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6th Form Admissions and Academic Study Policy

St Louis Grammar School

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SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS AND ACADEMIC STUDIES POLICY

1. Missions statement and Aims

At St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel, we are committed to providing a faith-based, caring, and inclusive learning environment where every student is encouraged to achieve their personal best. Guided by our school motto, 'Ut Sint Unum' – 'That All May Be One' – we promote mutual respect, integrity, and a spirit of cooperation among all members of our school community.

Our aims are to:

- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum that supports the academic, moral, and personal development of all pupils.
- Foster a culture of high expectations, self-discipline, and responsibility.
- Encourage participation in extracurricular and enrichment activities to develop leadership, creativity, and citizenship.
- Ensure equality of opportunity and inclusion for all, including those with additional or special educational needs.
- Prepare students to make informed decisions about their future education, training, and careers.

2. Legal Framework

This policy aligns with Department of Education (NI) regulations and statutory requirements, including:

- The Education (NI) Orders 1998 and 2016.
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability (NI) Order 2005 (SENDO).
- The Equality Act 2010 (as applicable).
- Data Protection and GDPR regulations.

3. Criteria for Admission to Sixth Form

Admission to Sixth Form at St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel, is based on academic attainment, attendance, conduct, and overall contribution to school life. External applicants will be asked to provide evidence of attainment by presenting both their GCSE/level 2 results slip and a copy of their Year 12 school report stating % attendance. St Louis Grammar will request that an external student contacts their previous school to obtain a report should one not be made available at interview.

Attendance and Punctuality:

- Minimum attendance rate of 95% required unless supported by official medical documentation.
- Consistent punctuality is expected.
- Conduct and Academic Record:
- Good conduct required, minimal referrals or detentions.
- More than one suspension may result in refusal of entry to 6th form.
- Students with a record of poor homework performance, incomplete coursework, or frequent non-submission of assignments do not meet standards required for Senior School admission.

Academic Attainment:

- GCE A Level applicants must achieve 7 GCSEs (or equivalent) with at least 3 Grade Bs and 4 Grade Cs.
- Applied course applicants must achieve 5 GCSEs (or equivalent) at Grade C or equivalent
- GCSE Mathematics is desirable;
- GCSE English is desirable;
- Some subjects may require Grade B or higher at GCSE; see 6th form subject prospectus.

Additional Considerations:

In borderline cases, the Principal will review the student's profile and invite the applicant and their parent/guardian to an interview. The interview does NOT guarantee a place given that 6th form subject classes may be oversubscribed, and it may not be possible to offer the student opportunity to continue their further education studies in St Louis Grammar.

POINTS FRAMEWORK FOR ENTRY

Qualification / Grade	Points	Notes
GCSE A* / 9	6	Highest standard of attainment
GCSE A / 8	5	
GCSE B / 6	4	
GCSE C* / 5	4	
GCSE C / 4	3	Minimum acceptable for A Level entry
GCSE D / 3	2	
GCSE E–G / 2–1	1	
Level 2 BTEC Distinction*	6	Equivalent to GCSE A*
Level 2 BTEC Distinction	5	Equivalent to GCSE A
Level 2 BTEC Merit	4	Equivalent to GCSE B
Level 2 BTEC Pass	3	Equivalent to GCSE C
Level 2 Essential Skills (Application of Number / Communication)	3	Equivalent to GCSE C
Level 2 Occupational Studies Distinction*	6	Highest standard of attainment
Level 2 Occupational Studies Distinction	5	
Level 2 Occupational Studies Merit	4	
Level 2 Occupational Studies Pass	3	

Pathway Requirements

Pathway	Programme Type	Minimum Points Required	Progression Opportunities
Purple Pathway	4 AS / A Level subjects	24	Highly competitive degrees incl. STEM, Law, Medicine, Dentistry
Green Pathway	3 AS / A Level subjects	20	Traditional University routes, humanities, social sciences
Applied Pathway	3 BTEC	18	Applied/vocational degrees, foundation degrees, higher apprenticeships

6. Considerations for Subject and Course Choices

When selecting Sixth Form subjects, students should consider their academic strengths and University/career aspirations.

Queen's University Belfast (QUB) accepts applications from students offering one Applied Level 3 qualification equivalent to A level alongside other GCE A Levels. Medicine, Dentistry, and Pharmacy do not accept Applied equivalents.

Ulster University accepts combinations of A Levels with BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificates and accepts three National Extended Certificates for entry (except Pharmacy).

St Mary's University College and Stranmillis University College now accept BTEC Level 3 qualifications for Teaching and other degrees.

Republic of Ireland (ROI) universities under the CAO system do not recognise Applied qualifications except DKIT (cross-border initiative). Other border ROI Technological Universities such as Atlantic Technological University may consider NI applicants with level 3 Applied courses.

QUB accepts only one BTEC Level 2 in lieu of a GCSE; some degrees will not accept Level 2 Application of Number or Level 2 Communication Skills instead of GCSE English or Mathematics. *Students must research entry guidelines meticulously.

The Careers Department provides updated guidance for all students in Years 12–13.

7. Sixth Form Study Requirements

Students must

- Take three or four subjects and retain at least three for the duration of Sixth Form.
- Attend mandatory weekly Careers tutorials.
- Participate fully in enrichment and extracurricular programmes.

8. Support for Students with SEN

The school supports students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in line with SENDO (NI) 2005 and the Code of Practice for SEN.

- Ensures reasonable adjustments to support inclusion.
- Provides interventions and support.
- Works with parents and agencies to meet individual needs.
- Encourages SEN students to pursue appropriate pathways.

9. Monitoring and Review

The school reserves the right to monitor attendance, behaviour, and academic progress. Sixth Form places may be withdrawn if standards fall below expectations.

Policy is reviewed annually by Senior Leadership Team and Board of Governors.

10. Conclusion

The Sixth Form at St Louis Grammar School, Kilkeel, provides a challenging and supportive environment. Admission represents a commitment to uphold the school's ethos and standards.

St Louis 6th form Prospectus online: https://tinyurl.com/yc4s4ct3

