



# Strabane Academy

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6.1.21

Dear Parent/Guardian

## Re: AQE Examination Series 2020-21

Firstly, thank you for considering our school for the future education of your child. I realise that this is an extremely stressful time for you and your children and I want to assure you that we have your child's wellbeing very much in our thoughts. I am taking this opportunity to update you with regards to our school plans in relation to the cancellation of the above AQE Exam Series.

AQE has proposed a further date of the 27<sup>th</sup> February to hold one test. Given the uncertainty around this, we have decided this year, as a school, not to facilitate this additional test and to apply our contingency criteria as published in our 2021 Admissions Policy. (see below)

For clarity, we will use this criterion to admit pupils into Year 8 and a range of data will be used in order to place pupils into classes, including that provided by Primary Schools as in previous years.

### Contingency Admissions Criteria 2021

1. Children who have a sibling<sup>1</sup> currently attending the school or who are the eldest /only<sup>2</sup> child in the family
2. Children who are transferring from Controlled Primary Schools
3. Children who are transferring from Maintained Primary Schools
4. The age of the child. This will be alternated each year between eldest child and youngest child with preference this year being given to the eldest child (established by date-of-birth on the Birth Certificate)

I appreciate that this is not how any of us would have wanted the transfer process to have worked this year. Your child has invested a huge amount of time and effort in preparing for these tests. However, in these exceptional and unprecedented circumstances, we have taken this decision based on; what we believe is the correct decision for children's' welfare, the confidence we have in our admissions process and in our ability as a school to ensure you that your child will ultimately succeed in achieving the best possible academic outcome for them at Strabane Academy.

Thank you again for your continued support and please feel free to contact me if you have any concerns or queries regarding the admissions process for 2021.

Kind regards

Principal

*"A caring, supportive, close-knit community committed to providing an outstanding education that motivates and inspires all to reach their true potential in an atmosphere of mutual respect."*

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