

**DUBLIN DIOCESAN ADMISSION POLICY**

**WITH SECTION 2 AND 17 COMPLETED**

**THIS IS THE DOCUMENT THAT SHOULD FORM THE BASIS FOR DISCUSSION AT  
BOARD OF MANAGEMENT AND SHOULD BE USED BY SCHOOLS UNDER  
ARCHBISHOP DIARMUID MARTIN'S PATRONAGE**

## Template admission policy

### Admission Policy of [name of school]

**School Address:**

**Roll number:**

**School Patron/s:**

#### 1. Introduction

This Admission Policy complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1998, the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Equal Status Act 2000. In drafting this policy, the board of management of the school has consulted with school staff, the school patron and with parents of children attending the school.

The policy was approved by the school patron on [date]. It is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request, to any person who requests it.

The relevant dates and timelines for [school name] admission process are set out in the school's annual admission notice which is published annually on the school's website at least one week before the commencement of the admission process for the school year concerned.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the annual admission notice for the school year concerned.

The application form for admission is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy on request to any person who requests it.

#### 2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

This section must be completed by all schools.

[Name of school] is a Catholic [co-educational/all boys/all girls] primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of [insert Patron].

"Catholic Ethos" in the context of a Catholic primary school means the ethos and characteristic spirit of the Roman Catholic Church, which aims at promoting:

- (a) the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects; and
- (b) a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- (c) a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and
- (d) the formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith,

and which school provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, and/or such ethos and/or characteristic spirit as may be determined or interpreted from time to time by the Irish Episcopal Conference.

In accordance with S.15 (2) (b) of the Education Act, 1998 the Board of Management of [Insert the name of the school] shall uphold, and be accountable to the patron for so upholding, the characteristic spirit of the school as determined by the cultural, educational, moral, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values and traditions which inform and are characteristic of the objectives and conduct of the school.

Insert details here of the Mission Statement and general objectives of the school.

### 3. Admission Statement

[School Name] will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

- (a) the gender ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (b) the civil status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (c) the family status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (d) the sexual orientation ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (e) the religion ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (f) the disability ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (g) the ground of race of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (h) the Traveller community ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned, or
- (i) the ground that the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned has special educational needs

As per section 61 (3) of the Education Act 1998, 'civil status ground', 'disability ground', 'discriminate', 'family status ground', 'gender ground', 'ground of race', 'religion ground', 'sexual orientation ground' and 'Traveller community ground' shall be construed in accordance with section 3 of the Equal Status Act 2000.

Additional information must be included (as applicable) in this section, in the case of single gender schools, post-primary denominational schools, denominational primary schools of a minority religion, all denominational schools, special schools and schools with special classes as set out below.

Schools must retain any of the following statements that apply to them and delete those that do not:

**Single gender schools**

[Name of school] is an all-boys/all-girls (delete as appropriate) school and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit a boy/girl applying for admission to this school.

**Post-primary denominational schools**

[Name of school] is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it admits a student of (insert details of particular religious denomination concerned) in preference to others.

**Primary schools receiving applications from applicants of a minority religion**

[Name of school] is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate in relation to the admission of a student who has applied for a place in the school in accordance with section 7A of the Equal Status Act 2000.

**All denominational schools**

[Name of school] is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not (insert details of particular religious denomination concerned) and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

**Special schools**

[Name of school] is a school which, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, provides an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister and does not discriminate in relation to the admission of a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

**Schools with special education class(es)**

[Name of school] is a school which has established a class, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, which provides an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

**4. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school/special class**

In the case of special schools and schools with a special class or unit attached, the category/categories of SEN catered for by the school/special class/unit must be set out here.

Schools must retain the following statements that apply to them and delete those that do not:

**(a) In the case of a special school**

[School name] with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, provides an education exclusively for students with (insert details of category or categories of SEN the school caters for).

**(b) In the case of a mainstream school with a SEN class attached**

[School Name] with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established a class to provide an education exclusively for students with (insert details of category or categories of SEN the special class caters for).

**Note for schools:** The act does not require schools and special classes providing for a category or categories of special educational needs to change their current status. The current arrangements in relation to the category or categories of special educational needs provided by schools will continue as in previous years unless otherwise directed by the NCSE or the Department.

## 5. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (please see section 6 below for further details)
- b) a parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student

Additional information must be included (as applicable) in this section.

Schools must retain any of the following statements that apply to them and delete those that do not:

**A school that admits students of one gender only**

[School Name] provides education exclusively for boys/girls and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the gender provided for by this school.

**All denominational schools**

[School Name] is a (specify denomination of school) and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of (specify denomination) where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

**Special School**

[School Name] provides an education exclusively for students with [specify category or categories of special educational needs] and may refuse admission to a student, where the student does not have the specified category of special educational needs provided for by this school.

**School with special education class(es)**

The special class attached to [School Name] provides an education exclusively for students with [specify category or categories of special educational needs] and the school may refuse

admission to this class, where the student concerned does not have the specified category of special educational needs provided for in this class.

## 6. Oversubscription (this section must be completed by all schools including schools that do not anticipate being oversubscribed)

In the event that the school is oversubscribed, the school will, when deciding on applications for admission, apply the following selection criteria in the order listed below to those applications that are received within the timeline for receipt of applications as set out in the school's annual admission notice:

### Insert selection criteria here

**Note:** In the case of a primary school that intends to give priority in admission to a student of a minority religion in accordance with section 7A of the Equal Status Act 2000, the school must include details of the arrangements for same here (see FAQ number 15) (delete if not applicable)

In the event that there are two or more students tied for a place or places in any of the selection criteria categories above (the number of applicants exceeds the number of remaining places), the following arrangements will apply:

### Insert details of the school's arrangements here

## 7. What will not be considered or taken into account

In accordance with section 62(7) (e) of the Education Act, the school will not consider or take into account any of the following in deciding on applications for admission or when placing a student on a waiting list for admission to the school:

Points (a) to (g) must be included here by all schools. There are limited exceptions to some of these (highlighted in red below) and schools must retain the exceptions that apply to them and delete those that do not:

- (a) a student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí,  
other than in relation to a student's prior attendance at—
  - (I) an early intervention class, or
  - (II) an early start pre-school, specified in a list published by the Minister from time to time;
- (b) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school;  
(other than in relation to a fee charging school or a plc or further education and training course run by a school in respect of those courses)

- (c) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude;  
(other than in relation to:
- admission to (a) a special school or (b) a special class insofar as it is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not the student has the category of special educational needs concerned and/or
  - admission to an Irish language school, in accordance with the provisions of section 62(9) of the act
- (d) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents;
- (e) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;  
(other than in the case of admission to the residential element of a boarding school or to a plc or further education and training course run by a school)
- (f) a student's connection to the school by virtue of a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school;  
(other than, in the case of the school wishing to include a selection criteria based on (1) siblings of a student attending or having attended the school and/or (2) parents or grandparents of a student having attended the school.

In relation to (2) parents and grandparents having attended, a school may only apply this criteria to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's annual admission notice).

- (g) the date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school,

This is subject to the application being received at any time during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned.

This is also subject to the school making offers based on existing waiting lists (up until 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 only).

## 8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to [school name] will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy
- The school's annual admission notice (where applicable)
- The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in our annual admission notice for receiving applications

(Please see [section 14](#) below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and [section 15](#) below in relation to applications for places in years other than the intake group.)

Selection criteria that are not included in our school admission policy will not be used to make a decision on an application for a place in our school.

## 9. Notifying applicants of decisions

Applicants will be informed in writing as to the decision of the school, within the timeline outlined in the annual admissions notice.

If a student is not offered a place in our school, the reasons why they were not offered a place will be communicated in writing to the applicant, including, where applicable, details of the student's ranking against the selection criteria and details of the student's place on the waiting list for the school year concerned.

Applicants will be informed of the right to seek a review/right of appeal of the school's decision (see [section 18](#) below for further details).

## 10. Acceptance of an offer of a place by an applicant

In accepting an offer of admission from [school name], you must indicate—

(i) whether or not you have accepted an offer of admission for another school or schools. If you have accepted such an offer, you must also provide details of the offer or offers concerned and

(ii) whether or not you have applied for and awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school or schools, and if so, you must provide details of the other school or schools concerned.

## 11. Circumstances in which offers may not be made or may be withdrawn

An offer of admission may not be made or may be withdrawn by [school name] where—

- (i) it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- (ii) an 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.
- (iii) the parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student; or
- (iv) an applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of 'acceptance of an offer' as set out in [section 10](#) above.

## 12. Sharing of Data with other schools

Applicants should be aware that section 66(6) of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 allows for the sharing of certain information between schools in order to facilitate the efficient admission of students.

Section 66(6) allows a school to provide a patron or another board of management with a list of the students in relation to whom—

- (i) an application for admission to the school has been received,
- (ii) an offer of admission to the school has been made, or
- (iii) an offer of admission to the school has been accepted.



The list may include any or all of the following:

- (i) the date on which an application for admission was received by the school;
- (ii) the date on which an offer of admission was made by the school;
- (iii) the date on which an offer of admission was accepted by an applicant;
- (iv) a student's personal details including his or her name, address, date of birth and personal public service number (within the meaning of section 262 of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005).

### **13. Waiting list in the event of oversubscription**

In the event of there being more applications to the school year concerned than places available, a waiting list of students whose applications for admission to [school name] were unsuccessful due to the school being oversubscribed will be compiled and will remain valid for the school year in which admission is being sought.

Placement on the waiting list of [school name] is in the order of priority assigned to the students' applications after the school has applied the selection criteria in accordance with this admission policy.

Applicants whose applications are received after the closing date, outlined in the Annual Admission Notice, will be placed at the end of the waiting list in order of the date of receipt of the application.

Offers of any subsequent places that become available for and during the school year in relation to which admission is being sought will be made to those students on the waiting list, in accordance with the order of priority in relation to which the students have been placed on the list.

### **14. Late Applications**

All applications for admission received after the closing date as outlined in the annual admission notice will be considered and decided upon in accordance with our school's admissions policy, the Education Admissions to School Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act.

Late applicants will be notified of the decision in respect of their application no later than three weeks after the date on which the school received the application. Late applicants will be offered a place if there is place available. In the event that there is no place available, the name of the applicant will be added to the waiting list as set out in Section 13.

### **15. Procedures for admission of students to other years and during the school year**

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school to classes or years other than the school's intake group are as follows:

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school, after the commencement of the school year in which admission is sought, are as follows:

## 16. Declaration in relation to the non-charging of fees

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of (name of school) or any persons acting on its behalf will not charge fees for or seek payment or contributions (howsoever described) as a condition of-

- (a) an application for admission of a student to the school, or
- (b) the admission or continued enrolment of a student in the school.

**Note:** Exceptions apply only in relation to fee charging post primary schools, the boarding element in Boarding Schools and admission to post leaving cert or further education courses run by post-primary schools.

## 17. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

This section must be completed by schools that provide religious instruction to students.

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parents or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, who has requested that the student attend the school without attending religious instruction in the school. These arrangements will not result in a reduction in the school day of such students:

A written request should be made to the Principal of the school. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s) or the student, as the case may be, to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

## 18. Reviews/appeals

### Review of decisions by the board of Management

The parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may request the board to review a decision to refuse admission. Such requests must be made in accordance with Section 29C of the Education Act 1998.

The timeline within which such a review must be requested and the other requirements applicable to such reviews are set out in the procedures determined by the Minister under section 29B of the Education Act 1998 which are published on the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

The board will conduct such reviews in accordance with the requirements of the procedures determined under Section 29B and with section 29C of the Education Act 1998.

**Note:** Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **must request a review** of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to a reason other than the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **may request a review** of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

### **Right of appeal**

Under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, the parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may appeal a decision of this school to refuse admission.

An appeal may be made under Section 29 (1) (c) (i) of the Education Act 1998 where the refusal to admit was due to the school being oversubscribed.

An appeal may be made under Section 29 (1) (c) (ii) of the Education Act 1998 where the refusal to admit was due a reason other than the school being oversubscribed.

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **must request a review** of that decision by the board of management **prior to making an appeal** under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management)

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to a reason other than the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **may request a review** of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management)

Appeals under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 will be considered and determined by an independent appeals committee appointed by the Minister for Education and Skills.

The timeline within which such an appeal must be made and the other requirements applicable to such appeals are set out in the procedures determined by the Minister under section 29B of the Education Act 1998 which are published on the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

**[SCHOOL NAME]**  
**ANNUAL ADMISSION NOTICE**

**in respect of admissions to the 20XX/20XX school year**

- This Notice must be published at least 1 week before a school can accept applications for admission**
- This Notice must be published on the school's website and must remain there for the duration of the school year**
- This Notice must also be made available on written request**

**Admission Policy and Application Form**

A copy of the school's **Admission Policy** and the **Application Form for Admission** for the [insert school year] is available as follows: –

To download at: [www.\[schoolwebsiteaddress\]](http://www.[schoolwebsiteaddress])

On request: By emailing [school email address] or writing to: [school office address]

**PART 1 - Admissions to the [insert school year concerned] school year**

**Application and Decision Dates for admission to [insert school year concerned]**

The following are the dates applicable for admission to Junior Infants/First Year (delete as appropriate)

The school will commence accepting applications for admission on (This date cannot be before October 1 <sup>st</sup> of the year preceding the start of the school year for which admission is being sought)	
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on (There must be a minimum period of 3 weeks between this date and the commencement date for accepting applications for admission)	
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is (This date must be within 3 weeks of the closing date for receipt of application or within 3 weeks of the application date for late applications)	
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	

**\*Failure to accept an offer within the prescribed period above may result in the offer being withdrawn**

**Note: the school will consider and issue decisions on late applications in accordance with the school's admission policy.**

## Special Class Application and Decision Dates for admission to [insert school year concerned]

The following are the dates applicable for admission to the school's Special Class which caters for children with [insert details of category/categories of SEN catered for in the class] -

The school will commence accepting applications for admission to the special class on (This date cannot be before October 1 <sup>st</sup> of the year preceding the start of the school year for which admission is being sought)	
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission to the special class on (There must be a minimum period of 3 weeks between this date and the commencement date for accepting applications for admission)	
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application for admission to the special class is (This date must be within 3 weeks of the closing date for receipt of application or within 3 weeks of the application date for late applications)	
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	

**\*Failure to accept an offer within the prescribed period above may result in the offer being withdrawn**

## Number of places being made available in [insert school year concerned]

The number of places being made available in junior infants/first year(delete as appropriate) is	
The number of residential places is (boarding schools only)	
The number of non-residential places is (boarding schools only)	
The number of places being made available in the special class* catering for children with [insert category or categories of SEN catered for in the special class] is	

(\*Note: If school has a number of classes that cater for different categories of SEN, details of the numbers of places for each SEN class must be provided)

The following text applies only to schools that made offers of school places in respect of the 2021/22 school year and those offers that were accepted prior to 1 February 2020. It should be deleted in all other cases.

[School Name] has made offers of school placement which have been accepted prior to the commencement of Section 62 of the Education (Admission to Schools) 2018 on 1 February 2020, the number of those places offered and accepted for [junior infants/ first year intake group for 20XX/20XX] is:

**This Section should only be completed if your school intake group/special class was oversubscribed in the previous school year**

## PART 2 - Admissions to the [insert previous school year] school year

In respect of the [insert school year prior to that to which the admission notice applies] school

**Information regarding the admission process for the Intake Group for [Junior Infants/1<sup>st</sup> year]/ [Special Class] for the (XXXX) school year**

In respect of [insert school year prior to that to which the admission notice applies] school year, the total number of applications for admission received by the school was \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Breakdown of places allocated for the xx/xx school year:</b>	
Number of places available:	
Number of applications received:	
Number of Offers made and accepted under each criteria:	A description of each criterion used and the number of places offered and accepted under that criterion must be entered here. Example, as follows: Criterion One: Applicants living in the catchment area – 40 places offered, 38 places accepted. Criterion Two: Applicants with siblings attending the school – 20 places offered, 20 places accepted.
Total number of offers made	
Number of names placed on waiting list for the school year concerned.	