

**ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY INTO YEAR 8  
IN SEPTEMBER 2025****OPEN DAY INFORMATION**

**Saturday 18 January 2025 from 9.30 am-12.30 pm – P7 pupils and their parents are invited to visit the school**

**TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS NAMING SULLIVAN UPPER SCHOOL ON A TRANSFER APPLICATION.****ENTRANCE TEST RESULTS**

Please ensure that you enter the score awarded by the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG) in the SEAG Entrance Assessment, together with the SEAG Candidate Number, on the Transfer Application.

**The original notification from SEAG indicating your child's Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) should be uploaded to the Transfer Application.**

**SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES and/or SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

If you are making a claim for consideration under Special Circumstances (SC) or Special Provisions (SP), please apply using the appropriate form, either Form SC or Form SP, which is available from the school website (<https://www.sullivanupper.co.uk/admissions>). All appropriate information including the appropriate form, either Form SC or Form SP, should be uploaded to the Transfer Application. Further details can be found in the section 'Special Circumstances (SC) & Special Provisions (SP)'.

**Capital Fee**

The Capital Fee is £140 per annum.

**RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS TO THE SCHOOL**

The school's Board of Governors draws up and publishes the statement of policy and the admissions criteria for admissions to Year 8. The Transfer Procedure and Admissions Committee, which is a sub-committee of the Board of Governors, is responsible for applying the admissions criteria and for admitting or refusing to admit a pupil to the school. The Principal will provide the necessary information to the committee, co-ordinate the application procedure and offer professional advice to the committee.

This statement of policy has been adopted by the School's Board of Governors and sets out the criteria which will be used to determine which pupils will be admitted to Year 8 of the school for the 2025/2026 school year.

In this statement of policy, the term 'the School' is used throughout to denote Sullivan Upper School (both the secondary department and the preparatory department). References to the Board of Governors shall include references to the Board's Education Policy Committee and the Board's Transfer Procedure and Admissions Committee.

**ADMISSIONS POLICY**

The Board of Governors will consider for admission into Year 8 initially only those applicants who have taken the SEAG Entrance Assessment provided by the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG) and who have been awarded a result in the form of a Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS). The score in the SEAG Entrance Assessment, together with the candidate number, should be entered on the Transfer Application. The original notification from SEAG indicating the child's Total Standardised Age Score (TSAS) should be uploaded to the Transfer Application.

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The Board of Governors will **not** use as a criterion for admission the position of preference given to the school by the applicant on the Transfer Application; for example a pupil who has chosen Sullivan Upper School as a second preference (and whose application to their first preference school has been unsuccessful) will be considered in the same way as all first preference applicants.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or uploaded with the Transfer Application. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that all information relevant to the School's criteria is detailed on or uploaded with the Transfer Application.

### ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR ENTRY OF PUPILS INTO YEAR 8 (2025/2026)

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 28 January 2025 at 12.00 noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 20 February 2025 at 12.00 noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12.00 noon (GMT) on 20 February 2025 and up to 4.00 pm on 25 February 2025 will be treated as a late application.

- 1 Children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be selected for admission to the school before any child not so resident. The child's birth certificate and proof of address **must** be uploaded to the Transfer Application.

*Proof of address eg utility bill, bank statement, driving licence (with sensitive information redacted).*

- 2 The first 120 places from the admissions total of 150 will be allocated to those applicants who have applied and provided a SEAG Total Standardised Age Score [including those to whom Special Circumstances or Special Provisions apply] on the basis of the rank order of their respective scores with those achieving higher scores being allocated places before those achieving lower scores. If several applicants are eligible for the 120<sup>th</sup> place because they have equal scores then all such applicants will be allocated places up to the school's admission number and on application, if necessary, of the criteria listed in criteria 3 (below).
- 3 Following the allocation of places as described in criteria 2 (above), a limited pool of around 45 applicants will be identified from the remaining applicants, again by rank order of their SEAG Total Standardised Age Scores [including those to whom Special Circumstances or Special Provisions apply], who are ranked within the highest 165 SEAG scores with those achieving higher scores being allocated to the pool before those with lower scores. If several applicants are eligible for the 165<sup>th</sup> place because they have equal scores then all such applicants will be included within the pool. Then all remaining available places up to the school's admissions number will be allocated from this pool upon application of the following criteria which will be applied in the order in which they are set out:
  - 3.1 Applicants who are entitled to free school meals ["entitled to free school meals" will mean applicants who are listed on the Education Authority register as entitled to free school meals at the date on which their parent/guardian submitted the post-primary Transfer Application, or any date up to and including no later than 4.00 pm on 25 February 2025];
  - 3.2 Applicants who, at the date of their application, have a child of the family currently enrolled at the school;

*Child of the family covers: a child born to a married couple or to a couple in a civil partnership; a child born to a co-habiting couple; a child born to a single parent; a child of either/any of those people by a previous marriage, civil partnership or relationship; a child living with a couple who has been treated as a "child of the family" whether there is a marriage or a civil partnership or not; a child living*

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*with an individual, who has been treated as a “child of the family”; an adopted or fostered child; a situation where for example an orphaned cousin is being brought up with a family or individual.*

3.3 Applicants who are transferring from one of the following schools (listed alphabetically):

- Glencraig Integrated Primary School
- Hollywood Primary School
- St Patrick’s Primary School, Hollywood
- Sullivan Upper Preparatory Department

3.4 Applicants who are transferring from one of the following schools (listed alphabetically):

- Ballyholme Primary School, Bangor
- Bangor Central Integrated Primary School, Bangor
- Campbell College Junior School
- Crawfordsburn Primary School, Bangor
- Dundonald Primary School, Dundonald
- Gilhahirk Primary School, Belfast
- Grange Park Primary School, Bangor
- Kilmaine Primary School, Bangor
- Knocknagoney Primary School, Belfast
- Rathmore Primary School, Bangor
- St Comgall’s Primary School, Bangor
- Strandtown Primary School, Belfast
- Towerview Primary School, Bangor

3.5 Applicants who are resident within the Hollywood postal district of BT18;

*In the event that there are fewer applicants complying with a particular criterion than there are places available or remaining, those applicants complying with that criterion will be admitted and the next criterion will be applied to the remaining applicants.*

*In the event that there are more applicants complying with a particular criterion than there are places available or remaining, those applicants complying with that criterion will go forward to be considered under the next criterion and those not complying will be eliminated.*

3.6 In the event that there are more applicants than there are places available or remaining on the application of the last criterion above (3.5), applicants will be selected for the remaining place(s) on the basis of the following criteria, in order:

3.6.1 The SEAG Total Standardised Age Score, those achieving higher scores being allocated places before those achieving lower scores.

3.6.2 If more than one applicant is eligible for the final place because they have equal scores, preference will be given to the applicant whose normal place of residence is located nearest to the front entrance [Belfast Road entrance] of the school by the most direct route by road. The school will be responsible for determining the distance between the pupil’s home and the school and will use the RAC Route Planner in conjunction with maps to establish the distance. “Normal place of residence” will be taken to mean the applicant’s address appearing on the Transfer Application.

3.6.3 In the unlikely event that, on the application of the criteria above, two or more applicants are tied for the final place(s), then the applicants will be ranked for acceptance on the basis of a computer-based process which will make use of the names of applicants as shown on their Transfer Application. The

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process is carried out by means of a computer programme which, for each applicant, generates a ranking number using the details from the Transfer Application as the seed for a random number generator. The outcome, for any given applicant, is dependent only on the applicant's name i.e. "Forename", "Middle Name" (if applicable) and "Surname", as recorded on the Transfer Application, and is not affected by the details of any other applicant. Although the process is repeatable, and the results may therefore be subsequently verified, it is not possible to predict, in advance of running the programme, what the result will be for any given set of details. Applicants with the lowest ranking numbers will be given places up to the number of places available. Further details may be obtained from the Principal.

- 4 If, following the application of the criteria outlined above (criteria 1, 2 and 3), all the available places for admission have not been filled, the Board of Governors will consider any other applications, firstly from applicants who have received a SEAG Total Standardised Age Score (those with higher scores being allocated places before those with lower scores), and then from applicants who have not taken the SEAG Entrance Assessment. Allocation of these remaining places, if any, will be by application of the criteria outlined in criteria 3 above.

### SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS – GENERAL INFORMATION

The purpose of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions is so that a child can be assigned a score equivalent to that which he or she would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal conditions. Consideration of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions consists of 2 parts: the first requires the consideration of whether there is sufficient material to permit a child to be considered as having special circumstances or attracting special provisions, or both; if a child is permitted to be considered as having special circumstances or as attracting special provisions or both, the second part of the consideration requires an educational judgement to be made on the material available so that a mark equivalent to that which the child would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal conditions can be awarded.

It is for parents/guardians to present all such material as they consider will assist the School in performing both parts of the consideration described above. All such material should be uploaded to the Transfer Application. It should be noted by parents/guardians that both parts of the consideration referred to involve an exercise in judgement.

#### Educational Evidence to be provided in support of a claim for Special Circumstances and/or Special Provisions

In reaching the education judgement needed to award the score that the child would have obtained in the SEAG Entrance Assessment under normal circumstances, the School will consider any material uploaded to the Transfer Application by the parents/guardians. This material may include any or all of the following:

- i the Total Standardised Age Score awarded by SEAG in the SEAG Entrance Assessment (if the child completed the 2 assessments) [Special Circumstances only];
- ii the **estimated** score awarded by SEAG in the SEAG Entrance Assessment (where only one assessment was taken because of illness, self-isolation or other unforeseen circumstances) [Special Provisions only];
- iii the results for the child of any standardised tests conducted in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7 and the results in any end of year tests in English and Mathematics in Years 5 and 6;
- iv comparative information from the Primary School, including the results, without names, for other children in the child's Year 7 class of any standardised tests conducted in Year 5, Year 6 and Year 7

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7 and the results in any end of year tests in English and Mathematics in Years 5 and 6 and where available the respective SEAG Total Standardised Age Scores;

v any other relevant material.

The Information Commissioner's website [www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk) contains guidance for parents with regard to how to access information held by schools in relation to their child.

### **Special Circumstances (SC)**

Sullivan Upper School has academic performance as its second criterion, subject only to the consideration of medical or other problems which may have affected performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment and which are supported by independent documentary evidence of a medical or other appropriate nature. These 'medical or other problems' are commonly referred to as 'Special Circumstances'.

Please note that if a claim for the consideration of Special Circumstances is made in respect of matters for which Special Access arrangements were granted for a pupil, the School will take into account the fact that the pupil was granted Special Access arrangements for those matters.

Parents/Guardians who wish to apply to the School under Special Circumstances should complete Form SC obtainable on the school website (<https://www.sullivanupper.co.uk/admissions>), and upload it, with appropriate documentary evidence, to the Transfer Application.

### **Details of Medical or Other Problems**

Where it is claimed that a pupil's performance in the SEAG Entrance Assessment has been affected by a medical or other problem, it is the responsibility of the parents/guardians to set out in the Form SC precise details of the problem and upload to the Transfer Application the evidence to corroborate its existence.

Where the problem is a medical one of short term duration which affected the pupil only at the time of the SEAG Entrance Assessment, the School will require the production of evidence that the pupil was examined by a medical practitioner in relation to the illness at the time of the assessments.

Where the problem is of a non-medical nature the parents/guardians should set out in the Form SC precise details of the problem and upload appropriate documentary evidence to the Transfer Application.

A Panel of Governors will consider the application for Special Circumstances. Where this is accepted, the Panel will determine a score for the applicant. In determining an appropriate score, the panel will consider all of the academic information available (see Educational Evidence points i to iv above) and, in the absence of comparative information (see point iii above), other equivalent data collected by the school. Such applicants will then be considered with all other applicants who have received a SEAG Total standardised age score and the admissions criteria applied.

### **Special Provisions (SP)**

Special Provisions will apply for:

- (a) Children whose parents/guardians wish them to transfer from schools outside Northern Ireland.
- (b) Children who have received more than half their primary education outside Northern Ireland.
- (c) Children entered for the SEAG Entrance Assessment, who because of unforeseen and serious medical or other problems (including absence due to COVID-19 or the need to self-isolate due to COVID-19) which are supported by appropriate independent documentary evidence, were unable to

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participate in any of the assessments or has an **estimated** outcome score because they sat only one of the two Entrance Assessment papers.

Note: It is expected that all those seeking admission should sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment, with the exception of those applicants who take up residence in Northern Ireland after the 20 September 2024.

Parents/Guardians who wish to apply to the School under Special Provisions should complete Form SP, obtainable from the school website (<https://www.sullivanupper.co.uk/admissions>) stating the precise reason why they believe the applicant is eligible for consideration under Special Provisions. This should be uploaded to the Transfer Application along with the appropriate documentary evidence.

A Panel of Governors will consider the application for Special Provisions. Where this is accepted, the Panel will determine a score for the applicant. In determining a score, the panel will consider all of the academic information available (see Educational Evidence points i to iv above) and, in the absence of comparative information (see point iii above), other equivalent data collected by the school. Such applicants will then be considered with all other applicants who have received a SEAG Total Standardised Age Score and the admissions criteria applied.

**DUTY TO VERIFY**

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's Transfer Application.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

**WAITING LIST**

The school operates a waiting list policy. For Year 8, all applications for admission to Year 8 that were initially refused [ie in the Transfer Procedure] will be automatically added to the waiting list. Late applications and new applications received after the Transfer Procedure concludes and applications where new information has been provided will also be added to the waiting list. All applications on the waiting list are ranked according to the published criteria for entry of pupils into Year 8 for the academic year for which application is made. The waiting list will be in place until the end of the academic year for which application is made. Parents should contact the school if they wish their child's name to be removed from the waiting list.

Should a place become available after the day on which the Year 8 placement letters have been issued, the waiting list will be used to select the pupil to be offered a place. The place will be allocated to the pupil who is at the top of the waiting list, in accordance with the published criteria, at the time at which the place becomes available. The school will contact parents in writing if a child gains a place in the school by this method.

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