**BROWNLOW INTEGRATED COLLEGE**



**ADMISSIONS POLICY**

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**ADMISSIONS POLICY**

1. **Introduction**

Brownlow College is an integrated, all-ability, college for 11 – 16 year olds which is open to boys and girls regardless of creed, culture, race or class. As an integrated college, Brownlow aims to:

* educate together the sons and daughters of Catholics and Protestants and those of other and no religious beliefs, on a basis of equality, in an environment of tolerance and mutual respect;
* have a balanced intake of pupils of the Catholic faith and of the Protestant faith;
* ensure through curricular and extra-curricular provisions that each pupil is nurtured in his or her parents’ religion and cultural traditions;
* ensure through the common Religious Education programme, regular college worship, and extra-curricular provision, that our pupils learn together and experience together those values and beliefs which are common to all Christians;
* develop in all pupils, attitudes and abilities which will prepare them for a meaningful adult and working life;
* contribute in every way possible to promoting peace and to improving the quality of life in the local community.

1. **The Integrated Philosophy**
   1. Brownlow College believes in integration in practice. It is a core aim of this school community to make every effort to take the fear out of differences; celebrate the diversity within the staff and pupil body and employ such variety as a positive resource.
   2. The plurality of the communities which make up the borough of Craigavon is reflected at any given time in our school population. Integration for us means all communities, all abilities and all socio-economic backgrounds working and learning together. We will continue our efforts to create an inclusive school.
2. **Ethos**

The ethos of the school is firmly based in the belief that every child, independent of academic ability, background, race or religion is of equal value. In practical terms, this is reinforced by a counselling system (operating through Form Teachers and Year Heads) and by a programme of personal development which starts in Year 8 and continues until the end of a child’s career in the school. Allied to this is a programme of residential education, in which it is hoped that every child will participate. Our Pastoral Care policy stresses the importance of Home/School Links and our Brownlow Family and Friends is an essential element of this.

1. **Curriculum**

The school is housed in bright modern buildings and caters for the full comprehensive range of ability. We offer GCSE courses in the following subjects: Double Award and Single Award Science, Technology and Design, Music, Physical Education, Business Studies, French, Geography, History, English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Learning for Life and Work, Art and Design, ICT, Religious Education, Home Economics, Media Studies and Double Award Occupational Studies. Each pupil receives a Progress File at the end of Year 12.

1. **Learning Support**

In the Junior School special support is provided to children who need it, especially in English and Mathematics. Additional support is also provided for the children at the top end of the ability range so that they may achieve their full academic ability.

1. **Disability**

At Brownlow College we pride ourselves on our inclusivity. We welcome pupils of all abilities and disabilities. We have full disability access throughout the school to allow all students to be active members of our community.

1. **Newcomer / International Students**

We have a number of students who herald from a wide range of nations. We provide a well-structured support programme for all students who speak English as a second language. In addition to this we provide a range of GCSEs and courses to facilitate our students including Polish, Portuguese, International GCSE and Entry Level English.

1. **Peer Mediation**

The peer mediation programme provides students with the ability to resolve conflict through dialogue, address bullying and empower students with the skills to make school a safer, more enjoyable experience.

1. **Transfer 14+**

Subject to availability, places can become available for students to transfer from Junior High Schools to the College at 14+. All students are welcome to visit the school either by appointment or on Open Evening.

1. **Vocational Education**

Our range of options at KS4 is rapidly expanding. In addition to the traditional GCSEs we offer an expanding range of vocational subjects both in school and in collaboration with Lismore Comprehensive School and Southern Regional College.

1. **Student Council**

Brownlow Integrated College values Student empowerment and as such involves the Student Council in decision making that will improve the daily life of students and enhance the fabric of the school.

1. **Extra Curricular Activities**

A wide range of sports and extra-curricular activities are offered, such as Rugby, Soccer, Netball, Athletics, Tennis, Gaelic Skills, ICTHUS, Computer Club, Chess Club. The school has a strong musical tradition and pupils are encouraged to join the school choir and band.

1. **Careers**

An extensive careers programme is provided for all pupils throughout their time at the College.

1. **Uniform**

All children are required to wear school uniform each day unless they have been advised otherwise by their Year Head. Please see uniform policy for further information.

1. **Working in Partnership with Parents**

Parental visits to the school are always welcome, especially visits to the Parents evenings held for each Year group during the year. Parents of prospective pupils are invited to visit the school anytime.

1. **Admission Criteria**
   1. (Admission to Year 8 in September 2021 through the Transfer Procedure)
   2. In the event that there are more applicants than places available the Board of Governors has determined that priority will be given to applicants in the order set down below.
   3. Applicants who are the eldest child or whose eligible brothers/half-brothers and/or sisters/half-sisters, are already enrolled in the College.
   4. Applicants who are transferring from a Controlled Integrated or a Grant Maintained Integrated Primary School as defined in the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989.
   5. Applicants whose parents/guardian is a permanent employee of the College or has

been appointed to take up an imminent permanent position.

* 1. Final selection will be on the basis of distance from any exit door of the house to the nearest perimeter gate of the school, priority being given to those living nearest to the college. Distance will be measured on a straight line on an ordnance survey map.

1. **Integration**
   1. The Board of Governors will seek to reflect in the total number admitted to the College a balance between the two main traditions in Northern Ireland. In order to achieve this, places will be allocated as follows:

Protestant Tradition 40%

Catholic Tradition 40%

Others 20%

* 1. The criteria set out above will apply consecutively to each of the categories separately. If there are fewer applicants than places available in any one category, then the balance of places will be divided equally between the two categories. Should an odd number of places remain, the additional place will be allocated to the category which has the greater number of applicants. Should an odd number of places remain and the number of applicants be equal in both categories then the additional place will be allocated to the category which represents the minority tradition on roll in the College at the time of the Admissions Procedure. If there are fewer applicants than places in two categories, then both balances of places will be allocated to the remaining category.

17.3. The religious affiliation of a pupil will be decided by:

17.3.1. Information supplied to the College by the applicant’s parent(s)/guardian(s), either directly or on the College’s own application form.

17.3.2. The religious affiliation noted on or attached to the Transfer Form or in the absence of this information, the majority religious denomination of the primary school attended by the pupil.

17.4. The Board of Governors reserves the right to confirm denominational affiliation as recorded on a primary school’s C2K System.

17.5. The Board of Governors delegates application of Admission Criteria to the Principal, subject to the final approval of the Admissions Committee. The Admissions Committee will consider cases of special circumstances. The Admissions Committee will comprise the Principal and at least three governors.

1. **Criteria for Transfer Between Schools**

18.1. Pupils will be considered for enrolment providing that their admission:

18.1.1. would not cause the school to exceed its enrolment number as determined by the Department of Education; or

18.1.2. would not prejudice, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, efficient use of resources.

18.2. If at the time of application there are more applicants than places available in a particular year group, then the admission criteria for year 8 will be applied in order to select pupils.

1. **General Information**

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