



Stepaside Educate Together Secondary School

Ballyogan Road

Leopardstown

D18 VEA0

In respect of admissions to the 2027/2028 school year

Admission Policy and Application Form

A copy of the schools Admission Policy and the Application Form for Admission for 2027/2028 is available as follows: -

To download at: <https://stepasideetss.ie/page/Admissions/16248/Index.html>

By emailing: admissions@stepasideetss.ie

PART 1 – Admissions to the 2027/2028 school year

Application and Decision dates for admission to 2027/2028

The following are the dates applicable for admission to First Year.

The school will commence accepting applications for admission on	Thursday 1st October 2026 at 10am
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on	Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 5pm
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application by email is	Thursday 12th November 2026
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	Thursday 26th November 2026 at 5pm

Note: applications made after Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 5pm will be processed as late applications. 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 2026/2027

The special classes provide an education exclusively for students with a definite diagnosis of Autism meeting DSM IV/V or ICD 10 diagnostic criteria and a professional recommendation that they require the support of a special class. It should be noted that fulfilling the enrolment eligibility does not necessarily guarantee the student a place in the ASD Special Class.

The number of students in the class of 2027/2028 is limited to 24 places. The class of 2026/2027 currently has 24 students enrolled.

Applicants must apply to the mainstream schools and indicate if they require a place in the special class. A place can only be offered in An Croí (ASD special class) if a corresponding place also exists in the respective year the student has applied to join.

The special class will aim to offer an autism-specific learning environment within a mainstream co-educational setting. This setting facilitates optimum inclusion in mainstream classes and strives to meet the educational needs of the students. The Board of Management will assign a place in a mainstream class to all students in the ASD special class. "This enables the student to access the mainstream place (including optional subjects in post-primary schools) to the greatest extent possible, in accordance with their ability to participate" (Guidelines for Setting up and Organising Special Classes, NCSE, 2016).

Number of places being made available in 2027/2028

The number of places being made available in First Year is:	144
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N.B. Parents/Guardians who intend to make an application to An Croí, ASD special class, must contact the NCSE in the first instance.

The department issued a circular earlier this year (circular 0063-2026) regarding forward planning for 2027/2028 in respect of educational provision for children who require a specialist placement.

This circular also outlines a new process by which parents must have contacted the NCSE should they wish to seek specialist placement for their child. All children **must** be known to the NCSE through this process only.

Consequently, it is vital that any child who is seeking a place for An Croí in 2027/2028 has already made contact with the NCSE **prior to the NCSE deadline of 1st September 2026.***

Parents/Guardians can contact the NCSE through the dedicated email address parentsnotify@ncse.ie

* Any application to the NCSE, for admission to An Croí, **must** have already been completed prior to applying for a place in 1st year 27/28 i.e. prior to the 1st September 2026.

Other Year Groups and Decision Dates for Admission to 2027/2028

The following are the dates applicable for admission to other year groups:

(2nd, 3rd, 4th/Transition Year, 5th and 6th year only)

The school will commence accepting applications for admission to the above groups on	05th April 2027 at 10am
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on	26th April 2027 at 5pm
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application by email is	10th May 2027
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	24th May 2027

Note: applications made after 26th April 2027 at 5pm will be processed as late applications. The school will consider and issue decisions on late applications in accordance with the school's admission policy.

Failure of an applicant to accept an offer within 14 days of the offer being made may result in the offer being withdrawn.