

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Kevlin Road
Omagh
Co Tyrone BT78 1LD

Voluntary
Grammar School
Boys
Age Range 11 – 18

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Principal: Paul Brannigan
Chairman of the Board of Governors: Mr Sean Meegan

Roll: 968

ADMISSIONS NO. 135

ENROLMENT NO. 950

Open Day
Saturday 21 January 2012
10.00 am – 1.00 pm

To Parents/Guardians naming **Christian Brothers' Grammar School** as a Preference on your child's Transfer Form

Entrance Test Results

Please ensure that you provide the following information on Section C of your child's Transfer Form:

- GLA Entrance Assessment
- The grade achieved in the GLA Entrance Assessment

In Section C of the Transfer Form parents/guardians must state the grade achieved and attach to the Transfer Form a copy of the statement of results which they receive on Saturday 4 February 2012.

Special Circumstances & Special Provision

If you are making a claim for your son to be considered under Special Circumstances or you are applying for Special Provision please note the following:

Special Circumstances

Boys will be admitted strictly as described below according to the grade achieved in the Entrance Assessment subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected their performance in the GLA Entrance Assessment and which are supported by verifiable documentary evidence of a medical or other appropriate nature. These medical or other problems are commonly referred to as Special Circumstances and are described in the school's **Entrance Assessment: Access Arrangements & Special Circumstances Policy** available from our school or its website. Parents should carefully read this policy document along with the guidance provided in the **Claiming Special Circumstances Pack** available from our school and its website.

If a claim for the consideration of Special Circumstances is made in respect of matters for which Access Arrangements were granted or could have been granted, had they been made known to the Assessment Centre, our Transfer Committee, in exercising their judgement, may take into account the fact that the child was granted Access Arrangements or could have been granted Access Arrangements for those matters.

The Transfer Committee will consider each claim for Special Circumstances on the basis of the evidence presented by the parents before deciding whether the grade achieved in the GLA Entrance Assessment should be adjusted. All claims for Special Circumstances will be considered before the Transfer Committee begins to apply the admissions criteria for all applicants as outlined below.

There are 2 important forms to be submitted by Parents/Guardians in order to make a Special Circumstances claim:

1. Notification of a claim for Special Circumstances must be registered at the school by **4.00 pm on Friday 16 December 2011 using Form SCR**. This form is in the "Claiming Special Circumstances Pack", which is available from our School.

2. Full details about the claim for Special Circumstances must be provided in **Form SC1**. This form is also available from the school. It has to be attached to the Transfer Form, together with supporting documentary evidence before it is sent to the WELB Transfer Department by the primary school Principal in February 2012. Please note that it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to obtain supporting documentation and to ensure that the SC1 Form is completed properly and that all information and forms are submitted to the WELB Transfer Department at the correct time.

- **Evidence required with a claim for Special Circumstances**

Please refer to the Entrance Assessment: Access Arrangements & Special Circumstances Policy and other guidance information available from our school in the Claiming Special Circumstances Pack.

Every claim for Special Circumstances must have supporting evidence which includes **both**:

- a. details of the medical or other problems which occurred just before or during the Entrance Assessment with verification by an appropriate professional;
- b. verifiable educational evidence to show that the score/grade achieved in the Entrance Assessment does not correspond to the academic ability of your son because he experienced medical or other problems just before or around the time of the Entrance Assessment.

- **Details of Medical or Other Problems**

If you are claiming that your son's performance in the Entrance Assessment has been adversely affected by a medical or other problem, independent evidence of its existence must be provided.

Where the problem is of a medical nature of short duration, you must provide evidence that your son was examined by a medical practitioner at or around the time of the Entrance Assessment and the results of that examination. These details should be provided on the headed notepaper from your son's doctor and signed by him/her. If the medical problem is other than of a short duration, you must ask your doctor to provide a letter on headed notepaper which explains the medical condition and how it could have affected your son in the Entrance Assessment.

Where the problem is of a non-medical nature, you must provide documentary evidence of its existence and its effect on your son

- **Educational Evidence**

All claims for Special Circumstances must include objective and relevant educational evidence to show that the medical or other problem experienced by your child at or around the time of the GLA Entrance Assessment caused him to underachieve. You are responsible for providing this educational evidence which must be sufficient to enable the Transfer Committee to reach a decision on any adjustment to the grade/score achieved by the child in the Entrance Assessment.

You should provide all of the results from your son's school administered standardised tests in English/Literacy and Mathematics/Numeracy which he has taken since the beginning of the Key Stage 2 period. You may include his school reports for P5 and/or P6 if they show the results of standardised tests.

You should record this information in the tables provided on the reverse side of the SC1 Form. If possible, you should ask the Principal of your child's primary school to sign the form as verification of the accuracy of the results you have recorded. Some of these results may

have been provided by your child's primary school on previous school reports. If you are using results from your child's school reports in support of your claim, the reports should be stapled to the Transfer Form.

If it is not possible to have your child's test results verified by his primary school Principal signing the SC1 Form, then you should provide your child's primary school with a written request for the results you require to complete the SC1 Form. You are legally entitled to obtain all of the information that you need from the primary school. Your right to this information is legislated for by:

- o Education (Pupil Records and Reporting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009
- o Data Protection Act, 1998

You should write to your child's primary school requesting the information needed to complete the SC1 Form, quoting this legislation and ask that the information is authenticated by the Principal's signature and/or the school stamp. A sample letter is provided at the end of the guidance booklet in our Claiming Special Circumstances Pack.

When you obtain this information, you should transfer the results to the SC1 Form and attach the original letter from the primary school to the SC1 Form as documentary evidence of verification of these results by your child's school.

You are free to provide any other appropriately verified educational evidence, e.g. results of standardised reading tests, spelling tests, verbal or non-verbal reasoning tests, etc, for the consideration of our Transfer Committee by attaching other reports to the Transfer Form and space has been provided on the SC1 Form to record such information. If you need further assistance, do not hesitate to contact our school.

All of the documentary evidence you gather to support your claim for Special Circumstances must be the original documents. Photocopies cannot be accepted by our Transfer Committee as sufficient for verification.

Gathering the documentary evidence, as described above, is vital to allow the Transfer Committee to give full consideration to a claim for Special Circumstances. The onus to provide the documentary evidence is with the parent/guardian and the required information is clearly set out on the SC1 Form.

Failure by the parent/guardian to provide verified information in support of a claim for Special Circumstances may result in our Transfer Committee being unable to give weight to those aspects of the claim for Special Circumstances in making their adjudication. In all instances, decisions taken on claims for Special Circumstances will be based on the judgement of our Transfer Committee based on the evidence provided by the parents/guardians.

Special Provision

Special Provision will be considered by the Board of Governors for boys who:

- are transferring from primary schools outside Northern Ireland
- 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 independently verified documentary evidence and who have been unable to take either the Entrance Assessment or the Supplementary Assessment.

To apply for Special Provision, parents/guardians must complete Form SP1 which is available from the school or its website.

For boys in primary schools in Northern Ireland, this form must be attached to the Transfer Form, together with supporting documentary evidence before it is sent to the WELB Transfer Department by the Primary School Principal in February 2012. For all other applicants, the parents should complete the SP1 Form and contact the WELB Transfer Department to complete the Transfer Form and attach the SP1 Form.

Please note that it is the responsibility of Parents to obtain supporting documentation and to ensure that the SP1 Form is completed properly and that all information and forms are submitted to the WELB Transfer Department at the correct time.

A copy of the SP1 Form should also be sent directly to our school by 7 March 2012. Further guidance on applying for Special Provision is provided with the SP1 Form available from our school or its website.

Our Transfer Committee will examine each application for Special Provision to decide on its merit as described above and then decide whether these boys should be admitted on the basis that they fall within the ability range of other applicants.

The ability of boys granted Special Provision will be assessed on the basis of the evidence provided, together with the results of a standardised assessment carried out on behalf of the Board of Governors and/or by consideration of the results of testing carried out by ELB Educational Psychologists preferably within the Key Stage 2 period and consideration of any other appropriately verified educational evidence provided by the parent/guardian.

Our Transfer Committee may also require an assessment of an applicant's abilities, to be carried out by a suitably qualified person or body appointed by the school. Those children to whom Special Provision applies may, if their parents/guardians wish, sit the Entrance Assessment, in which case the grade or score obtained would also be considered. Parents/Guardians should provide additional appropriate educational evidence which should include the results of any standardised testing carried out during Key Stage 2 or its equivalent period in any primary school.

Our Transfer Committee will consider all of the educational evidence as described above in exercising its judgement in these matters to assign a grade equivalent to the applicant. However, the onus lies with the parents/guardians to provide this educational evidence and to have it appropriately verified.

All claims for Special Provision will be considered before the Transfer Committee begins to apply the admissions criteria for all applicants as outlined below.

It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to ensure that information relating to Special Circumstances or Special Provision, or indeed information regarding the existence of any other relevant factor(s), is given on or appended to the child's Transfer Form as described in the guidance documentation available from our school. Parents/Guardians are responsible for the verification of all of the information provided to our Transfer Committee, as described above and in all guidance material from the school.

Christian Brothers' Omagh has provided high quality education for boys from this part of West Tyrone since 1861. A move to its present site in 1967 was followed by a major extension and refurbishment programme completed in 1994. The school is undoubtedly one of the most modern and best equipped in this area. It has available all the necessary specialist rooms for Science, Information Communication Technology, Music, Languages, Art and Design, Drama, History, Geography, Religious Education, Technology and Design and Physical Education. The school's ICT provision includes ten fully equipped computer suites, multi-media facilities in all teaching areas and clusters of computers in many subject areas.

Students are able to enjoy our excellent sporting facilities which include a large sports hall complete with a high specification fitness suite and excellent outdoor grass and synthetic football pitches.

A well stocked Library with ICT facilities is available for use by students throughout the school day and a study centre is available after school. Two supervised Post-16 Study Centres with ICT provision are available for personal study. Other facilities include the Assembly Hall, committee and small group rooms, mentoring rooms, office accommodation and other specialist rooms. The school provides an excellent cafeteria service with a wide choice of menu available for breakfast, mid-morning snacks and lunch.

The school directs all its efforts towards establishing an environment which enables personal fulfilment through positive responses to the challenges of living in accordance with Catholic principles. We place the student at the centre of our concern, and aim to provide for him a well balanced programme of activities which promotes the full development of his spiritual, intellectual, social and physical powers. Students are encouraged to become involved in charitable work and community activities.

An extensive range of subjects is available at Key Stage 3, GCSE and Post-16 Level including: Additional Mathematics, Applied Business, Applied ICT, Accounting, Art & Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Construction, English, English Literature, Engineering, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Hospitality, ICT, Irish, Government & Politics, Mathematics, Creative Media Production, Music, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Education, Spanish, Sport and Technology & Design.

Extra-curricular activities include: Gaelic football, hurling, athletics, handball, boxing, basketball, badminton, outdoor pursuits, rugby, soccer, swimming, golf, table tennis, chess, Young Scientists, debating and drama. Musical activities include orchestral, choral and traditional work with individual tuition available to students who wish to develop instrumental competence. Educational visits are arranged to complement curricular studies. The school is a registered Young Enterprise centre.

Year Eight allows class sizes of 22 or 23 students in each form class.

The school also offers the following:-

- (a) a comprehensive induction programme for entrants at Year 8 and Year 13;
- (b) regular parent/teacher meetings and advice evenings;
- (c) teams of teachers involved in learning for life and work/careers education programmes and personal, social and health education;
- (d) a mentoring service for all students;
- (e) a learning support programme;
- (f) a curriculum enhancement programme available to Post-16 students with opportunities to develop Key Skills in communication, application of number and information technology;
- (g) a school nurse on duty throughout the school day.

School Uniform is compulsory.

CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL - ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Omagh is a Catholic grammar school for boys. This school wishes to accept boys who are academically suited for the type of education it offers and whose parents/guardians are in agreement with the philosophy and aims of the school. The Board of Governors has delegated the responsibilities for the task of applying the criteria as indicated below to a Transfer Committee, consisting of three members of the Board of Governors, the Principal and Vice Principal.

The Board of Governors has determined that, in the event of the number of applicants being greater than the admissions number for the school, the following method will be used to select boys for admission:

- Christian Brothers Grammar School will select for admission all children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission before any child not so resident may be selected for admission.
- The results achieved by boys in the Entrance Assessment provided by Granada Learning Assessment together with any grades awarded as a result of Special Circumstances or Special Provision, will be used by our Transfer Committee in applying the first criterion.

- The Board of Governors will admit boys strictly in the following order
 1. Boys awarded Grade A in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of special circumstances and/or special provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Sub-Committee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade A.
 2. Boys awarded Grade B1 in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of special circumstances and/or special provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Sub-Committee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade B1.
 3. Boys awarded Grade B2 in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of special circumstances and/or special provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Sub-Committee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade B2.
 4. Boys awarded Grade C1 in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of special circumstances and/or special provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Sub-Committee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade C1.
 5. Boys awarded Grade C2 in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of special circumstances and/or special provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Sub-Committee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade C2.
 6. Boys awarded Grade D in the GL Entrance Assessment and those boys regarding whom parental claims for consideration of special circumstances and/or special provision have been accepted and who, in the opinion of the authorised Sub-Committee, based on the documented evidence submitted as required, are of comparable ability to those boys awarded Grade D.
 7. All other boys who have applied to be admitted to Christian Brothers Grammar School.

If there are more boys who satisfy any one of the criteria 1 to 7 when they are applied in the order of priority set down above, than places remaining, then boys will be selected according to the following sub-criteria applied in the order set down below:

- (i) Boys who, at the date of their application, have another boy of the family (as defined by DE in Transfer 2010 Guidance) attending the school or has been selected for admission to the school in the coming school year.
- (ii) Boys who are the first boy of the family eligible to transfer to secondary education, i.e. the eldest boy of the family as defined above.
- (iii) Other boys ranked by date of birth as entered on the Birth Certificate with the oldest being admitted first. This criterion will alternate between youngest and eldest in subsequent years.

If there are more boys in any one of the above sub-criteria (i) to (iii) than there are places available, then the remaining criteria will become sub-criteria and applied successively in the order set out until the final selection is completed. In the event of two or more boys having the same date of birth and thereby qualifying for the last place(s), the boys will be ranked by alphabetical order of surname and then forenames as listed on the birth certificate. If following this procedure, there are still two or more boys with the same surname and forenames as appear on their birth certificates then random selection will be used by drawing lots.

Verification of all Information

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on the Transfer Form or appended to the Transfer Form by parents/guardians. For verification purposes original documents are required and not facsimiles or photocopies.

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide any further requested verifying documents within a deadline set by the Christian Brothers Grammar School will result in either the withdrawal of a place or the inability of the school to offer a place.

The responsibility to ensure that:

- **the Transfer Form and other necessary documentation is correctly completed;**
- **any Special Circumstances and/or Special Provision being claimed are properly documented as described in detail above and in the guidance documentation available from our school; and**
- **any required verification documents are provided within specified deadlines,**

lies with the parents/guardians of the child. Failure to ensure that this occurs may lead to any request for special circumstances not being considered and/or the application not being considered by the Board of Governors and/or the withdrawal of a place in the school.

NUMBERS OF APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Year	Admissions No.	Total Applications All Preferences	Total Admissions
2008/2009	135	149	136
2009/2010	135	136	135
2010/2011	135	157	136
2011/2012	135	161	138