

LAGAN COLLEGE
44 MANSE ROAD
LISNABREENY
BELFAST BT8 6SA

GRANT MAINTAINED INTEGRATED SCHOOL
ADMISSIONS NO: 200
ENROLMENT NO: 1200

Principal: Mrs A McNamee BA, PGCE, MEd, PQH
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Introduction

Lagan College was founded in 1981 as Northern Ireland's first planned integrated school and recently celebrated its twenty fifth anniversary. As the flagship of integrated education, the central aim of Governors, Principal and staff is to educate together to the highest standards Catholics, Protestants and those of other religious beliefs or none. In March 2002 the College was honoured for its contribution to peace since 1981 by the presentation at the Waterfront Hall of the Cross of Nails from the International Ministry of Reconciliation of Coventry Cathedral. The College is a day school for boys and girls aged 11 - 18 of all academic abilities in the belief that all children of the family can be educated together in the same school community and the best brought out of each. The demand of the College is that students work to the best of their ability in the pursuit of excellence.

The College is fully integrated at all levels. The religious balance of the Board of Governors, teaching staff and Parents Council reflects its shared nature.

The College is situated above the South Belfast Ring Road, beside the Ulster Way, in National Trust grounds at Lisnabreeny. £30 million has been granted by the Department of Education to provide state of the art accommodation. The new buildings will include a new sixth form centre and common room, a sports hall and classrooms.

Grammar Stream Entry

The college operates a 'grammar stream entry' for 35% of the intake. Its purpose is to further the all-ability aim of the school and to ensure that the college provides for students of all academic abilities, including the most academically able.

Uniform

The acceptance of a place at the College implies acceptance of the College policy on uniform. The College colours are black, gold, red, and green. Years 13 and 14 wear dark green blazers.

Academic Study

As well as its distinctive aim of achieving a religious balance at all levels, the College aims to share in the characteristics of every good school. As an all-ability school it aims to combine the virtues of the Grammar school and the High school. All students follow a broadly based curriculum in the first three years in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The majority of classes are banded by aptitude based on internal assessment.

Progress is kept under constant review and the general policy is to encourage movement upwards. The languages

currently offered are French, Spanish, Irish and Italian. In years 11 and 12 a range of 29 subjects is taught to GCSE level. All students have Careers Education (including work experience), Religious Education and Physical Education. The College has been awarded the Schools Curriculum Award, an endorsement of its high standards in teaching and learning.

Years 13 and 14

Since 1990, many students have continued their academic or vocational studies in the Sixth Form. The vast majority proceed to higher education and the College has a highly successful record of placing students in top universities and colleges in Ireland and the U.K. including Oxford and Cambridge. There are now 200 students in the sixth form. Twenty three subjects are currently offered at AS Level and A2 level. Applied A Level courses are offered in Business Studies, Health and Social Care, Information Technology, Science and Moving Image Arts. Students can take vocational or academic courses or a combination of both.

Extra Curricular Activities

Alongside their academic studies all students from year 8 to year 14 are encouraged to engage in extra curricular activities. The principal competitive sports at present are basketball, soccer, hockey and netball. In addition, participation and competition are encouraged in athletics, tennis, badminton, canoeing, cricket, Gaelic games, rugby, squash and swimming. There are many clubs and societies such as the Debating Society, the Languages Club and the Computer Club. There is a school band and choirs and a team of 9 specialist tutors provides individual tuition in strings, wind and brass instruments.

Drama

Lagan College has a strong reputation for dramatic performance and at least two major shows normally take place each year. Productions have been staged at the Waterfront Hall and in the Long Gallery at Stormont. The College has been recently chosen to represent Northern Ireland at the National Student Drama Festival at Scarborough and won a prize for the Best Ensemble Performance.

Homework

Every pupil has homework on a regular basis. Parents are expected to support their children in this extension of their school work and use the Homework Diary which each pupil carries as a channel of communication with subject teachers and the Form Tutor.

Chaplains

The partnership between school and home extends to the churches of the religious traditions in which parents are

bringing up their children. Religions other than Christianity are represented in the College. A unique feature of Lagan College is its Chaplaincy. Two full-time chaplains are employed, one Catholic and one Protestant, who work together as a team to provide spiritual and pastoral care for all students and who contribute to worship and teaching in the College. In addition, there are several honorary chaplains who visit the College regularly and assist with worship.

Form Tutors

Every student has a Form Tutor who watches over all aspects of school life in the belief that successful education in the widest sense is best achieved through partnership between home and school. Early in the first term parents are invited to meet the Form Tutor who usually accompanies their child up through the school.

Parents

Since the College was founded by parents it has a strong tradition of encouraging their close involvement in the education of their children. Parents, Catholic and Protestant, comprise 3/8 of the Board of Governors. Parents also elect representatives to the Parents Council which meets monthly and is organised into area groups.

Travel

The College is served by a network of buses covering the Greater Belfast area. Students travel from as far away as Antrim, Portaferry, Newcastle and Lisburn.

Admissions Policy

In the event of the College receiving more applications than can be accommodated within the admissions numbers determined by the Department of Education, the following policy and admissions criteria will be applied.

A. The aim of the admissions policy is to achieve as even a balance as possible in the intake with regard to religious denomination, gender and academic ability. Lagan 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 reasonable numbers of both Protestant and Roman Catholic students'. The Board of Governors of Lagan College 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 effect an intake which is as close as possible to a ratio of 50% Catholic and 50% Protestant. The College will also admit a proportion of pupils from other or no religious backgrounds. **The proportion of such students will not exceed 20% of the total enrolment in any year.**

Therefore, in the application of the criteria set out below, the Board of Governors will seek to reflect in the total number admitted an overall balance between religious affiliations. The criteria at Stage II of the admissions procedure set out below will be applied first to 'other' or no religious affiliations in the order set down and a maximum of 20% of the available places will be awarded to this group. The meaning of 'Other' below includes both those whose religious affiliation is to a religious group which is other than Roman Catholic or Protestant and also those who have no religious affiliation.

The remaining places will be divided equally between Protestant and Roman Catholic applicants. In the event of less than 20% of places being awarded to applicants of 'other' religious affiliations or none, the balance will be divided equally between Protestant and Roman Catholic applicants. In the event of an odd number of places remaining in this division, an additional place will be allocated to either the Protestant or Roman Catholic group, whichever having the greater number of applicants. In order for the College to administer this policy as accurately as possible, it is useful to have information other than that which is supplied on the Transfer Form. Parents are, therefore, asked to complete a pupil profile form which should be returned to the College before **Thursday 18 March 2010. All pupil profile forms will be receipted.**

The criteria set out below will then be applied separately to the Protestant group and Roman Catholic group of applicants. In the event of there being fewer applicants from either group than there are places available for it, then the balance of places will be allocated to the other (Protestant or Roman Catholic) group.

It is a matter for a parent or guardian to ensure that all the information required by the College in order to apply its criteria is provided on the Transfer Form completed at the child's primary school.

The onus is on a parent or guardian to make clear under which religious category they wish their child's application to be considered. This will be determined by the following in the order given:

- (1) information supplied on the College's own pupil profile form if such has been lodged;
- (2) information supplied on the Transfer Form;
- (3) the type of primary school which the pupil attended (ie controlled or maintained) will be used to determine the religious affiliation;
- (4) in the case of students transferring from an integrated primary school or the preparatory department of a voluntary grammar school, the school may be asked to supply such information as it can concerning the religious affiliation of the applicant;
- (5) where the applicant comes from an inter-church background, unless there is evidence of specific religious affiliation to the contrary on the pupil profile form, then the religious affiliation of the mother will be deemed to be the religious affiliation of the applicant.

B. The College seeks to preserve its co-educational nature. To that end, applications are welcomed equally from girls and boys.

C. The College will also apply its admissions criteria in such a way as to preserve its all-ability nature and achieve a distribution of academic ability as close as possible to that in the population at large as measured by the Transfer Procedure. To that end, applications will be considered in two stages:

D. Stage I, Grammar stream entry (35% of the intake, selected by reference to the GL Assessment Test grade); Stage II, All-ability entry (65% of the intake, selected with **no** reference to the GL Assessment Test Grade).

Admissions Criteria

STAGE I GRAMMAR STREAM ENTRY

(Selection by GL Assessment Test Grade)

Criterion 1. Grade Order

At Stage I under this criterion, the Board of Governors will consider for admission to Year 8 girls and boys who have achieved grades in the GL Assessment (or, who, having been considered under the Section on Special Circumstances/Special Provisions are deemed by the admissions sub-committee on the basis of special reports to have achieved equivalent grades) in the priority order of A, B1, B2, C1, C2, D. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should record the grade achieved in the GL Assessment in Section C of the Transfer Form and attach a copy of the Statement of Result to the Transfer Form.

Selection within a Grade Group

If there are more applicants holding the appropriate grades than places available for grammar stream entry (maximum of 35% of the intake), preference will be given at that grade level according to the following criteria in the order listed:

- 1 (a) applicants who have a brother(s) or sister(s) * or half-brother or half-sister enrolled in the College on Monday, 1st February 2010;
- (b) applicants who are the only or eldest child in their family. In the case of twins, if one twin meets the criteria sufficiently to be allocated a place, the other will be considered as having a sibling at the College ie criterion 1A. In the case of a newly formed integrated primary school, the Admissions Sub committee will also consider under this category the first child in the family to have been able to reach P7 since the school opened i.e. the eldest eligible child;
- (c) applicants enrolled at a grant maintained or controlled integrated primary school on 1st February 2010;
- (d) applicants who have a parent formerly enrolled in the College. The name of the parent must be clearly stated;
- (e) all other applicants.

NB All information relevant to the above must be clearly stated by parents on the Transfer Form completed at their child's primary school.

In the event of a tie occurring at any of the stages 1a – 1e, priority will be determined according to the following criteria in the order set down:-

- I. Applicants who have placed Lagan College first on the Transfer Form.
- II. Applicants enrolled at a grant maintained or integrated controlled primary school on Monday 1st February 2010.
- III. Applicants with a parent or older brother or sister in the full time permanent employ of the Board of Governors of Lagan College, ie. not less than ten hours per week, on 1st February 2010, or an applicant whose parent is a member of the Board Of Governors on 1st February 2010.
- IV. Applicants who have a parent or older brother(s) or sister(s) formerly enrolled in the College. The name of the parent or older brother or sister must be clearly stated.

- V. If after applying the previous tiebreaking criteria, there are more applications than spaces available, the unique random computerised number (which was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned and used to allocate places in ascending order.

In the event that applications considered at Stage I exceed the number of places available (35% of the intake), all applications which are not admitted at Stage I will be considered at Stage II.

STAGE II ALL-ABILITY ENTRY

(Selection with **no** reference to the GL Assessment Grade)

Applications will be considered at Stage II regardless of whether the applicant did or did not sit the GL Assessment.

Applicants will be given priority within the three perceived religious affiliation groups (Catholic, Protestant and Other) and considered in the order listed:

- 1(a) applicants who have a brother(s) or sister(s) or half-brother or half-sister enrolled in the College on 1st February 2010;
- (b) applicants who are the only or eldest child in their family. In the case of twins, if one twin meets the criteria sufficiently to be allocated a place, the other will be considered as having a sibling at the College ie criterion 1A. In the case of a newly formed integrated primary school, the Admissions Sub committee will also consider under this category the first child in the family to have been able to reach P7 since the school opened i.e. the eldest eligible child;
- (c) applicants enrolled at a grant maintained or controlled integrated primary school on 1st February 2010;
- (d) applicants who have a parent formerly enrolled in the College. The name of the parent must be clearly stated;
- (e) all other applicants.

NB All information relevant to the above must be clearly stated by parents on the Transfer Form completed at their child's primary school.

In the event of a tie occurring at any of the Stages 1a – 1e, priority will be determined according to the following criteria in the order set down:-

- I. Applicants who have placed Lagan College first on the Transfer Form.
- II. Applicants enrolled at an integrated grant maintained or integrated controlled primary school in 1st February 2010.
- III. Applicants with a parent or older brother or sister in the full-time employ of the Board of Governors of Lagan College ie. not less than ten hours per week, on 1st February 2010, or an applicant whose parent is a member of the Board of Governors on 1st February 2010.
- IV. Applicants who have a parent or older brother(s) or sister(s) formerly enrolled in the College. The name of the parent or older brother or sister must be clearly stated.
- V. If, after applying the previous tiebreaking criteria, there are more applications than spaces available, the unique random computerised number (which

was allocated on receipt of applications) will be assigned and used to allocate places in ascending order.

The criteria used for the initial admission of students into Year 8 will also be used for entry into Year 8 should admission become possible after the commencement of the 2010 school year.

The above policy was determined by the Board of Governors. The admissions sub-committee of the Board of Governors which consists of the Principal and at least two Governors will have the duty of ensuring that the policy is implemented.

* Any reference in the criteria to a brother or sister includes a half-brother or half-sister.

Special Circumstances and Special Provision

Special Circumstances

The Admissions Sub Committee will admit students strictly in the order of the grade they obtain in the GL Assessment, subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected performance in the Test(s) and which are supported by documentary evidence of a medical or other appropriate nature. These 'medical or other problems' are commonly referred to as "special circumstances".

Sufficient documentary evidence must be provided by the parent. In addition to medical or other appropriate evidence all the applicant's standardised English and Maths scores at Key Stage 2 should be submitted and this information should be attached to the applicant's Transfer Form.

In applying their admissions criteria to the Stage 1 Grammar Stream Entry, the admissions sub-committee of the Board of Governors will take claims of special circumstances and special provision into consideration before the application of the criteria set out above.

If you feel that your child's performance in the GL Assessment Tests has been affected by a medical or other problem you should make a claim for Special Circumstances by 4.00pm on Friday 18th December 2009.

The process for such consideration is set out in the 'Special Circumstances Policy' available from the College website or directly from the College on request.

Claims for Special Circumstances should be sent to the 'Entrance Assessment Officer' at Lagan College. If you would like a receipt of this form to be acknowledged please enclose a Stamped Addressed Envelope.

Special Provision

Special Provision will be made by the Board of Governors for children:

- Transferring from primary schools outside Northern Ireland.

- who have received more than half of their primary education outside Northern Ireland.
- whose educational provision to date has been negatively affected by serious medical or other problems which are supported by independent verifiable documentary evidence and who may as a consequence have been unable to take either the Entrance Assessment or the Supplementary Assessment.

A Sub Committee of the Board of Governors will decide whether these children should be admitted on the basis that they fall into the ability range of other pupils being admitted in that year. The Admissions Sub Committee may require the assessment of a child's ability to be carried out by a suitably qualified person or body approved by the school.

Those children to whom this provision applies may, if their parents/guardians wish, sit the GL Assessment in which case the grade obtained would also be considered.

If applying for Special Provision parents/guardians must attach to the Transfer Form a copy of the school's SP1 Form available from the school or its website detailing precisely why they are applying for Special Provision.

A copy of the SP1 Form should also be sent directly to the school by Wednesday 10th March.

The process for Special Provision is set out on the College website or is available directly from the College on request.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that all relevant information is received by Lagan College by the closing date. **Failure to include all relevant information may prejudice the chance of a pupil being admitted.** Information submitted after the receipt by the school of the Transfer Form on Thursday 18th March 2010, will not be considered.

THE COLLEGE PROSPECTUS AND PROSPECTIVE PUPIL PROFILE FORMS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S SECRETARY.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

	Applications			Admissions		
	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Grade A	17	30	22	17	30	22*
Grade B1	8	19	6	8	19	6*
Grade B2	23	28	24	23	21	24*
Grade C1	38	53	45	19	19	20
Grade C2	41	56	51	19	12	24
Grade D	136	194	134	71	54	57
Others	74	100	85	46	50	47
Total	337	480	367	203	205	200

* includes upgraded candidates

Further information on Admissions is available on the College website www.lagancollege.com