



# Scoil Naomh Molaise

Grange, Co. Sligo.

## **Admission Policy of Scoil Naomh Molaise**

School Address: Grange, Co Sligo.

Roll Number: 18575E

School Patron: Bishop of Elphin

### **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 the 31<sup>st</sup> August 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 Molaise's 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**

Scoil Naomh Molaise is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic Ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Elphin.

"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 person 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 Molaise 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.

### **Our Mission Statement**

At Scoil Naomh Molaise, we aim to:

1. Provide a well-ordered, caring, happy and secure learning environment where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of our pupils are identified and addressed.
2. Provide holistic learning opportunities, including a variety of extra-curricular activities in order to enable our pupils to explore their talents and interests and achieve their full potential.
3. Promote the Catholic Ethos of our school and provide a holistic education based on Gospel values, enabling our pupils to make moral judgements based on these values, our conscience and with respect of human rights that will contribute to a caring, tolerant, accepting society. Our school has due recognition for all other religions, beliefs and cultures and those of no religion.
4. Ensure an atmosphere of respect, care and dignity for all is fostered, self-esteem is enhanced and a high standard of behaviour is maintained in order to sustain our safe, co-operative and productive environment for learning.
5. Promote team spirit and co-operation between all partners in education: pupils, parents, teachers, Special Needs Assistants, ancillary staff, school management and the wider community.
6. Promote a love of learning and provide pupils with the skills they require to pursue further education and lifelong learning and to become an active member of society.

***Our School Motto – Treat others as we would like to be treated.***

### **3. Admission Statement**

Scoil Naomh Molaise 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 Molaise 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 Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Scoil Naomh Molaise will cooperate with the NCSE in the performance by the Council of 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 required to do so by the Council.

Scoil Naomh Molaise will comply with any direction served on the board or the patron under Section 37A and 67(4)(b) of the Education Act 1998.

#### **4. Categories of Special Education Needs catered for in the school/special class**

Scoil Naomh Molaise is a mainstream school. It does not have a Special Educational Need's class. Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) are catered for by their mainstream class teacher with the support of the Special Education Team.

#### **5. Admission of Students**

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (see section 6 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 Molaise is a Catholic primary school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of Catholic faith where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

#### **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. Siblings of pupils who currently or formerly attended the school.
2. Children living within the parish boundary.
3. Children of past pupils of the school.
4. Children living outside the parish boundary.

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:

Priority will be given to children within the particular category using the criteria of age (starting with the oldest applicant). If this does not separate two students tied for a place, geographical proximity will be applied (the place will be offered to the student living closest to the school).

## **7. 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 describes) to the school;
- c. A student's academic ability, skills or aptitude;
- 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, other than in the case of the school wishing to include selection criteria based on,
  - i. Siblings of a student attending or having attended the school, and/or,
  - ii. Parents or grandparents of a student having attended the school (a school may only apply this criteria to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's annual admission notice).
- 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.

## **8. Decisions on Applications**

All decisions on applications for admission to Scoil Naomh Molaise 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 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.

## **9. 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).

## **10. Acceptance of an offer of a place by an applicant**

In accepting an offer of admission from Scoil Naomh Molaise, 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.

## **11. 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 Molaise 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.

## **12. 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).

### **13. 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 Molaise 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 Molaise 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.

### **14. 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 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.

### **15. Procedures for admission of students to other years and during the school year**

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.

**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 intake group are as follows:**

Pupils may transfer to the school, in accordance with our school's admissions policy. However, enrolment of children will depend on the availability of places in the requested class. The decision to enrol is at the discretion of the BOM, which will be mindful of the following:

1. Size of and available space in classrooms.
2. Educational needs of children of a particular age already enrolled.
3. Multi-grade classes.

#### 4. Department of Education and Skills class size recommendations.

Application forms are available from the school secretary or the school's website and may be submitted at any time. Names of applicants are placed on a waiting list, in order of date of application. Places are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis; this means that as a place becomes available in a particular class, that place is allocated to the first child on the waiting list for that class.

Children enrolled in Scoil Naomh Molaise are required to co-operate with and support the school's policies including policies on Code of Behaviour, Curriculum, Organisation and Management. The Board of Management places responsibility with parents/guardian(s) for ensuring that their child/children co-operate with said policies in an age appropriate way.

**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:**

Pupils may transfer to the school at any time subject to the school's admission policy. However, enrolment of children during the school year will depend on the availability of places in the requested class. The decision to enrol is at the discretion of the Board of Management. The same procedures apply as above.

Once admitted to the school, the parent/guardian(s) of the pupils transferring will be asked to provide relevant information from the child's previous school including progress reports, Student Support Files, if applicable, and any other assessment reports that are deemed necessary. When a pupil has transferred to Scoil Naomh Molaise and has been registered, the school will inform the child's previous school in writing.

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

The Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Molaise 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.

## **17. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction**

The following are the school's arrangements for students where the parents 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) to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

## **18. 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 within 21 calendar days of the date on the letter of refusal 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 within 21 calendar days of the date on the letter of refusal 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.

## **19. Roles and Responsibilities**

The School Principal will be responsible for the implementation and evaluation of the policy. Any feedback received from staff, parents, Board of Management, the Patron, the Department of Education and Skills or relevant agencies will be taken into account for the purposes of evaluation and review.



## **20. Timeframe for Implementation**

This policy will be implemented from September 2020.

## **21. Timeframe for Review**

This policy will be reviewed on a three year cycle unless it is deemed necessary to conduct a review before that date.

## **22. Responsibility for Review:**

The school principal and school management team in conjunction with the Board of Management will be responsible for reviewing the policy.

## **23. Ratification and Communication:**

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

This policy was reviewed by the Board of Management on: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Signed:** *Fr Christy McHugh*

**Date:** 25.01.24

Chairperson, Board of Management

This policy is communicated to members of the Board of Management, school staff, parents and the wider school community through the school website at [www.molaise.com](http://www.molaise.com).