

Downpatrick Primary School  
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**INSPIRE**

*Improvement, Nurture, Success, Potential  
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Principal: Mr N Stevenson

### **Information for Post Primary Application relating to Children who had withdrawn from AQE/GL**

Dear P7 Parents

21 January 2021

As your child was not entered into AQE or GL then their post-primary transfer application process is NOT AFFECTED by the recent cancellation of the tests.

You will be selecting from schools who do not apply academic selection criteria:

E.G. Blackwater, De La Salle, St Mary's, St Colman's, St Colmcille's, Shimna, Saintfield High, Ballynahinch High, Nendrum.

The criteria for all schools are due to be published on **2 February 2021**.

it will be vital for you as parents to read through them very carefully.

The transfer application process is digital this year for the first time, which will in itself throw up challenges.

I am due to receive my training on the process next Thursday. In previous years I offered meetings with each of set of parents individually to help complete the paper form.

This year I hope I shall be able do the same thing either via telephone or Zoom prior to you having to complete the form.

#### **The application process runs from 1 – 16 March 2021.**

Application is most definitely not on a first come first served basis. So don't worry if you can't get log in on the first day. Parental guidance for the application process is also to be published on 2 February 2021.

#### **Your most important task is your role as parents.**

Please research as much as you can about the schools you are considering. Don't get sucked into all the hype on the social media forums or school websites and Facebook etc.

Contact the schools – ask to talk to the Principal or SENCO if you have a particular query, arrange a telephone call with the person in charge of year 8 admissions.

Talk to other parents who have children at the school (safely of course!) and don't let your child set their heart on one particular school, always discuss the various options with them.

But the final decision must remain with you as the parent to choose the school you think your child will be happy in and be able to reach his/her full potential.

I will update you when I have more information regarding the process.

Yours sincerely

Niall W Stevenson

Principal

