

Dear Sir/Madam,

Thank you for consulting with the Council about the above.

The Council resolved to respond registering its deep dismay at proposals which, it appears, have been agreed in defiance of the views of 60% of parents and teachers and of more than 90% of respondents to the consultation exercise on New Admissions Arrangements for Post Primary Schools.

Members further wished to highlight to you their strong opposition to an admissions system for post-primary schools which fails to include academic selection at some level. They felt that the “menu” of admissions criteria from which schools will be at liberty to choose will inevitably result in inconsistent and unfair treatment of prospective pupils.

The Council also stressed its unwillingness to accept the threat to the future existence of Grammar Schools in Northern Ireland posed by the introduction of non-academic admissions criteria. They feared that the excellent education provision, which has historically led to a high standard of academic achievement across the Province for which Northern Ireland has been hailed as an exemplar, will be significantly eroded.

I trust that these comments will assist you in your deliberations.

Yours faithfully

Amanda Martin  
Principal Administrative Officer