Coláiste Chill na n-Iníon




Firhouse Community College

# ADMISSION POLICY
# 2027/2028

Signed: Margaret Cavanagh
Chairperson of Board of Management

Signed: Senan Nolan
Principal/ Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 29th September 2026

**Review Date: August 2027**

# Policy for Admission to Firhouse Community College

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. The Principal of Firhouse Community College is responsible for the implementation of this Admission Policy.

# INTRODUCTION TO FIRHOUSE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Ethos Statement

Firhouse Community College was established in 1982 to meet the second-level, educational needs of the local community. As teachers, we commit ourselves to work to fulfil this purpose with dedication and professional expertise.

As a co-educational, non-selective, multi-denominational school, we believe in the principle of education for all. We value the uniqueness of each member of our school community. We are committed to equality in all aspects of school life.

As educators, we are mindful of, and sensitive to, the changing needs of students as they grow towards adulthood. We commit ourselves to care for our students and to provide for their wellbeing. We also commit ourselves to care for our colleagues.

We endeavour to carry out our work to the highest standards.

We strive to create a positive, respectful atmosphere that is conducive to teaching and learning and the personal development of every member of the school community. For this reason, we expect our students to share and uphold the values of our school.

In working as a team, we aim to assist all students to:

- Discover and realise their own potential
- Achieve to the highest of their abilities
- Lead rewarding and fulfilling lives
- Acquire a love and enjoyment of learning
- Strive for excellence
- Develop personal discipline in their lives
- Respect and care for their own well-being and the well-being and rights of others
- Grow as moral persons
- Appreciate and develop the spiritual dimensions of life
- Respect and value the differences between people
- Understand and appreciate the values and traditions of our society
- Become good citizens

## Programmes Offered in Firhouse Community College

- Junior Cycle Programme
- Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP)
- Transition Year
- Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)
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# PART A - *General Information 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 Firhouse Community 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 an application or acceptance of offer makes him/her a student of Firhouse Community College; a person is only regarded as a student of Firhouse Community College once s/he is enrolled on his/her first day of attendance. It does not include a person who was formerly enrolled in the school and was permanently excluded from the school or who left the school after being recommended for expulsion by the Board of Management.

**'Enrolled'** means attending the school as a registered student, in line with section 20(2) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.

'**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 Firhouse Community College in respect of the person on whose behalf the application is being made. The catchment area for Firhouse Community College is defined as the greater Firhouse area and its hinterland.

**Catchment Area for the Special Class'** refers to the designated residential area for application to Firhouse Community College in respect of the person on whose behalf the application is being made to all classes other than the Special Class. The catchment area for Firhouse Community College is defined as the greater Firhouse area and its hinterland.

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

**'Sibling'** for the purpose of selection criteria relating to the student having a sibling who currently or previously attended the school, '**Sibling'** refers to full siblings, half siblings, foster siblings and step siblings and students who reside in the same household.

'**Feeder Primary Schools'** refers to the primary schools of preference for application to Firhouse Community College. The feeder primary schools for Firhouse Community College, in no particular order, are:

1.1. Scoil Treasa, Ballycullen Avenue, Tymon South, Dublin 24
1.2. Holy Rosary Primary School, Old Court Avenue, Dublin 24
1.3. Glenasmole National School, Glenasmole, Bohernabreena, Co. Dublin

'**Special Class**' means a class that has, with the approval of the Minister of Education, been established by a school to provide an education exclusively for Students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister of Education. Firhouse Community College has a Special Class, established to cater for special educational needs of Students with Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

**'Relevant Report',** as advised by the Department of Education and the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), means a written report, based on an assessment by a relevant professional, which:

(a) provides detailed evidence of the Student's needs
(b) confirms that those needs constitute complex/severe educational needs which arise from a named diagnosis relating to the Student, and
(c) makes a recommendation for a Special Class placement for the Student on the basis of his/her complex/severe educational needs arising from said diagnosis.

The relevant professional may include an educational psychologist, psychologist, other relevant health professionals, HSE disability services or HSE multi-disciplinary team staff, in line with guidance issued by the NCSE on this point.

**'First-Year'** means the intake group of Students for the most junior class or year in our school.

# 2 ADMISSION STATEMENT

## DEFINITION OF A 'MULTIDENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL' IN A DESIGNATED COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

Firhouse Community College is a designated Community College. Designated Community Colleges are established by the signing of a model agreement between an ETB and the local Catholic Bishop and/or a religious congregation. DDLETB is the patron of the school. The model agreement provides for the participation of the Archbishop, Diarmuid Martin, of the Archdiocese of Dublin in the organisation and management of the Community College on an ongoing basis.

Firhouse Community College was established in 1982 in a spirit of partnership between DDLETB and the Archdiocese of Dublin, a new school in a greenfield site. The inherited traditions, values and founding intentions of DDLETB and the Archbishop, of the Archdiocese of Dublin remain enshrined in the characteristic spirit and in the life of our school.

Our school is a state, co-educational, multi-denominational school underpinned by the core values of:

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




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

Our school, Firhouse Community College, provides a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. We strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. Our school promotes a fully inclusive education which 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.

Our school is multi-denominational. We welcome, respect and support students of all religions and beliefs. The provision of religious education, religious worship and the work of the Chaplain all combine to reflect the founding intention of the school, the school's mission statement and the needs of the students within the school. The characteristic spirit of the school finds practical expression through the provision of pastoral, liturgical and social outreach activities, as appropriate, for each student.

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

2.1. Gender of the Student or Applicant

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. [However, where the school provides education exclusively for a category or categories of special educational need(s) in a Special Class, it is not discriminatory to refuse to admit to that class a Student who does not have the specified special educational need(s).

Firhouse Community College will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Educational Needs Act 2004 relating to the provision of education to children with special educational needs, including in particular by the provision and operation of a Special Class or classes when requested to do so by the Council.

Firhouse Community College will comply with any direction served on the patron or the board, as the case may be, under Section 37A and any direction served on the board under Section 67(4B) of the Education Act.

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

## 3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Dublin & Dun Laoghaire ETB 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 Firhouse Community 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 5.2 in respect of applications made to the First-Year Group and in section 6.2 in respect of applications made to all years other than the First-Year Group.

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', Firhouse Community College supports the provision of *religious education* that caters for all students regardless of their religious or non-religious beliefs.

Firhouse Community College will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 relating to the provision of education to children with special educational needs, including in particular by the provision and operation of a special class or classes when requested to do so by the Council.

Firhouse Community College will comply with any direction served on the patron or the board, as the case may be, under section 37A and any direction served on the board under section 67(4B) of the Education Act.

## 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.

In processing an application Firhouse Community 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; unless:

- it is necessary to ascertain whether or not the Student has the category of special educational needs concerned for admission to a school approved by the Minister of Education providing education exclusively to Students with a specified category of special educational needs or a special class;

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, or a parent having previously 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 Admission Notice for that academic year.

Firhouse Community College **will consider** the offer of a place to every Student seeking admission to the school, **unless 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.

4.8 The Student seeking admission to the Special Class in the school does not have the category of special educational needs specified by the Minister of Education in respect of that class.

Where Firhouse Community 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.

Section 7 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for the Special Class.

# PART B

# *Information for Specific Categories of Applicants*

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### 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 review by the board of management

## 5.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (FIRST-YEAR GROUP)

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

A Student applying for the First-Year Group but seeking admission to the Special Class should see section 7 of this Admission Policy. If the Student is also applying for a place in the mainstream First-Year Group in the event of an unsuccessful application to the Special Class, this section 5 is also applicable.

Incomplete applications received by the school will not be processed under this policy.

### 5.1.1 Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, 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 only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Firhouse Community College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list, subject to the provisions of section 7.1.1 regarding the Special Class.

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 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 an application is made on behalf of a Student for both the Special Class and a mainstream year group, and his/her application for one but not both is successful, s/he will remain in the same position on the waiting list for the group to which s/he was not successful, regardless of whether the Applicant accepts the place in the group to which the Student was successful.

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

Firhouse Community College will apply the following criteria for admission to the First Year Group:

5.1.2.1 Students from the three main feeder schools – Scoil Treasa, Holy Rosary and Glenasmole National School - and who have been enrolled in the feeder school for at least one academic year.

5.1.2.2 Brothers and sisters of current students and of former students, who attend other primary schools.

5.1.2.3 Students from our catchment area, who attend other local primary schools including but not limited to Scoil Maelruan, St Martin De Porres, Colmcille's, Scoil Santain, St Dominic's, Firhouse Educate Together NS, Gaelscoil na Giuise

5.1.2.4 Students living in local catchment area who attend other primary schools

5.1.2.5 A student whose parent/guardian is a member of staff of the school

5.1.2.6 Children of former students

5.1.2.7 All other Applicants

### 5.1.3 Selection Process

Firhouse Community 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 First Year Group 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 relevant year group. This process is continuously carried out against all selection criteria until all available places have been offered and accepted.

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

### 5.1.4 Late Applictions

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

Where the First Year group is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications, irrespective of any selection criteria which may have been applied to applications received before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school, subject to section 4.7 and 4.8.
For the avoidance of doubt, selection criteria are not relevant to and will not be applied to, late applications.

Where First Year Group is not oversubscribed ie there is no waiting list, and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within the First Year group subject to section 4.7 and 4.8, and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied i.e. an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school by the date stated for same in the letter offering the place.

### 5.1.5 Second/Third Round Offers

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within the First Year group but does not accept the offer, 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 First Year group have been filled.

### 5.1.6 Acceptnace 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 College.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School's 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's 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 withdrawal of an offer as set out below.

When inputting the Student's data on PPOD (Post-Primary Online Database hosted by the Department of Education) if it comes to Firhouse Community College's attention that the Student is enrolled in more than one school, it will be necessary for Firhouse Community College to contact the conflicting school to resolve the conflict. If it is confirmed that the Student will be attending the conflicting school, Firhouse Community College will need to delete the Student's record from its PPOD and withdraw the offer of admission. If the Student is to be attending Firhouse Community College no further action is required by Firhouse Community College.

### 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 Firhouse Community College

5.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed

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 and 4.8, 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. Or 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 or s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

5.1.8.4. It is confirmed that the student will be attending the conflicting school following it coming to Firhouse Community college's attention on PPOD is enrolled in more than one school.

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 for that academic year (and shall not be placed on a waiting list). If the applicant still desires a place for that academic year a new application must be made for the same academic year on behalf of that Student and 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 Firhouse Community 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 is refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must request a review by the Board of Management, in writing, via a Bom1 Form, available from the school office and https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8248c-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-due-to-a-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-seek-a-review-by-the-board-of-management, for it to be reviewed by the Board of Management of Firhouse Community College, Firhouse Road, Tallaght, Dublin 24, Fax 01 4525423, www.firhousecommunitycollege.ie Such review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty one calendar days 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 after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing firhousecc@ddletb.ie.

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 under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' available at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8248c-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-due-to-a-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-appeal-if-a-child-has-been-refused-admission-because-the-school-is-full, and submitted to Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education or the appeal can be submitted online by uploading the required documentation at https://www.section29appeals.gov.ie/ As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the board of management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal and may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

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

An Applicant who was refused admission to Firhouse Community College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the board of management, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Firhouse Community College. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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 after the publication of this policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing firhousecc@ddletb.ie . (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the board of management in writing to that effect.)

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, that Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

### 5.2.3 Basis for a review by the board of management:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the board of management to review a decision of the school to refuse admission 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 review the decision.

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

In the event that Firhouse Community College is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to section 4.7 and 4.8

A Student applying for admission to a year group other than First-Year but seeking admission to the Special Class should see section 7 of this Admission Policy. If the Student is also applying for a place in the mainstream year group other than First-Year in the event of an unsuccessful application to the Special Class, this section 6 is also applicable.

Incomplete applications received by the school will not be processed under this policy.

### 6.1.1 Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, 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 only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made.

Where Firhouse Community College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list subject to the provisions of section 7.1.1 regarding the Special Class.

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 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 an application is made on behalf of a Student for both the Special Class and a mainstream year group, and his/her application for one but not both is successful, s/he will remain in the same position on the waiting list for the group to which s/he was not successful, regardless of whether the Applicant accepts the place in the group to which the Student was successful.

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.

Where the Transition Year Programme and/or Leaving Certificate Applied Programme in Firhouse Community College is/are oversubscribed, a Student applying for admission to such programme(s) in the relevant year group, will, subject to this policy, be placed on the appropriate waiting list already compiled (annually) by the school, which list will contain the names of students enrolled in the school who have been placed on an internal waiting list for this/these programme(s).

### 6.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority

Firhouse Community College will apply the following criteria for admission to a year group other than First-Year:

6.1.2.1 The Student has siblings currently enrolled in the College at the time of application and resides in the Catchment Area.
6.1.2.2 The Student had siblings previously enrolled in the college and resides in the Catchment Area.
6.1.2.3 If a parent/guardan of the student is a member of staff of the school.
6.1.2.4 The Student lives within the catchment area
6.1.2.5 The Student's family has relocated to the area
6.1.2.6 Children of staff
6.1.2.7 Children of former students
6.1.2.8 All other applicants

See section 7 for selection criteria applicable to admission to the Special Class.

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

Firhouse Community 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 relevant year group 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 relevant year group. This process is continuously carried out against all selection criteria until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Firhouse Community 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 Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within the relevant year group but does not accept the offer, 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 relevant year group have been filled.

### 6.1.5 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 withdrawal of an offer as set out below

When inputting the Student's data on PPOD (Post-Primary Online Database hosted by the Department of Education) if it comes to Firhouse Community College's attention that the Student is enrolled in more than one school, it will be necessary for Firhouse Community College to contact the conflicting school to resolve the conflict. If it is confirmed that the Student will be attending the conflicting school, Firhouse Community College will need to delete the Student's record from its PPOD and withdraw the offer of admission. If the Student is to be attending Firhouse Community College, no further action is required by Firhouse Community College.

### 6.1.6 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:

6.1.6.1 The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Firhouse Community College,

6.1.6.2 Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed,

6.1.6.3 Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable, and

6.1.6.4 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 and 4.8 an offer of admission may not be made where:

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

### 6.1.7 Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

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

6.1.7.2 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

6.1.7.3 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 or 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 for that academic year (and shall not be placed on a waiting list). If the applicant still desires a place for that academic year, a new application must be made for the same academic year on behalf of that Student and 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 Firhouse Community College regarding admission to a year group other than First Year, 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 first request a review by the board of management in writing, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8248c-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-due-to-a-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-seek-a-review-by-the-board-of-management,for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Firhouse Community College firhousecc@ddletb.ie . Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty- one calendar days 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 after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing firhousecc@ddletb.ie .

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 under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' available at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8248c-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-due-to-a-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-appeal-if-a-child-has-been-refused-admission-because-the-school-is-full and submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education or the appeal can be submitted online by uploading the required documentation at https://www.section29appeals.gov.ie/. As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the board of management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal, whichever is earlier, and the appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

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

An Applicant who was refused admission to Firhouse Community College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the board of management, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the

school office and at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/31c4f-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-for-a-reason-other-than-the-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-seek-a-review-by-the-board-of-management, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Firhouse Community College. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty- one calendar days 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 after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing firhousecc@ddletb.ie . (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the board of management in writing to that effect.)

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' available at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/31c4f-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-for-a-reason-other-than-the-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-appeal-if-my-child-has-been-refused-admission-and-the-school-has-places-available and submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education or the appeal can be submitted online by uploading the required documentation at https://www.section29appeals.gov.ie/. As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, that Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

### 6.2.3 Basis for a review by the board of management

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the board of management to review a decision of the school to refuse admission 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 review the decision.

# Section 7 -Application to Special Class

**7.1. Admission Provisions for the Special Class(es)**

7.1.1. Oversubscription
7.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
7.1.3. Selection process
7.1.4. Late Applications
7.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
7.1.6. Acceptance of a place
7.1.7. Refusal
7.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer

**7.2. Appeals**

7.2.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
7.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
7.2.3. Basis for a review by the board of management

## 7.1 Admission Provisions for the Special Class

Firhouse Community College has a Special Class, established to provide education to Students with severe/complex educational needs arising from Autism Spectrum Disorder (DSM V).

Only applications in respect of Students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Class will be considered. In this respect, the school requires that such severe/complex educational needs and the related diagnosis of the Student be In the evidenced and verified in a Relevant Report, the mandatory elements of which are set out in the Glossary of Terms section, and which has been prepared within the 24 months immediately preceding the Student's application to the Special Class, unless the application is for First Year and the student is already enrolled in a Special Class in primary school at the time of the application, in which case the relevant report does not need to be dated within 24 months of the application. The school also requires documentation from the NCSE (National Council for Special Education) confirming that the Student is known to the NCSE and has the required diagnosis and recommendation for a special class in addition to a Relevant Report.

In the event that the Special Class in Firhouse Community College is not oversubscribed, all Students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Class and who submit the requisite Relevant Report together with the documentation

form the NCSE, will be offered a place in the Special Class, subject to sections 4.7, 4.8.

Incomplete applications received by the school will not be processed under this policy.

### 7.1.1. **Oversubscription:**

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 7.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Firhouse Community College is in a position to offer further places that become available in the Special Class for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list subject to there being a place in the relevant mainstream year group. If there is not a place available in the relevant year group, the next person on the waiting list for the Special Class will be considered for the place in question but this will not change the initial Student's place on the waiting list for the Special Class for the remainder of that school year, *i.e.* if another place subsequently became available in the Special Class during that school year, the initial Student at the top of the waiting list would be considered first, but again subject to there being a place in the relevant year group for that Student.

For clarity, if a place becomes available in a given mainstream class group, before that place is offered to a Student on the waiting list for that mainstream year group, the waiting list for the Special Class shall be reviewed and if there is a place available in the Special Class and there is a Student on the waiting list who would be able to take-up the place due to the available place in the given mainstream year group, that Student will be offered the place in the Special Class (thereby removing the place in the mainstream year group). This is in the interest of ensuring that the scarce resources of the Special Class are never under-utilised.

Where an application is made on behalf of a Student for both the Special Class and a mainstream year group, and his/her application for one but not both is successful, s/he will remain in the same position on the waiting list for the group to which s/he was not successful, regardless of whether the Applicant accepts the place in the group to which the Student was successful.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the Special Class for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to Special Class 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 for the Special Class.

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.

### 7.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority:

Applications to the Special Class will only be considered if the Student's needs fall within the specified category of special educational needs provided for by this class. Subject to this requirement, in the event of oversubscription, the following criteria for admission to the Special Class will apply:

7.1.2.1 Current students enrolled in the college (prioritising the greatest level of need as determined by the Principal in consultation with the AEN team in the school, having considered the relevant report in respect of the child).

7.1.2.2 Students from the three main feeder schools – Scoil Treasa, Holy Rosary and Glenasmole National School - and who have been enrolled in the feeder school for at least one academic year.

7.1.2.3 Brothers and sisters of current students and of former students, who attend other primary schools.

7.1.2.4 Students from our catchment area, who attend other local primary schools including but not limited to Scoil Maelruan, St Martin De Porres, Colmcille's, Scoil Santain, St Dominic's, Firhouse Educate Together NS, Gaelscoil na Giuise

7.1.2.5 Students living in the local catchment area who attend other primary schools

7.1.2.6 Students whose families relocate to the area

7.1.2.7 A student whose parent/guardian is a member of staff of the school

7.1.2.8 Children of former students

7.1.2.9 All other Applicants

### 7.1.3. Selection process:

Firhouse Community College will apply the selection process as follows:

[Having met the criteria for admission to the Special Class, 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 Special Class still has places available the remaining Applicants are considered against the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the Special Class. This process is continuously carried out against all selection criteria until all available places have been offered and accepted.

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

N.B. The number of places available in a year group is subject to reduction in the event that a placement(s) in the Special Class is/are given to Student(s) from that year group, i.e. the selection process for the Special Class will be completed before the selection process for the mainstream year group and the number of Students who are offered a place in the Special Class will be the number by which the places in the relevant mainstream year group(s) are reduced.[1]

### 7.1.4. <u>Late applications:</u>

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

Where the Special Class is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications, irrespective of any selection criteria which may been applied to applications received before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school, subject to sections 4.7, and 4.8.
For the avoidance of doubt, selection criteria are not relevant to, and will not be applied to, late applications.

[1] This approach is based on section 2 of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004, which requires that: "*A child with special educational needs shall be educated in an inclusive environment with children who do not have such needs unless the nature or degree of those needs of the child is such that to do so would be inconsistent with the best interests of the child as determined in accordance with any assessment carried out …. or the effective provision of education for children with whom the child is to be educated*."

Where the Special Class in not oversubscribed, *i.e.* there is no waiting list, and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place in the Special Class subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8. and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

### 7.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within the Special Class but does not accept the offer, 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 Special Class have been filled.

### 7.1.6. 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's 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 withdrawal of an offer, as set out below.

### 7.1.7. 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:

7.1.7.1 The reasons that the Student was not a offered a place in Firhouse Community College.

7.1.7.2 Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year group to which the applicant is applying is oversubscribed;

7.1.7.3 Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and

7.1.7.4 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 and 4.8 an offer of admission may not be made where:

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

### 7.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

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

7.1.8.2 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

7.1.8.3 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 or 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 for that academic year (and shall not be placed on a waiting list). If the Applicant still desires a place for that academic year, a new application must be made for the same academic year on behalf of that Student and shall be treated as a late application in line with section 7.1.4 above.

## 7.2 Appeals

### 7.2.1. 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 first request a review by the board of management in writing, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and on https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8248c-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-due-to-a-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-seek-a-review-by-the-board-of-management, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Firhouse Community College. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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 after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing audreyhiggins@firhousecc.ie .

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 under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form available at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8248c-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-due-to-a-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-appeal-if-a-child-has-been-refused-admission-because-the-school-is-full and submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education or the appeal can be submitted online by uploading the required documentation at https://www.section29appeals.gov.ie/ As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the board of management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal, whichever is earlier, and the appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

### 7.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission to Firhouse Community College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the board of management, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/31c4f-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-

a-student-for-a-reason-other-than-the-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-seek-a-review-by-the-board-of-management for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Firhouse Community College. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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 after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing audreyhiggins@firhousecc.ie . (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the board of management in writing to that effect.)

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form available at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/31c4f-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-for-a-reason-other-than-the-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-appeal-if-my-child-has-been-refused-admission-and-the-school-has-places-available and submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education or the appeal can be submitted online by uploading the required documentation at https://www.section29appeals.gov.ie/ As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, that Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

### 7.2.3. Basis for a review by the board of management:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the board of management to review a decision of the school to refuse admission 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 review the decision.