



- 1. What is the admission criteria to get into St. Patrick's?**  
See attached sheet.
- 2. What is a bilateral school?**  
A Bi-lateral school caters for **all** abilities, with a recognised grammar band.
- 3. Will I get a bus pass?**  
If you live more than 3 miles from any school, you will get a bus pass. If you are passing a secondary school, you will get a pass if you are placed in one of our grammar classes. We will support you in this.
- 4. It is a big school, will my son/daughter cope?**  
Whilst the College is perceived as being large, it has a very small feel to it, as the ETI recently stated. Pupils are supported in small to reasonably sized classes and are looked after by a Form Tutor and Year Head. In Year 8 pupils are in a separate building from the main school. This is a great method of transition as pupils are on their own for the year to enable them to settle in fully. Being big is a strong asset as it gives us great flexibility of staff, resources and subjects. The benefits of our size allow us to offer a curriculum (on site) which meets the needs of all our learners and gives a greater variety and choice.
- 5. What if my child has a special need?**  
We have a strong Special Needs support structure where all pupils are screened for additional needs in numeracy and literacy and dyslexia. Once identified pupils are supported with specialised help from trained staff. We continually monitor these pupils whilst on support programmes. Our large staff presents the opportunity to provide a lot of support. Older pupils are trained to also mentor pupils requiring support.
- 6. What do you do with pupils who are gifted?**  
Through our screening and testing we identify pupils who are strongly academic or particularly talented. We then set challenging targets for the pupils to stretch them. Pupils and staff know the targets and work together to attain them. Talented pupils are encouraged to become involved in extra-curricular activities and competitions.
- 7. My son/daughter is so quiet will he get bullied?**  
We take a 'zero tolerance' approach to bullying. Pupils are given buddies to support them. We operate a 'No Bullying' policy which is included in our taught programme. Pupils are taught what to do if they find themselves in this situation. We have Bus Prefects to monitor behaviour on buses.
- 8. What about discipline?**  
We have an outstanding pastoral structure with staff who deal with issues as they arise. We operate a Positive Behaviour Policy, teaching expected behaviours, rewards and sanctions. As a result of this our discipline is very good, as we deal promptly with pupils as required, involving parents as far as possible.
- 9. Will my child be tested?**  
Pupils are not tested to get a place in the College. Using information and data from the primary schools and our own baseline testing we place each pupil in an appropriate class where they can experience success.
- 10. Do pupils have to wear uniform?**  
Uniform is one of the indicators of our high standards. All pupils are expected to wear the uniform and wear it with pride. We have reviewed our uniform policy and through parent consultation have had it endorsed. We wish to retain this well-established tradition which is a mark of high standards.
- 11. Do pupils get homework?**  
All pupils get homework in keeping with their age and capability. We promote home study to develop a good work ethic, improve learning and to raise achievement. Homework may be written, learning or research-based. The Homework is set on SIMs Student App. Parents can then review it on the SIMs Parent App.
- 12. My child has Moderate Learning Difficulties, how will the College meet their needs?**  
Pupils who have Moderate Learning Difficulties are catered for in our Learning Support Centre (LSC). The size of these classes are very small and the curriculum is adapted to meet the needs of the pupils. The pupils are also integrated into mainstream classes for some subjects.
- 13. What languages will my child have to study?**  
Pupils at Key Stage 3 study Irish and **either** French or Spanish.