

# P6 Parents' Information

## Transfer to Post-Primary Schools 2022



# THE TRANSFER PROCESS TO POST-PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Advice for Parents of Children in Primary Six



Department of  
**Education**  
[www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk)

January 2021



# Transfer 2021 - 2022

- Background to our current transfer procedure.
- What is happening during the 2021/22 school year?
- Academic Selection this school year.
- How will Brownlee support your child?
- Deciding on a Post-Primary School.
- Other Points to Consider e.g. stress, tuition and pupil information.



# Background

11+ has been in operation since 1947.

Lurgan, Portadown and Tandragee have operated the Dickson Plan since 1969.

October 2006 - St Andrews Agreement embedded academic selection in legislation.

2007 - Catriona Ruane abolished the Transfer Test in the 2009 / 10 school year and proposed a phasing out of academic selection.



## Background Contd.

Although the Education Minister had the power to abolish the Transfer Test, academic selection remains.

In January 2009 many Grammar Schools announced that they were setting their own entrance tests to select pupils. Most Controlled schools use AQE tests and Catholic Maintained schools use and some Controlled school use the PPCNI or GL multiple choice tests.



# Transfer 2021 2022

- During the summer term of P6 you can decide if you wish your child to enter for the AQE or GL tests. For more information please visit [www.pptcni.com](http://www.pptcni.com) and <https://aqe.org.uk>
- Prior to Christmas 2021, the Education Authority will publish information on all post-primary schools and their Admissions Criteria. [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions)



# Transfer 2021 2022

- Open evenings, either in person or virtual will take place during January 2022.
- Final date for applications for post-primary schools will be in February 2022.
- Parents will be notified of which school their child has been placed towards the end of May 2022.
- *Exact dates for all of the above will be published by the Education Authority in due course.*



# Grammar School Entrance Tests

There are two Grammar School entrance tests: AQE and PPTCNI also known as the GL test.



# Grammar School Entrance Tests

Despite what has been said by some test providers, the entrance tests are NOT in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum. They are of a Level 5 standard. This is the standard we would expect a very capable child to be achieving at the end of P7, rather than in the autumn term when the tests take place.

Our primary curriculum is therefore accelerated from P5 and throughout P6.



# Grammar School Entrance Tests

Children need to be aware of exam strategies for completing a test in 1 hour and have covered the whole primary curriculum by the summer term of P6.

Now that the AQE test has been well established, we now have a growing selection of past AQE papers and practice tests.

Useful websites are:

[www.aqe.org.uk](http://www.aqe.org.uk)

[www.thetransfertest.com](http://www.thetransfertest.com)

[www.pptcni.com](http://www.pptcni.com)



# Grammar Schools in Our Area

- Banbridge Academy
- Belfast Royal Academy
- Campbell College
- Friends' School Lisburn
- Hunterhouse College
- Methodist College Belfast
- Royal Belfast Academical Institution
- Strathearn School
- Sullivan Upper School
- Victoria College
- The Wallace High School
- Wellington College Belfast

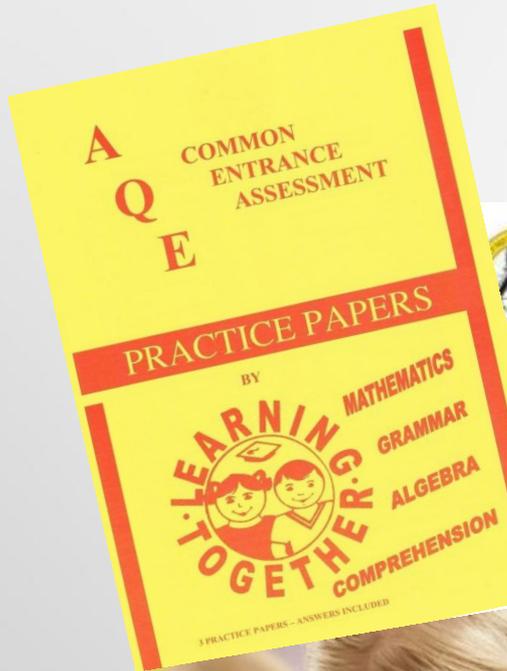


# Local Grammar Schools – A Rough Guide

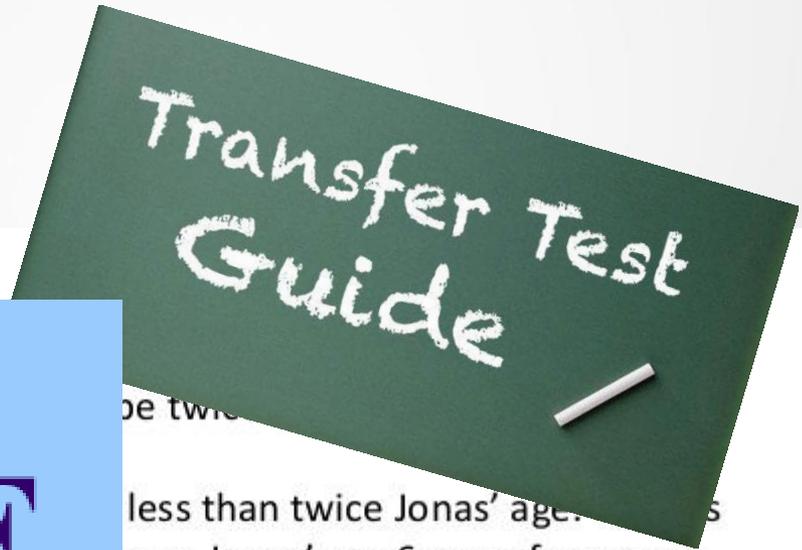
School	Highest AQE Score	Lowest AQE Score	Number of Applications	Number Admitted
Friends' School	126	106	267	140
The Wallace High School	121-125	101-105	289	170
Hunter House College	117	88	166	100
Methodist College Belfast	127	95	279	240
Royal Belfast Academical Institute (Inst.)	126	93	188	150
Banbridge Academy	127	99	211	184
Victoria College	113+	89-94	150	130



# The Entrance Tests



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$$y = \boxed{\phantom{00}}$$



**AQE**



# What Will Happen?

Parents will apply for their child to take an AQE entrance test. Cost is approx.- £50.00. Application opens at the start of May 2021 - Closing date is early September 2021

3 AQE tests and 2 GL tests in Nov / Dec 2021 held in a local Grammar school. GL tests may take place during the intervening weekends.

Results of the best 2 AQE tests will be counted.



# What Will Happen?

Parents apply online for their choice of schools in February 2022.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>

Schools apply their criteria.

Children with Statements of Additional Needs will apply separately.

*Recently arrived Service Children and those with 'Special Circumstances' will require a SC22 form which will be available after AQE results are published.*



# How Will Brownlee Primary Support Your Child?

We will canvas parents to determine how many children will likely sit the entrance tests for Grammar Schools.

We will continue to deliver the new Northern Ireland Curriculum as required by legislation.

Content will have to continue to be taught at an accelerated pace to ensure the children have covered all the work that will be on the tests by November 2021.



# How Will Brownlee Primary Support Your Child?

Children will sit a couple of weekly tests and have additional homework based on English and Maths from February – December 2021.

At specific times throughout the week, those children sitting the test and other academically able pupils will work separately with Mrs Duffy. The remainder of the class and those needing reinforcement will continue with normal class work.

Additional tests will be offered during holiday periods for children intending to sit the AQE and GL tests.



# Other Criteria Schools May Use

## Family

- Currently attending sibling only
- Eldest / first child

## Community

- Contributory Primary Schools

## Social disadvantage

- Looked after children
- Children entitled to Free School Meals

## Geography

- Parish, Catchment area, nearest suitable school

## Religion

- For integrated post-primary schools
- Tie Breakers, such as 'Random Selection'



# Non-Selective Post-Primary Schools

Laurelhill Community College

Forthill Integrated College

Lisnagarvey High School

St. Patrick's High School

Lurgan Junior High School





# Deciding on a Post-Primary School

Have a realistic view of your child's ability and base this on reports, classwork, practice tests and parent/ teacher interviews.

Study the Education Authority's transfer information. This will be published on their website in December 2021.

Speak to parents of other children who have recently transferred.

Make a point of visiting as many schools as possible with your child if COVID restrictions allow.

Don't be afraid to ask questions!





# The Transfer Interview

This usually takes place in February.

We will discuss your choices and advise you on the appropriate criteria to include in your child's application.

We will also discuss your child's progress and provide you with a mid-year report.



## Dealing With Stress



More able pupils actually face the greatest challenge during transfer preparation as they are now finding the work more difficult and not getting everything right.



## Dealing With Stress

Keep the transfer test in perspective. The real goal is achieving good GCSE results.

Make sure you do more quality family activities together which will allow your child to completely forget about the AQE tests.

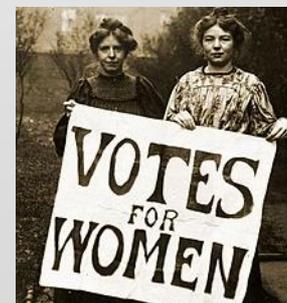
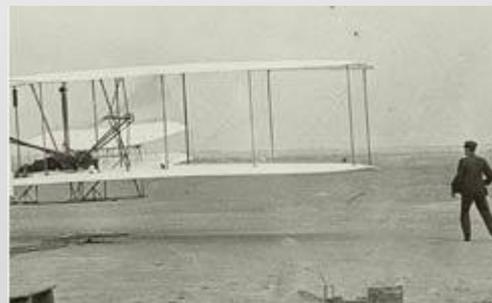
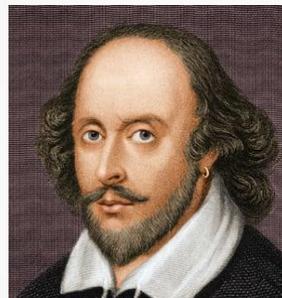
Do not bribe your children with money or special treats if they do well as this can actually add to the pressure rather than be an incentive.

# Transfer Test Tuition?





# Where Am I?



# Information sent to Post-Primary Schools



Pupil Annual Report

Attendance and  
behaviour information

Record of Achievement



# Transfer 2021 - 2022

## REMEMBER:

If you are ever in any doubt please don't hesitate to speak to Mrs Duffy or Mr Elliott.





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