



Scoil Naomh Muire

FARRAN, CO. CORK
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**Admission Policy of Scoil Naomh Muire.
School Address: Farran, Ovens, Co. Cork, P31 E443**

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Roll Number: 18487H

Registered Charity Number: 20114022

School Patron: Bishop Fintan Gavin, Diocese of Cork & Ross

1. Introduction

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

The policy was approved by the school patron on Sept. 25th 2020. 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 Scoil Naomh Muire 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.

Notices will also be placed in the Parish Newsletter, at the entrance in the local Play Schools and at the school entrances to notify parents that the school is accepting enrolment applications for the coming year. The enrolment process is by written application only. Completed application forms should be returned by April 30th each year. All applications must be fully completed for consideration.

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

Scoil Naomh Muire is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of Bishop Fintan Gavin, the Bishop of Cork & Ross.

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

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

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

In accordance with S.15 (2) (b) of the Education Act, 1998 the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Muire 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

- To enable pupils to develop to their full potential intellectually, spiritually, artistically and socially.
- To nurture a sense of personal identity, self-esteem and awareness of one’s particular abilities, aptitudes and limitations, combined with a respect for the rights and beliefs of others.
- To promote excellence and equality in the development of the educational potential of all pupils, including those who are disadvantaged through economic, social, physical or mental factors.
- To provide pupils with the necessary education and training to support the country’s economic development and to enable them to make their particular contribution to society in an effective way.
- To ensure that the pupils of the school acquire a keen appreciation of their local, national and European heritage and identity.
- To foster in pupils a global awareness and a sense of responsibility for the long-term care of the environment.

3. Admission Statement

Scoil Naomh Muire will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

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

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

Scoil Naomh Muire 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 a member of the Roman Catholic Church and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Scoil Naomh Muire is a school which has established classes with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, which provides an education exclusively for students with a category Autism Spectrum Disorder, and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

Scoil Naomh Muire will cooperate with the NCSE in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 in relation 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.

Scoil Naomh Muire will comply with any direction served on the board or the patron under section 37A and 67 (4) (b)

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

Scoil Naomh Muire, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established classes to provide an education exclusively for students with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder according to DSM-V and a clear recommendation for a placement in an ASD class attached to a mainstream school.

5. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (please see section 6 below for further details)
- b) a parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student
- c) Scoil Naomh Muire is a Roman Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the Roman Catholic faith where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Admission of Students to Special Classes

Children and young people are eligible for enrolment in a special class for students with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder when the following is provided in support of such an application:

Professional report(s) outlining:

- Diagnosis of special educational 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 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 the NCSE confirming that the child is known to them and that the child has the required diagnosis and recommendation for a special class for (insert category of special educational need e.g. autism).

On enrolment to the ASD class in Scoil Naomh Muire of children with special educational needs the BOM will request a copy of the child's medical and or psychological report or where such a report is not available, will request that the child be assessed immediately. The purpose of the assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child relevant to the disability or special needs to profile the support services required.

Following receipt of the report, the BOM will assess how the school can meet the needs specified in the report. Where the BOM deems that further resources are required, it will request these from the S.E.N.O. (NCSE see Circular 01/05)

6. Oversubscription

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:

1. Existing pupils of Scoil Naomh Muire (once they meet the criteria above) *
2. Brothers and sisters of existing and past pupils
3. Children living within:
 - a) The school catchment area
 - b) Children from the parish of Ovens
 - c) Children of staff members
 - d) Children from parishes bordering Ovens parish
 - e) Children from the greater Cork/Mid Cork area.

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:

1. Age, preference being given to the elder child
- 2 In the event of children having the same date of birth we will draw the successful candidate from a hat.

7. Decision Making in Relation to Admission to Special Class;

The Board of Management, in accordance with the school policy and in conjunction with our professional support service Bridgeways, Cope Foundation & Marian House will take the following into consideration when considering the application:

- All relevant reports and assessments including O.T. and SLT reports should be supplied to the school prior to enrolment.
- When deciding on enrolment matters, the Board has to have regard to the relevant Dept. of Education & Skills guidelines, in relation to class size and staffing provisions (1:2:6) and/or any other relevant requirements/issues concerning accommodation, including physical space (80.00m²) optimisation of the teaching/learning process.

8. 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:

- (a) A student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí.
- (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 admission to 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
- (g) The date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school

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

9. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Scoil Naomh Muire will be based on the following:

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

(Please see section 15 below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and section 16 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.

Decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the BOM in accordance with school policy. The BOM will notify parents of their decision within 21 days of the closing date for the receipt of applications.

The BOM will have regard for the relevant DES guidelines in relation to class size and staffing provisions and/or any other relevant requirements concerning accommodation, including physical space and the health and welfare of children.

The BOM is bound by the DES Rules for National Schools which provides that pupils may only be enrolled from the age of 4 years and upwards, though compulsory attendance does not apply until the age of 6 years. Children applying to enrol in Scoil Naomh Muire must have reached the age of 4 years by August 31st of the year they will commence school.

10. 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 19 below for further details).

11. Acceptance of an offer of a place by an applicant

In accepting an offer of admission from Scoil Naomh Muire 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.

12. 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 Scoil Naomh Muire 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 11 above.

13. Sharing of Data with other schools

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

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

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

The list may include any or all of the following:

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

14. 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 Scoil Naomh Muire 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 Scoil Naomh Muire is in the order of priority assigned to the students' applications after the school has applied the selection criteria in accordance with this admission policy.

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

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

15. 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 14.

16. 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:

- Applications for enrolment during the school year will be considered subject to school policy, available space and the provision of information concerning attendance and the child's educational progress. Such applications will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis but will normally only be considered for admission on the first day of each new term unless the applicant is newly resident in the area.

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:

- 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 Scoil Naomh Muire 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 Scoil Naomh Muire 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.

- Students, following consultation between the Principal and the parents will be enrolled on the first day of the next month in the case of a family moving into the school catchment area or the next term in the case of a family not moving house.
- Junior Infants, with the exception of students transferring from another school, may only be admitted to the school prior to the start of the new school year.

17. Declaration in relation to the non-charging of fees

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of Scoil Naomh Muire 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.

18. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parents of a student have requested that the student attend the school without attending religious instruction in the school. These arrangements will not result in a reduction in the school day of such students. A written request should be made to the Principal of the school. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student, to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

19. 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 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.

20. Implementation and Review;

This policy will be reviewed, as deemed necessary, by the Board of Management.