



Transfer arrangements for pupils at age 11

On 4th December 2007 the Education Minister issued a brief statement on the issue of transfer arrangements for pupils at age 11. The current transfer procedure will cease by 2009; in future, over-subscribed schools will determine which pupils to admit using criteria based on family, community and geography, no further definition was forthcoming.

On 15th May 2008 the Education Minister issued a further statement that records a notable change of position. She accepted a need for a transition period (2010-2012) to move towards her vision of the future of education in Northern Ireland. A partial use of academic selection, apparently, is now being offered as permissible with grammar schools allowed to select 50% of their pupils on their academic ability in 2010, 30% for their intake in 2011 and 20% in 2012. In September 2013 the Minister avers that all admissions should be on the basis of non-academic criteria.

Since the statement of 15th May 2008 the world of education has continued to turn and, inevitably, schools have become increasingly exercised by the issue of selection on the grounds of academic ability as part of the entry criteria to post primary schools. The Board of Governors of Campbell College regrets that, to date, a settlement has not been reached in the Assembly; however, like all other schools we have to face the prospect of an unregulated system emerging in Northern Ireland. Subsequently, in the absence of agreement in the N.I. Assembly on this matter the Board of Governors at Campbell are in unanimous agreement that the College will retain selection on the grounds of academic ability.

Further discussion will take place early in the New Year on the mechanism of assessing academic ability and the College will write to all Primary Schools with all alacrity once a final decision on this issue is reached.

Jay Piggot
Headmaster

Extract from Open Day Address
December 2008 & January 2009