



St. Michael's National School

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Admission Policy of St. Michael's National School

202771

School Patron: The Bishop of Kilmore

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 _____. 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 St. Michael's National School'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. Characteristics spirit and general objectives of the school.

St. Michael's National School Cootehill is a co-educational mixed Catholic, co-educational primary School, under the trusteeship of the Bishop of Kilmore, which strives to provide a well-ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed.

While St. Michael's N.S. is a school with a Catholic ethos, it also has due recognition for all other religions.

St. Michael's N.S. will endeavour to enhance the self-esteem of everyone in the school community, to imbue in the pupils respect for people and property and to encourage in them the idea of being responsible.

St. Michael's N.S. will encourage involvement of parents through home/school contacts. Our Home School Community Liaison Co-ordinator can be contacted through the school. Involvement is also encouraged through contact with St. Michael's N.S. Parents Association and various parent courses that are organised in the school.

St. Michael's N.S. will promote gender equality amongst the teachers and pupils.

St. Michael's N.S. will strive to promote, both individually and collectively, the professional and personal development of teachers through staff development programmes.

3. Admission Statement

St. Michael's 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 admits a Catholic student in preference to others.

St. Michael's National School 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.

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

St. Michael's National School is not a designated special school nor does it have any special classes currently.

5. Admission of Students

St. Michael's National School is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not Catholic where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school. 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.

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. Brothers and sisters of children currently or formerly enrolled in the school
2. Children whose parents or grandparents attended the school
3. Children of permanent staff in the school
4. Presence of children with special educational / behavioural needs
5. D.E.S maximum class average directives (currently a maximum average of 20 children in classes from junior infants to second, and a maximum average of 27 pupils in classes from third to sixth).
6. Educational needs of children of a particular age
7. Multi grade classes

In the event of the number of children seeking enrolment in any given class/standard exceeding the number of places available proceeding or during the school year (due to the B.O.M. being unable to provide suitable accommodation, or recruit the required teaching staff) the following criteria will be used to prioritise children for enrolment:

- Catholic children living within the parish boundary, and sisters and brothers of pupil's in the school.
- Catholic children living outside the parish boundary who do not have a Catholic school within their own parish boundary
- Children of current staff, including ancillary staff.
- Other children living within the parish boundary.
- In the event that priority requires to be given to children within any one of the above categories, older children will be given priority.
- Children whose home address is closest to the school (as measured by a straight line on an OS map) if the child is normally resident outside the parish/agreed catchment area.
- Children of other faiths or none.

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 described) 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;
- (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. This is also subject to the school making offers based on existing waiting lists (up until 31st January 2025 only).

8. Decisions on Applications

All decisions on applications for admission to St. Michael's National School 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 St. Michael's 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 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 St. Michael's 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.

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)(a) allows a school to provide a patron or another board with a list of the students in relation to whom-

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

(b): 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;
- (v) 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 St. Michael's 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 St. Michael's 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.

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.

15. 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:

Other pupils are enrolled during the year, (if newly resident in the area and have previously been enrolled in another school) subject to school policy, available space and in some cases, the approval of the Department of Education and Science. Report should be furnished from transferring school detailing academic progress and attendance.

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:

Same as above.

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

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of St. Michael's 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.

17. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

The following are the school's arrangements where the parents of a child have requested that their child attend the school without attending religious instruction in the school. These arrangements will not result in a reduction in the school day of such children.

Parents who wish to have their child exempt from religious instruction in the school must put their request in writing to the Principal. The Principal will then arrange a meeting with the parents to see how the school can accommodate their wishes.

18. Reviews/appeals

Review of decisions by the board of Management

The parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, 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, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, 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.

Implementation Date

The policy will apply from the time it has been ratified.

Timetable for Review

This policy will be reviewed after three years.

Ratification & Communication

'Schools' policies on behaviour should be communicated fully and clearly to parents' (Circular 20/90). Parents will be made aware through our information booklet that our policy is available from the school on request.

This policy was presented to the Board of Management for discussion and ratification on

23rd June 2020.

Fr. John Cooney
Fr. John Cooney
Chairperson of the Board of Management

Norma Sherlock
Miss Norma Sherlock
Principal