



# **Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock**

## **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

**Admissions:** ***I have a query about Admissions/Admissions Criteria.***

Parents/Guardians should speak to the Principal if they have any queries about Admissions.

**Bus Pass:** ***How do I secure a free bus pass for my child?***

Parents should apply through the Education Authority by the stipulated deadline to ensure that a free bus pass is available for the return journey from 01/09/22. Bus passes are distributed in school on the first day. Year 8 students are not expected to have them for the morning journey of 01/09/22.

**Bus Routes/  
Late Buses:** ***Is there a bus route available from my home address to the College?***

Please see the Information Booklet (P22-26) in the Virtual Open Day section of the College website. There are no late buses. Parents collect their child(ren) after extra-curricular activities or students can get a public service bus directly outside the school gates. If you have any further queries, please telephone the College and ask to speak with Miss Ruth Spence, Student Secretary.

**Catholic School:** ***My child is of a different faith (or none). What measures are in place for children who are non-Catholic?***

The College is an inclusive school which welcomes children of all faiths and none. The Head of Year 8, Mrs Gallagher, liaises with the parents of children of different faiths and none at the start of the academic year to agree attendance/non-attendance at school Mass or other services.

**Dining Hall:** ***How does 'cashless catering' work in the Dining Hall?***

If parents give permission, each Year 8 student registers for 'cashless catering' to pay for items in the Dining Hall. The student/parent puts money on the student's account and the student then uses his/her finger to pay for break/lunch. It helps speed up queues in the Dining Hall. £2.80 for children entitled to Free School Meals is automatically lodged in the student's account each day.

**Exams:** ***Do Year 8 students have Christmas exams or continuous assessment?***

All Junior School students complete four standardised assessments throughout the academic year. Assessment 1 (mid-October) and Assessment 2 (November) take place in the first term. A progress report is issued to parents in December. Assessment 3 takes place in the second term and Assessment 4 is the summer examination in May/June. The Year 8 Annual Report is sent home to parents in June.

**Eldest Child:** ***How many children were accepted under the eldest/only child and sibling criteria in 2019-2021?***

	Places Available	Number of Siblings Accepted	Number of Eldest/ Only Child Accepted
September 2019	190	83	99
September 2020	190	82	96
September 2021	212	110	102

**Extra-Curricular:** ***What extra-curricular activities are provided by the school and when do they happen?***

Extra-curricular activities usually take place before school starts at 8.00am or after school until 4.30pm. A range of extra-curricular activities is outlined in our Prospectus (P13). Social badminton takes place for students on a Monday afternoon. There are no late buses. Parents collect their child(ren) after extra-curricular activities or students can get a public service bus directly outside the school gates.

**Free School Meals (FSM):** ***How can I ensure that my child's provision for Free School Meals will continue as he/she transfers from primary to post-primary school?***

Parents should apply through the Education Authority by the stipulated deadline to ensure that provision is made for Free School Meals from 01/09/22.

**ICT Provision:** ***What is the provision for ICT in Year 8?***

Year 8 have two periods of ICT per week on their timetable. ICT is also covered in other subject classes as a cross-curricular skill.

**Induction:** ***How do you help new students settle in the College?***

When accepted as a Year 8 student for September 2022, P7 pupils and their parent(s) have an individual meeting (20 minutes) with a member of our Pastoral Team. During that meeting, they receive a 23-page booklet - *Information for Year 8 Students and Parents* - which outlines important information for our new students. All Year 8 students will have a two-day Induction with their Tutor on 01/09/22 - 02/09/22 to help them settle, before starting timetabled classes on Monday 05/09/22.

**Past Pupil:** ***Is there a criterion for the children of past pupils to gain admittance to the College?***

No. This was removed from the Admissions Criteria for Year 8 entry in September 2020.

**RE:** ***Can you give more information about Religious Education in the College?***

Religious Education is taught from Year 8-10 and it is a core GCSE course in Year 11-12. The GCSE course includes modules on Ethics and Christianity with a Focus on Catholicism. In accordance with DE guidance, parents have the right to withdraw their child from Religious Education classes and collective worship but the vast majority of our students (99%+) still choose to study RE with their friends.

**Science:** ***How is Science taught in the Junior School?***

Year 8/9 Science covers all three Sciences and is taught by one teacher five/four periods per week. Biology, Chemistry and Physics are taught as separate Sciences in Year 10.

**SEN:** ***I have a specific question about Special Educational Needs.***

A presentation by our Learning Support Coordinator, Miss Fox, is available in the Virtual Open Day section of the College website. If you have any further queries, please telephone the College and ask to speak with Miss Fox. Alternatively, you can complete 'Book a Virtual Appointment' online to arrange a Zoom call with Miss Fox.

**Uniform:** ***Where can I buy the College uniform?***

The College uniform and suppliers are outlined in the Information Booklet (P19) in the Virtual Open Day section of the College website. The Parent Teacher Association organises a recycling initiative to help parents access College uniform. Contact Mrs Ali Boyd at Reception for further information.