

**AMDG**  
**GONZAGA COLLEGE SJ**

**Admissions Policy**

This Admissions Policy is prepared as part of the School Plan under Section 21 of the Education Act 1998.

**The College**

Gonzaga College is an all-boys private school founded in 1950 and situated at Sandford Road, Dublin 6. Gonzaga is a Catholic school which admits boys who are baptised and committed to the Catholic and Ignatian ethos of the school. It is a Jesuit school which aims to be a community of growth, service and faith, in which young people are able to develop the full range of their talents and abilities in a balanced and integrated way. The Jesuit motto *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam* ("To the Greater Glory of God") summarises the overall ethos of the school which operates in the context of the Characteristics of Jesuit Education.

A central concern of the school is quality teaching and learning. Gonzaga enjoys a justified reputation as a centre of academic excellence and in promoting this we aspire to teach in accord with individual learning aptitude. We aim to promote qualities of critical thinking, interior knowledge (*sentir*) and capacity for reflection in our pupils.

Based on our conviction that human fulfilment is to be found through faith in Jesus Christ and in service of the world in imitation of Him, we seek to form pupils of competence, conscience and compassion who will strive to give Christian leadership through the quality of their lives and their commitment to work for a more just, cohesive and caring society.

**Mission**

Founded as a Catholic School in 1950, Gonzaga College continues a tradition of education in accordance with the Characteristics of Jesuit Education under the Trusteeship of the Society of Jesus.

In Jesuit education the criterion of excellence is applied to all areas of school life and therefore our mission is the fullest possible development of every dimension of the person. In particular we seek to foster a sense of values and a commitment to the service of others. Thus we pledge ourselves to an ever renewed faith which actively promotes the struggle for greater justice in the world.

This leads to the following objectives:

1. Gonzaga will aim to develop a school community which is based on respect, love and service.
2. In the pursuit of excellence the educational process will be collaborative and reflective with openness to growth.
3. An understanding of the Gospel and its implications for action will be an integral part of the education offered to students at Gonzaga.

**Parents and Pupils**

Because of its nature as a Catholic, Jesuit school Gonzaga expects that parents and pupils will accept and support the ethos of the school in a positive and active manner.

**Pupils:**

To this end all pupils are expected to participate positively in the classroom and in the co-curricular and religious activities proposed by the College. These include retreats, liturgies, prayer groups, outreach and faith formation programmes.

### **Parents:**

The College needs the fullest cooperation of parents and envisages attendance at parent-teacher meetings, information meetings and other events. Parents are also invited to participate in the Parent Fora. The College welcomes the support and contribution of the Parents' Association and Council.

The acceptance of a place in Gonzaga implies the agreement of parents and pupils to fulfil the expectations expressed in these paragraphs.

### **Finance**

Gonzaga is a fee-paying school and in addition to such funding as is provided by the Department of Education and Skills towards the hiring of teachers, the finances of the school are provided by fees and by contributions from the Irish Jesuit Province.

### **Development Programme**

The Board of Management also operates a Development Programme to improve facilities on the campus. The first phase of the plan began in 1995 and has now run its course. This phase cost €4.4 millions in construction, fees and interest charges. This money was raised privately through the generosity of parents, past pupils and the Irish Jesuits. A further phase of development costing €20 millions began in 2007 and while the building was completed in July 2009 fundraising continues. All incoming and existing parents are invited to participate in the programme.

Information concerning fees and other expenses will be provided at the Information Evening (see below) as part of the ordinary Application Process.

### **Management**

The Board of Management consists of eight members appointed by the Jesuit Provincial who is Patron of the school. Of these, two members are nominated by the staff of the school and two by the parents.

### **Admissions**

Within the context of current legislation, the DES regulations, the rights of the Patron and the resources available, the College supports the principles of inclusiveness, equality of access, participation in the school and parental choice.

#### **(A) Applications**

At its meeting in March of each year, or at such other time as the Board deems convenient, the Board will determine the number of places available to be allocated to those applying to enter First Year at the commencement of the academic year in the year following, pursuant to the provisions of Paragraph (D) below. The Board will also at this time determine the number of places (if any) to be allocated in accordance with paragraph (F). Upon the Board determining that a place or places will be available for allocation in a given year pursuant to paragraph (F), the Board will provide that information on its website. An application may be made for enrolment under paragraph (D) or (F) but not both.

Preliminary applications for entry to First Year should reach the College on or before 1st September in the year prior to the year when the boy intends to start secondary school.

It should be noted that, by long-standing custom, there is no communication with the public in advance of the application process. With over 200 applications expected for the incoming First Year group it would be inappropriate to directly solicit further interest. This is not to preclude the possibility of future advertising in the media, or the hosting of an Open Evening, etc.

There is no waiting list for First Year admission, so it is of no advantage to have applied earlier than other applicants: Gonzaga does not operate a first-come, first-served policy. Factors relating to catchment area, location of primary school attended or date of application have no bearing on the enrolment process.

#### (B) Information Evening

The parent(s)/guardian(s) of all applicants are invited to the Information Evening in the College in October (by mail to the last address advised to the College). At this meeting the ethos of the school is outlined and all relevant information is made available to parents.

At this meeting all parents are also provided with a pack containing more detailed final application forms. These forms request details of the applicant's family, primary schooling and expectations of Gonzaga.

Final application forms, with any supporting documentation, should be returned as soon as possible but in any event not later than October 31st which will be considered as the official date of application in terms of the Education Act 1998.

Applications received after October 31st will not be entertained.

Unsuccessful applicants at this stage will receive notice by early December

#### (C) Shortlisting

On the basis of the returned application forms and depending on the number of applicants a short listing of applicants may take place. An applicant must be baptised as a Catholic and be committed to the Catholic and Ignatian ethos of the school. Applicants who satisfy this criterion from categories D 1, 2, 3, & 4 (see below) will be automatically shortlisted. In the preparation of this shortlist for other applicants, attention is given to the faith background of the family and their commitment to the ideals of Jesuit Education (see appendix 1 for a summary of The Characteristics of Jesuit Education the ethos document for all Jesuit schools)

No applicant is discriminated against on the grounds of disability.

#### (D) Decision making Process – Enrolment

There is no automatic right of enrolment in the College for any applicant and the College reserves the right not to offer a place to an applicant.

All decisions in relation to the enrolment of pupils in Gonzaga College SJ are made by the Board of Management of the school in accordance with school policy, the Education Act 1998, the Education Welfare Act 2000 and the Equal Status Act 2000.

The Board of Management has delegated its authority in this regard, in the first instance, to the Headmaster. Decisions relating to applications are accordingly made by the Headmaster in accordance with the priority outlined below.

Since the number of applicants normally exceeds the number of places available, places will be-allocated to Applicants in accordance with the following order of priority:

1. Brothers of present or past pupils
2. Sons of members of Gonzaga's teaching staff and nephews, great-nephews and first cousins (up to one remove) of Jesuits
3. Sons and grandsons of Past Pupils
4. Boys who have a parent/guardian who is directly involved in other Jesuit works for a substantial time
5. Applicants who do not fall within any of the above categories.

Should there be insufficient places left available for all Applicants who come within one of the above categories any places available for that category will be offered on the basis of a lottery.

Applicants who are unsuccessful in this process are invited to apply for inclusion on a waiting list from which any places subsequently arising will be assigned by lottery. This waiting list ceases to operate after the opening of the College at the start of the new academic year. Those on the waiting list may apply for inclusion on a list which will operate for second and later years. Parents have the right to appeal a refusal by a school to enrol a student under Section 29 of the Education Act (1998). The appeal must be made within 42 calendar days from the date the decision of the school is notified to the parents.

#### (E) Acceptance of places

Applicants who are being offered places will be invited to confirm in writing acceptance or otherwise within 14 days of the posting of the offer, along with a **non-refundable** deposit of €1,500 (to be set against fees for the coming year). Failure to comply with this will result in the offer being withdrawn.

(F) In addition to places allocated in accordance with the foregoing criteria the Board of Management, in accordance with Paragraph (A) above, has determined that four additional places be made available in First Year in the academic year 2018/19. These places will be allocated to the four boys who have successfully applied to be included on the John Sullivan Programme. Further details of this bursary programme are available on request.

- i. Such application shall be made on the form prescribed which may be obtained from the secretary, Gonzaga College SJ, Sandford Road, Ranelagh, Dublin D06 KF95. The form must be fully completed and should be returned to the school by the date prescribed, accompanied by a recommendation signed by the relevant School Principal.
- ii. Upon admission to the John Sullivan Programme, one of the available places provided for under this paragraph will be offered to the boy concerned. No tuition fees shall be charged for the duration of the pupil's time in the school, which duration shall be up to six years. At the discretion of the Board of Management this may be subject to an annual review of family income.

#### (H) Admission to other than First Year

Admissions at other age levels occur only when vacancies arise in the appropriate classes. Such vacancies are rare but a waiting list is maintained for interested candidates. When a vacancy occurs the relevant candidates are notified and interviews are held usually in the month of June of that year prior to entry in September of the same year.

The same criteria which apply to First Year entry will also apply to admission to other years but with the inclusion in category D4 of pupils of other Jesuit schools worldwide who are now resident in the Dublin area and no pupil is admitted at this stage without a satisfactory reference from the principal of his current secondary school.

Further information about the College may be obtained from the website [www.gonzaga.ie](http://www.gonzaga.ie).

24<sup>th</sup> April 2018 (This policy is reviewed annually.)