



***Virginia College***

***Virginia,***

***Co Cavan***

# **POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOL YEAR 2021/2022**

## **Virginia College**

**Approved by the Chief Executive of Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board, as Patron, on the 15th day of September 2020.**

A decision on an application for admission will be based on the implementation of this Policy, the information set out in the annual admission notice of the school and the information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission, once received before the closing date set out in the annual admission notice.

## INTRODUCTION TO VIRGINIA COLLEGE

---

Virginia College was founded in 1962 under the patronage of Cavan VEC and was developed in conjunction with the Virginia Agricultural Show Society. It is now an ETB school under the patronage of Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB). The school has grown from its humble beginnings in 1962 with an initial enrolment of 58 students, and with the development of three building projects, to become the school it is today with a current enrolment of 715 students.

Currently we offer Junior Cycle for all students to include level 2 learning programs and the short courses of Coding and Physical Education. At Senior Cycle we offer an optional Transition Year program as well as the traditional Leaving Certificate, the Leaving Certificate Vocational program and the Applied Leaving Certificate program.

We expect and encourage high academic standards as well as placing a strong emphasis on developing the whole person with regard to the academic, spiritual, cultural, physical and creative strands of education. This is reflected in the many extra-curricular opportunities that we provide and encourage at Virginia College.

Virginia College remains at the very heart of its local community and enjoys extensive links with the Virginia Agricultural Show Society, East Cavan Eagles Basketball club as well as the local GAA and Soccer clubs. We also have strong links with the Ramor Theatre and many of our local business's.

**Our School Motto is:**    **Tús Feasa Fiafraí**  
(Knowledge begins with questions)

**Our Mission Statement:**        Faithful to our motto, Virginia College is committed to providing quality teaching in a safe and positive learning environment. Whilst fostering academic and personal achievement, we aim to nurture an educational community of informed, responsible and caring citizens for an ever-changing world.

# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## ***PART A – General Information for All Applicants***

1. Glossary of terms
2. Admission Statement
3. Legal Framework
4. General Admission Provisions

## ***PART B - Information for Specific Categories of Applicants***

5. Application to the First-Year Group
6. Application to All Year Groups Other Than First-Year

# **PART A**

## ***General Information for All Applicants***

- 1. Glossary of terms***
- 2. Admission Statement***
- 3. Legal Framework***
- 4. General Admission Provisions (for all Applicants)***

## 1 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

---

**‘Applicant’** means the parent / guardian of a Student, or, in the case of a Student who has reached the age of 18 years, the Student, who has made an application for admission to Virginia College.

**‘Student’** means the person in respect of whom the application is being made. All uses of the word throughout this Policy therefore imply ‘prospective’ as part of the interpretation. That is, the use of the word ‘Student’ does not mean that the application for him/her has been accepted such that s/he is regarded as a Student of Virginia College by virtue of application alone.

**‘Gender’**, in line with the definition of “*the gender ground*” in the Equal Status Act 2000, is such that “*one is male and the other is female*”. This does not prejudice any Student who is Intersex or identifies as Androgynous/Androgyne, Bigender, Demigender, Gender Fluid, Genderqueer, Multigender, Neutrois, Non-binary, Transgender, Transsexual or otherwise.

**‘Catchment Area’** refers to the designated residential area for application to Virginia College in respect of the person on whose behalf the application is being made. The catchment area for Virginia College is defined as attending one of the feeder primary schools listed below.

**‘Parent’** has the same meaning as in the Education Act 1998 and includes a guardian appointed under the Guardianship of Children Acts, 1964 to 1997.

**‘Feeder Primary Schools’** refers to the primary schools of preference for application to Virginia College. The feeder primary schools for Virginia College are:

- 1.1. St Mary’s National School, Virginia
- 1.2. St Killians National School, Mullagh
- 1.3. Crossreagh National School, Cross
- 1.4. Carrigabruise National School, Maghera
- 1.5. Killinkere National School, Killinkere
- 1.6. Aughadreena National School, Aughadreena

- 1.7. Billis National School, Billis
- 1.8. Castlerahan National School, Castlerahan
- 1.9. Knocktemple National School, Knocktemple

**‘First-Year’** means the intake group of Students for the most junior class or year in a school.

## 2 ADMISSION STATEMENT

---

ETB schools are state, co-educational, multidenominational schools underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence in Education;
- Care;
- Equality;
- Community and
- Respect.



As the state provider of education, the ETB sector defines a ‘multidenominational’ school in the following way:

In ETB schools, all students are given equal opportunities for enrolment in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018. Once enrolled, our schools strive to provide all students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life. In all aspects of school life all members of our school communities are treated equitably regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status.

Our schools provide a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. They strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. Our schools promote a fully inclusive education that recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents and staff. We prepare open-minded, culturally sensitive and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values.

In ETB schools, students of all religions and beliefs are treated equally. The school environment and activities do not privilege any particular group over another whilst at the same time acknowledging and facilitating students of all religions and beliefs.

Accordingly, Virginia College shall not discriminate in its admission of a Student based on the following grounds:

- 2.1. Gender of the Student or Applicant. However, where a school admits students of one sex only, it is not discriminatory to refuse to admit Students of any other sex;
- 2.2. Civil status of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.3. Family status of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.4. Sexual orientation of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.5. Religion of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.6. Disability of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.7. Race of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.8. The Student's or Applicant's membership of the Traveller community;
- 2.9. Special educational needs of the Student or Applicant.

Virginia College shall not charge fees or payments or seek contributions as a condition of admission or continued enrolment of a Student.

### 3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

---

Cavan and Monaghan Education and Training Board (CMETB) was established under the Education and Training Board Act 2013 which sets out the functions of all ETBs, including to establish and maintain recognised schools, centres for education and education and training facilities in each ETB's functional area.

The board of management of Virginia College is a committee established under section 44 of the Education and Training Board Act 2013 and also constitutes a board of management within the meaning of the Education Act 1998.

The Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 place a duty on all recognised schools to prepare and publish an Admission Policy.

The Education Act, 1998 provides for an appeal process in the event of a refusal to enrol. The appeal process is set out in section 5.3 in respect of applications made to the First-Year Group and in section 6.3 in respect of applications made to all years other than the First-Year Group.

Section 62(7)(n) of the Education Act 1998 requires each school to set out in its Admission Policy the arrangements it has in place where a parent, or student over 18 years of age, requests that the student opt-out of religious instruction.

It is important to understand that our school does not provide '*religious instruction*' and therefore the legal requirement to advise of the option to opt-out of religious instruction does not arise in this school. There is an important distinction between '*religious instruction*' and '*religious education*':

- *Religious instruction* is a term used in Ireland to indicate instruction in accordance with the rites, practices and teachings of a particular religion or denomination for pupils of that religious tradition.
- *Religious education* is open to all pupils regardless of their commitment to any particular religion or worldview. It seeks to contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all students equally.

As ETB schools are ‘multi-denominational’ Virginia College supports the provision of religious education that caters for all students regardless of their religious or non-religious beliefs.

## 4 GENERAL ADMISSION PROVISIONS

---

A decision on an application for admission shall be based on:

- the implementation of this Admission Policy,
- the annual admission notice of the school, and the
- information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission.

If, prior to the commencement of section 62 of the Education Act 1998 by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 on the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020, Virginia College had confirmed, in writing, that an Applicant had been placed on a list relating to the allocation of school places for entrance before the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025, then this confirmation is still valid and the Applicant will be offered that place.

In processing an application Virginia College **shall not consider**:

- 4.1 The payment of fees or contributions to the school;
- 4.2 A Student’s academic ability, skills or aptitude;
- 4.3 The occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a Student’s Parent(s);
- 4.4 A requirement that a Student or his or her Parent(s), attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
- 4.5 A Student’s connection to the school due to a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school, unless the connection is a sibling of the Student concerned attending, or having attended, the school.
- 4.6 The date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school as long as it is received during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admissions notice for 2020/2021.

**Virginia College will consider** the offer of a place to every Student seeking admission to the school, **unless one of the following applies:**

- 4.7 The Parent fails to confirm in writing that s/he accepts the Student Code of Behaviour and he/she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the Student;

Where Virginia College considers an application, each Student shall receive a place, unless the school is oversubscribed, in which case, selection criteria will be applied to each application.

Section 5 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for the first-year group.

Section 6 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for all year groups other than First-Year.

# **PART B**

## ***Information for Specific Categories of Applicants***

- 5. Application to the First-Year Group***
- 6. Application to All Year Groups Other Than First-Year***

# SECTION 5

## APPLICATION TO THE FIRST-YEAR GROUP

---

### **5 APPLICATION TO THE FIRST-YEAR GROUP**

---

#### **5.1 Admission Provisions (First-Year group)**

- 5.1.1. Oversubscription
- 5.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 5.1.3. Selection process
- 5.1.4. Late Applications
- 5.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 5.1.6. Acceptance of a place
- 5.1.7. Refusal
- 5.1.8. Appeals

#### **5.2 Appeals**

- 5.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 5.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 5.2.3 Basis for appeal

## **5.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (FIRST YEAR GROUP)**

---

Where Virginia College is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

### **5.1.1 Oversubscription**

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available in First Year set at 144 for 2021/2022, the published selection criteria as set out at section 5.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Virginia College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during the 2021/2022 school year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to the same year group in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications to all year groups other than First-Year.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

### **5.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority**

Virginia College will apply the following criteria for admission to the first-year group:

#### **5.1.2.1 If the Student attended a feeder primary school:**

- St Mary's National School, Virginia
- St Killians National School, Mullagh
- Crossreagh National School, Cross
- Carrigabruise National School, Maghera
- Killinkere National School, Killinkere

- Aughadreena National School, Aughadreena
- Billis National School, Billis
- Castlerahan National School, Castlerahan
- Knocktemple National School, Knocktemple

5.1.2.2 If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school;

5.1.2.3 If the Student has siblings who were previously enrolled in the school;

### **5.1.3 Selection process**

Virginia College will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available, the remaining Applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Virginia College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

### **5.1.4 Late applications**

An application received by Virginia College after the closing date published by the college, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Virginia College is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, same will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by Virginia College before the closing date for applications. Such applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by Virginia College and subsequently Virginia College's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with this Policy.

Where Virginia College is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Virginia College, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8; the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be operated *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

#### **5.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place**

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Virginia College but does not accept the offer, or fails to accept within the specified time period, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

#### **5.1.6 Acceptance of a place**

If the Student in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for refusal as set out below.

#### **5.1.7 Refusal**

Where a Student in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

- 5.1.7.1. The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Virginia College.
- 5.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria,
- 5.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable, and
- 5.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7, an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 5.1.7.5 The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

### **5.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer**

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 5.1.8.1 The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 5.1.8.2 The Applicant fails to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission on or before the date set out in the annual Admission Notice of the school for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or
- 5.1.8.3 An applicant has not indicated:
  - (i) Whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
  - and
  - (ii) Whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the detail of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 5.1.4 above.

### **5.1.9 Appeals**

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Virginia College regarding admission to the First-Year group, see section 5.2.

## **5.2 APPEALS**

---

### **5.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:**

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Virginia College at Virginia, Co Cavan. ([info@virginiacollege.ie](mailto:info@virginiacollege.ie)) Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, or the board of management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

### **5.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:**

An Applicant who was refused admission to Virginia College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may choose to put his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Virginia College. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this policy, same shall apply instead.

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an Applicant who chooses to appeal to the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, the Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

### **5.2.3 Basis for appeal:**

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.

# **SECTION 6**

## **APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR**

---

### **6 APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR**

---

#### **6.1 Admission Provisions (other than First-Year)**

- 6.1.1. Oversubscription
- 6.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 6.1.3. Selection process
- 6.1.4. Late Applications
- 6.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 6.1.6. Acceptance of a place
- 6.1.7. Refusal
- 6.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer
- 6.1.9. Appeals

#### **6.2 Appeals**

- 6.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 6.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 6.2.3 Basis for appeal

## **6.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR)**

---

Where Virginia College is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to sections 4.7.

### **6.1.1 Oversubscription**

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available as listed, the published selection criteria as set out at section 6.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Virginia College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during the 2021/2022 school year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list. **The number of places available in each Year Group for 2021/22 is:**

<b>Year 2</b>	<b>144</b>
<b>Year 3</b>	<b>138</b>
<b>Year 4</b>	<b>72</b>
<b>Year 5</b>	<b>130</b>
<b>Year 6</b>	<b>120</b>

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to the same year group in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications to all years other than the First Year Group.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

### **6.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority**

Virginia College will apply the following criteria for admission to Year Groups other than First Year:

6.1.2.1 If the Student attended a feeder primary school:

- St Mary's National School, Virginia
- St Killians National School, Mullagh
- Crossreagh National School, Cross
- Carrigabruise National School, Maghera
- Killinkere National School, Killinkere
- Aughadreena National School, Aughadreena
- Billis National School, Billis
- Castlerahan National School, Castlerahan
- Knocktemple National School, Knocktemple

6.1.2.2 If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school;

6.1.2.3 If the Student has siblings who were previously enrolled in the school;

Any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not an Applicant is admitted.

### **6.1.3 Selection process**

Virginia College will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available, the remaining Applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Virginia College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

#### **6.1.4 Late applications:**

An application received by Virginia College after the closing date published by Virginia College, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Virginia College is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, same will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by Virginia College before the closing date for applications. Such applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by Virginia College and subsequently Virginia College's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with this Policy.

Where Virginia College is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Virginia College, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8; the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be operated *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

#### **6.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place**

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Virginia College but does not accept the offer, or fails to accept within the specified time period, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

#### **6.1.6 Acceptance of a place:**

If the Student in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of

issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for refusal as set out below.

#### **6.1.7 Refusal:**

Where a Student in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

- 6.1.7.1. The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Virginia College.
- 6.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, and
- 6.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable
- 6.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7, an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 6.1.7.5 The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

#### **6.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer**

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 6.1.8.1 The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or

- 6.1.8.2 The Applicant fails to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission on or before the date set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the 2020/2021 academic year, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or
- 6.1.8.3 An Applicant has not indicated:
- (i) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
- and
- (ii) whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 6.1.4 above.

### **6.1.8 Appeals:**

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Virginia College regarding admission, see section 6.2.

## **6.2 APPEALS**

---

### **6.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:**

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Virginia College at Virginia, Co Cavan. ([info@virginiacollege.ie](mailto:info@virginiacollege.ie)). Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, or the board of management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

### **6.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:**

An Applicant who was refused admission to Virginia College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may choose to put his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Virginia College. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an Applicant who chooses to appeal to the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, the Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

### **6.2.3 Basis for appeal:**

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.

This policy has been made available to school personnel and the Parents' Association and is readily accessible to parents on request. A copy of this policy will be made available to the Department and the patron if requested.

This policy will be reviewed by the Board of Management annually.

**Date of next review: September 2021**