

ASSUMPTION GRAMMAR SCHOOL, BALLYNAHINCH

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA (YEARS 13 & 14)

GENERAL POLICY FOR ADMISSION

Assumption Grammar School is a Catholic grammar school for girls. The Board of Governors will consider for admission students who have the ability to cope with the academic requirements of the Sixth Form curriculum offered by the school and whose parents are in support of the philosophy, ethos and aims of the school.

The Board of Governors draws up the school's policy and criteria for admissions and delegates to a sub-committee responsibility for applying the criteria in the selection of students.

In accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education, the Board of Governors of Assumption Grammar School has drawn up the following criteria for admission to Sixth Form (Years 13 & 14).

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR YEAR 13

1 Academic Requirements

An applicant will be considered for admission to Year 13 to follow courses at AS Level who:-

- (i) has achieved a minimum of 15 points across 5 GCSEs:
 - A* = 5 points
 - A = 4 points
 - B = 3 points
 - C* = 2 points
 - C = 1 point

Students wishing to study AS level will normally need to have achieved at least a Grade B in their chosen subject.

Where students have fewer grades at this level, a personalised package of qualifications may be put together to suit the learner's profile.

All students are expected to have Grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics and English Language.

Where "special circumstances" occur, the Leadership Team has the flexibility to deviate from this requirement, **or**

- (ii) has achieved, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, an equivalent standard to that stated above,
or
- (iii) wishes to repeat Year 13
 - having been in Year 13 at Assumption Grammar School the previous year;
 - having been recommended by the Principal;
 - to whom special circumstances may apply.

2 Numbers Admitted

An applicant who satisfies the above requirements will be considered for enrolment provided:-

- a) The school will not exceed its total enrolment figure as laid down by the Department of Education.
- b) There are sufficient places available within the relevant subject groups.

3 If there are more applicants who comply with the above requirements than there are places available, preference will be given in order of priority to:-

- a) Applicants qualifying for entry from Assumption Grammar School i.e. who fulfil the Admissions Criteria in No 1.
- b) Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at Assumption Grammar School has been agreed by the Department of Education.*

* Parents should note how the Department of Education will, in response to a school's request, increase the school's enrolment number in order to allow an extra post 16 pupil to enrol. Department of Education will first check whether there is another school or schools of a type suitable for that pupil within an hour's journey of where the pupil lives. If there is, Department of Education will then check whether this other school or schools with places available may provide all of the post 16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue. If these checks find that no other suitable school may provide all of the post 16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue - then Department of Education will agree a school's request for an extra place.

What is a school of a type that is suitable for a pupil? To determine this, Department of Education first considers all schools to be one of 4 types: i) denominational; ii) non-denominational; iii) integrated and iv) Irish Medium. A school requesting an extra place for a post 16 pupil will belong to one of these 4 types and Department of Education will consider any other school or school from this same type as suitable for the pupil. Department of Education will also consider as suitable for the pupil any school from the same type as the type of school that the child attended in Year 12.

Places will be awarded in rank GCSE order until the school reaches its limit in being able to safely and effectively accommodate the numbers for whom it is requesting extra places.

- 4** Applicants must have demonstrated a positive attitude in Year 12. This will be evidenced through:
- Attendance Records
 - Good Behaviour (lack of sanctions, detentions and/or suspensions for serious or recurring misdemeanours in Key Stage 4).
 - Commitment
- Pupils must have demonstrated commitment to their studies in Year 12
e.g. completion of all assignments, coursework/Controlled Assessment on time.

5 Applicants, if accepted, will be expected to:

- a) give an undertaking, supported by parents, of support for the school's Aims and acceptance of the school's Code of Conduct for Behaviour as set out in the Student Handbook and in the Sixth Form Contract;
- b) be prepared to respect and uphold the standards of the school by showing loyalty and a willingness to exercise leadership;
- c) maintain a good pattern of work, a satisfactory academic performance and attend school regularly and punctually. If any of the above gives serious cause for concern, students and their parents will be expected to address the issue during an interview with the Principal (see Sixth Form Contract).
- d) Accept timetable and curriculum arrangements. This will include being involved in and present at: General RE, Leadership and Careers classes.

(Arrangements concerning exemptions from RE classes can be made on behalf of those students who are registered as members of other mainstream denominations)

ADDENDUM TO SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Criteria for all extra places made available by the Department of Education for admission into Year 13 (Sixth Form).

The Department of Education may, in response to a request from a school, increase the number of pupils that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for Sixth Form study (as set out below) and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down.

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in [school name].
2. Pupils from other schools where admission has been agreed and additional places granted by the Department of Education.*

*Parents should note how the Department of Education (DE) will, in response to a school's request, temporarily increase a school's enrolment number in order to allow extra post -16 pupils to enrol. DE will only increase the school's enrolment number if it is content that each external pupil for whom a place is requested would not be able to pursue their post-16 course-choices at another suitable school without undertaking an unreasonable journey (i.e. a journey, that by public transport, would be over an hour from where the young person lives or is further than 15 miles distance). If DE finds that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the pupil wishes to pursue - then DE will agree a school's request for an extra place.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR YEAR 14

In accordance with the requirements of the Department of Education, the Board of Governors of Assumption Grammar School has drawn up the following criteria for admission to Sixth Form (Years 13 & 14).

1 Academic Requirements

All Year 13 students wishing to progress into Year 14 should be aware of the following important criteria:

- You must pass an AS level subject (Grade A-C) if you wish to continue that subject to A2 level.
- Grade C will normally be required at AS level for progression to A2. A Grade D or less can only be continued to A2 level under special circumstances.
- If your performance at AS level falls below reasonable expectations, then you and your parents will be invited to reassess your academic options by consulting with the Vice Principal, subject teachers, pastoral and careers staff after the publication of the AS level module and/or exam results.
- You must pass a minimum of three AS level subjects if you wish to return as a Year 14 student to take A2 subjects.

2 Applicants must have demonstrated a positive attitude in Year 13. This will be evidenced through:

- Attendance Records
 - Good Behaviour
 - Commitment
- Pupils must have demonstrated commitment to their studies in Year 13 e.g. completion of all assignments, coursework/Controlled Assessment on time.

3 Applicants, if accepted, will be expected to:

- e) give an undertaking, supported by parents, of support for the school's Aims and acceptance of the school's Code of Conduct for Behaviour as set out in the Student Handbook and in the Sixth Form Contract;
- f) be prepared to respect and uphold the standards of the school by showing loyalty and a willingness to exercise leadership;
- g) maintain a good pattern of work, a satisfactory academic performance and attend school regularly and punctually. If any of the above gives serious cause for concern, students and their parents will be expected to address the issue during an interview with the Principal (see Sixth Form Contract).
- h) Accept timetable and curriculum arrangements. This will include being involved in and present at: General RE, Prefect Meetings, Careers classes.

(Arrangements concerning exemptions from RE classes can be made on behalf of those students who are registered as members of other mainstream denominations.)

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