

**New Post-Primary Arrangements and
Proposal for a Draft Education (Northern Ireland) Order
(Closing Date: 7th March, 2006)**

It is accepted by the Council that the current academic selection had some inadequacies nevertheless it has provided a standard of education in Northern Ireland which has been the envy of the rest of the British Isles.

It is considered that the new admission arrangements for post primary education outlined in the Consultation Document could have a detrimental effect on the excellence of the education in Northern Ireland.

In particular the following comments are made:-

- 63% of parents in Northern Ireland preferred academic selection.
- The new system does not appear to consider fairness and equality for all children throughout Northern Ireland.
- Very concerned on the categories for the admissions criteria
 - Family-focused Criteria
 - Community-based Criteria
 - Geographical Criteria, and
 - Tiebreakers
- The proposals appear to be moving away from academic selection to a post code selection which would ensure the best education for the more privileged in our society.
- The current selection system should be retained until a system, which the majority of people consider will lead to an improvement in the standard of education, is put in place.
- The new proposals do not have the confidence of people throughout Northern Ireland.
- There are currently excellent grammar schools throughout the Province and they should not be interfered with.
- The new pupil profile would place teachers and school principals in a very difficult position particularly with very aggressive parents.
- Grammar schools do not require to have vocational education provision as such provision is adequate within secondary schools and Institutes of Further & Higher Education.

**Lisburn City Council
1st March, 2006**