

Church Hill NS (05927L)

# Admissions Policy

Updated: November, 2025

**Admission Policy of Church Hill National School****School Address: Cuffesgrange, Co Kilkenny****Roll number: 05927L****School Patron: Most Rev. Niall Coll Bishop of Ossory****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 Board of Management on **19th November, 2025**.

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 Church Hill NS 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

Church Hill National School is a Roman Catholic co-educational school with a Catholic ethos. The Bishop of Ossory is the Patron of this school.

‘Catholic schools are communities which are open, welcoming and inclusive. Therefore, Catholic schools may include children who adhere to other religions or other stances for living. While mindful of their duty to educate in the distinctive beliefs, values and practices of the Catholic community, teachers will bear witness to an attitude of respect for and appreciation of all’. (*The Catholic Preschool and Primary Religious Education Curriculum P15*)

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

- the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects including
- a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and 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 Ed Act 1998 the BOM of Church Hill NS 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.

### Mission Statement of Church Hill National School

Church Hill National School aims to provide a happy environment where the child can reach his/her potential and can learn to co-exist in harmony with teachers, parents and fellow pupils.

Every opportunity will be provided to allow the child to express their individuality and to experience success and satisfaction in what they do in school.

The school supports the philosophy of education based on the two main principles and aims of primary education as stated in the primary school curriculum.

1. To enable the child to live a full life as a child.
2. To equip him/her to avail of further education so that he/she may go on to live a full and useful life as an adult in society.

It is the policy of this school to communicate openly with all partners in education and it recognises its responsibility to contribute to the community it serves.

### 3. Admission Statement

Church Hill NS will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following grounds:

- (a) the gender of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (b) the civil status of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (c) the family status of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (d) the sexual orientation of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (e) the religion of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (f) any disability of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (g) the race of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (h) member of the travelling community be it the student or the applicant.
- (i) 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.

Church Hill National School 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.

Church Hill National School 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.

**Church Hill National 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 of Catholic faith and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

### 3. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school/special class

Church Hill National School, with the approval of the Minister of Education and Skills, has established two special classes to provide an education exclusively for students with a diagnosis of Autism.

#### **School with special education classes**

Children and young people are eligible for enrolment in a special class for autism when the following is provided in support of such an application:

Professional report(s) outlining:

- Diagnosis of special education needs (e.g. Autism: DSM IV/V or ICD 10/11 (psychologist, psychiatrist, multi-disciplinary report) AND
- A demonstration of the understanding of complexity of the child's overall level of need/s evidenced in the professional reports AND

- Given the severity or complexity of of the child's support needs, a clear professional recommendation as to what educational placement type would be most appropriate to best meet the child's needs, along with the rationale for same AND
- A letter from NCSE confirming that the child is known to them and that the child has the required diagnosis is and recommendation for a special class for autism.

#### 4. 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

**Church Hill National School** is a Roman Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the Roman Catholic Church where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

#### **School with special education class**

Children and young people are eligible for enrolment in a special class for autism when the following is provided in support of such an application:

Professional report(s) outlining:

- Diagnosis of special education needs (e.g. Autism: DSM IV/V or ICD 10/11 (psychologist, psychiatrist, multi-disciplinary report) AND
- A demonstration of the understanding of complexity of the child's overall level of need/s evidenced in the professional reports AND
- Given the severity or complexity of of the child's support needs, a clear professional recommendation as to what educational placement type would be most appropriate to best meet the child's needs, along with the rationale for same AND

- A letter from NCSE confirming that the child is known to them and that the child has the required diagnosis is and recommendation for a special class for autism.

The BOM reserves the right to refuse enrolment if they believe that the school cannot meet the needs of a particular child or if they do not satisfy the above criteria.

#### 5. Oversubscription: The Policy in selection criteria.

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:

Every child is entitled to be enrolled in a school, if they have reached the age of 4 by Sept 1<sup>st</sup> in the year of admission.

Oversubscription in any class will be determined by the specific classroom occupied by the said class and or the additional demands that may be made on the classroom space by way of additional needs of a child or children.

Church Hill National School deems that a classroom of normal proportions is full at 30 children.

This can be less than 30 where a smaller room is occupied by a class.

#### Selection criteria for enrolment of applicants

1. The applicant has a sibling in the school.
2. The applicant resides in the school's parish.
3. The applicant had a sibling in the school.
4. Children of past pupils, subject to 25% rule.\* (this can only apply to 25% of the available spaces as set out in the School Admissions Notice)
5. All other applicants.

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:

Where there is an excess of applications over available space from any of the selection criteria categories listed in section 6 above, then the following arrangements will apply:

- The school will award the place to the oldest child. If application of the 'oldest child' rule does not provide a solution to enrolment, then the name or names will be drawn on a lottery basis. See the terms of the process outlined above.

6. 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;
- (c) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude; other than in relation to
  - i. admission 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

- (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;
- (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;
  - ❖ children of older siblings who attend or have attended the school.
  - ❖ children of past pupils (this can only apply to a maximum of 25% of the available places as set out in the school's annual admission notice).
- i) the date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school.

## 7. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to [Church Hill NS] will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy
- The school's annual admission notice.
- 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.

## 8. 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).

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

In accepting an offer of admission from Church Hill National School 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 are 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.

#### 10. 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 Church Hill National School 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.

## 11. 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 BOM with a list of the students in relation to whom:

1. An application for admission to the school has been received
2. An offer of admission to the school has been made, or
3. An offer of admission to the school has been accepted.

The list may include any or all of the following

1. The date on which an application for admission was received by the school.
2. The date on which an offer of admission was made by the school.
3. The date on which an offer of admission was accepted by an applicant.
4. 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)

## 12. 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 Church Hill National School 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 Church Hill National School 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.

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.

The policy notes that applications from applicants to enrol in Church Hill NS in classes other than reception, normally Junior Infants and who may not be enrolled due to oversubscription will be placed on a waiting list for the relevant class for that applicant. It then follows that if a place becomes available for any or all of these classes the offer to enrol will be offered based on availability.

In the event of a tie for such placings then the rules applied in section 6 above will apply.

### 13. 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 a 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.

### 14. 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:

1. Admission to Church Hill NS from the above group will be considered on the basis of maximum number of children in any classroom.

2. Consideration will also be given to admission already agreed to a sibling in one or other of the intake groups( Normally Junior Infants)
3. Consideration will also be given to any other relevant information supporting the application to enrol. The situations may include (list not exhaustive):
  - Humane reasons
  - Child Welfare reasons
  - Other situations that may be advised to the school by official governing bodies e.g. Dept. of Education and Skills, Tusla.
4. If a school place becomes available in Junior Infants after Sept 1<sup>st</sup> it will be offered to the child who is next on the waiting list.
5. **See also in section 13 the terms of waiting lists as they apply to this group.**

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students to the school's ASD classes are as follows:

- Applications will be accepted between the dates furnished on the school's annual Admission Notice.
- Specific dates will be published in the Annual Admission Notice.
- The closing date for applications to ASD classes will be in accordance with the cut off dates as prescribed by the NCSE.

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:

Families move on a regular basis around this country. It is normal practice. Church Hill National School will consider applications to enrol from applicants after the commencement date of the academic year. The procedure to be followed will be identical to that of section 13 and 15 above.

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

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of Church Hill National 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.

## 16. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

A written request should be made to the principal of the school. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s) to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

## 17. Reviews/appeals

### **Review of decisions by the Board of Management**

The parent of 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 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 to 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.

This policy was reviewed and agreed by the Board of Management of Church Hill National School on:

Date: 19th November, 2025

Signed by Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_

Vivienne Crowley

Signed by Principal: Mark Bergin

Mark Bergin

*Vivienne Crowley*  
19.11.25