



# SAINT MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

*Eco-School Green Flag Award 2017*

Principal: Mr P Gilchrist

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11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear P6 Parents,

Please find below the latest information relating to the Transfer Procedure for November/ December 2020, as updated on each website today (11<sup>th</sup> May 2020).

As a guide, the most popular test is the one-day, multiple choice, GL Assessment (PPTC), which applies to the Catholic Maintained Sector ie Our Lady and Saint Patrick's Knock, St Patrick's Grammar Downpatrick and Assumption Grammar Ballynahinch. AQE is administered by the State School Sector and runs over 3 weeks.

**PPTC 2020-21 Update (GL)** (Updated 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020)

<http://pptcni.com>

**“Entrance Assessment date: Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

PPTC has been able to delay the Entrance Assessment date by three weeks to allow pupils extra P7 time and yet also to ensure that outcomes will be available to be posted to parents ahead of Transfer Form Completion.

**Outcomes Date: Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**Registration period: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020 – Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The full 2020-21 Registration Pack, which includes the Entrance Assessment Registration Form, will be available on the PPTCNI website from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June.

PPTC has delayed the start date for parents to register their children to sit the Entrance Assessment to provide more time before registration decisions need to be made. PPTC has also extended the Registration deadline to 9<sup>th</sup> October to provide additional registration time when pupils are in P7.

**Supplementary Entrance Assessment Date: Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020** (This assessment is available for a very small group of pupils, typically less than 1% of pupils sit the Supplementary Entrance Assessment)”

**AQE Update** (Updated 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020)

<https://aqe.org.uk>

“The Board of AQE Limited has been closely monitoring the coronavirus situation and the real difficulties and uncertainty it has posed for parents, pupils and schools alike

To allow this year's cohort of P6 pupils the opportunity to catch up with direct curriculum teaching, and after consultation with Primary and Post Primary Principals, the Board wrote to the Minister of Education on 17<sup>th</sup> April proposing to postpone the usual November AQE assessment until January 2021. The Chairman and Joint CEO of AQE engaged with officials of the Department to explore the possibility of accommodating such a delay within the time frame of the official Transfer process. AQE acknowledges the Minister's firm support for academic selection and both parties examined in good faith a number of differing options. However, for logistical reasons, it was reluctantly recognised that such an accommodation would not be possible and the Department was unable to accede to AQE's proposal.

Having considered all of the available dates and taking into account the Post-Primary Transfer Timetable, the Board has decided that the dates for the 2020/21 assessments will be on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November, Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2020.**

PPTC will host their assessment on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. Results will be issued on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

As previously announced, the registration process for the 2020/21 cycle will commence on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> May. As the AQE office staff are currently obliged to work from home, applications can be made online in a new, simple to complete format that will be easily accessed on the AQE website. Whilst we strongly advise parents to register using the online form, a version of the form will be available on the AQE website which can be printed and completed by hand, however, due to the current restrictions the processing time required for this method of registration will be much longer. **Closing date for registration will now be Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020.**

Please continue to prepare for the tests in the home environment and we offer everyone best wishes for the coming days and weeks."

While not an ideal circumstance, in relation to the delay, we will endeavour to continue to help you to prepare for this at home. Mr Denvir and I will be in touch over the next few weeks giving recommendations and signposting additional resources.

Should you need any further clarification, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me at [pgilchrist570@c2kni.net](mailto:pgilchrist570@c2kni.net)

Yours sincerely

Mr Gilchrist  
Principal