

Gaelscoil na mBeann
127A Newcastle Road
Kilkeel
County Down
BT34 4NL

Maintained Primary School

Enrolment Number: 130
Admission Number: 20

Tel: 028 4125 8418

PRINCIPAL: Mr Mícheál Brady

Email: info@gael scoil nambeann.kilkeel.ni.sch.uk

CHAIR OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Mr Éamon Mac Ruairí

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the admissions criteria set out herein.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 and up to 4 pm on 29 January 2025 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 29 January 2025 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 9 April 2025.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

Any child who reaches their 4th Birthday on or before 1st July 2025 is of Compulsory School Age. Under the School Age (NI) Act which became law in Northern Ireland in April 2022, 'compulsory school age' also includes those children who deferred commencing Primary 1 in September 2024 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).

Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school before those who are not so resident.

A Committee of the Board of Governors will apply the following criteria to identify which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education or on transfer from another school.

1. A child with a sibling already or previously in attendance at Gaelscoil na mBeann will be given first priority where appropriate (Indicate name and year group/ years attended).
2. A child who has attended an Irish language Naíscoil or who is being raised through the medium of Irish at home will be given second priority.
3. A child whose parent/ guardian is a staff member in Gaelscoil na mBeann.
4. A child for whom the school is the Gaelic-Medium Primary School nearest to their home.
5. Applicants who are a Looked After Child (LAC)
6. A child with special circumstances (social/medical/ security). The special circumstances must be known at the time of application and verification of this provided. The Board of Governors reserves the right to seek the confirmation of the special circumstances from a statutory body.

Admissions criteria for entry September 2025

In the event of being over-subscribed in any of the above categories, the following sub- criteria will be applied: Children will be admitted on the basis of the initial letter of their surname as written on their birth certificate in the order set out below:

B U L Z Q V I Y T O J D H F K Mc X G Mac M O' E C W R P S A N

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, as outlined above, the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in strict alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used.

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's Transfer Application/Application Form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

WAITING LIST POLICY

Should a vacancy arise after 9 April 2025 all applications for admission to P1 that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This waiting list will be in place until 30 June 2025.

The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method. Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish for your child's name to be removed from the list.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only consider information which is detailed on the application or provided directly to the school. Parents/Guardians should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application or provided directly to the first preference school.

ADMISSION TO P2-P7

1. Children who have a satisfactory command of the Irish language
2. Other pupils from P2-P7 will be admitted providing their admission is not prejudicial to the efficient use of resources, or the school's enrolment number is not exceeded.

Entrants who have previously attended another school:-

- (i) an interview will be arranged with the principal.
- (ii) parents will be welcome to view the school premises.
- (iii) a meeting can be arranged with the prospective teacher/s of the child or children.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1		
Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2022/2023	16	16
2023/2024	16	16
2024/2025	31	30