department of Education School Access Team a decision not to admit their daughter/son to the school and will be informed in writing of how to make an appeal.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to seek confirmation of any information supplied.