

Admission Policy of Scoil Cholmcille (Blarney Street CBS)

Blarney Street, Cork

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Patron: Catholic Bishop of Cork and Ross

Trustees: Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST)

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. 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 Cholmcille'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 Cholmcille (Blarney Street CBS) is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Cork and 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 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 Cholmcille 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.

Scoil Cholmcille is under the Trusteeship of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust and follows the curriculum as set down by the Department of Education and Skills. Scoil Cholmcille's mission is to provide Catholic education in the Edmund Rice tradition, it subscribes to the holistic vision expressed in the the following five key elements of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST) Charter: Nurturing Faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values; Promoting partnership; Excelling in teaching and learning; Creating a caring school community and Inspiring transformational leadership.

3. Admission Statement

Scoil Cholmcille 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 Cholmcille 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 the Catholic religion and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.
- Scoil Cholmcille 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 student of the Catholic religion in preference to others.
- Scoil Cholmcille is a school which has established a class, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, which provides an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.
- From September 2021 Scoil Cholmcille will admit girls into Junior Infants. Over a period of eight years the school will phase in co-educational classes through a year on year process and become a fully co-educational vertical school from Junior Infants to 6th from September 2028. During this phase-in process, Scoil Cholmcille does not discriminate where it refuses to admit a girl applying for admission to a class level not yet co-educational.

In line with the Education (provision in respect of children with special educational needs) Act 2022;

- Scoil Cholmcille 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.
- Scoil Cholmcille 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.

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

Scoil Cholmcille with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established a class to provide an education exclusively for students with a diagnosis of Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

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

Scoil Cholmcille is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of Catholic religion where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

The special class attached to Scoil Cholmcille provides an education exclusively for students with a diagnosis of Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders and the school may refuse admission to this class, where the student concerned does not have the specified category of special educational needs provided for in this class. The following evidence is required 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 autism.

Over a period of eight years from September 2021 until September 2028, the school will phase in co-educational classes through a year on year process and become a fully co-educational vertical school from Junior Infants to 6th from September 2028. During this phase-in process, Scoil Cholmcille may refuse to admit a girl applying for admission to a class level not yet co-educational.

6. Oversubscription (this section must be completed by all schools including schools that do not

anticipate being oversubscribed)

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 (including step-siblings, resident at the same address) of children already enrolled - priority to oldest.

2 Children and grandchildren of past pupils (maximum of 25% of the available places as set out in the school's annual admission notice)

3 Children whose home address is closest to the school as measured by a straight line on OS map.

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:

When the number of applicants exceeds the number of places available, applicants will be listed in age order, the oldest to the youngest under criterion 1 and the place will be offered to the oldest child under criterion 1 and age order subsequently.

Applicants in criterion 2 will then be listed in age order, the oldest to the youngest the place will be offered to the oldest child and age order subsequently.

Applicants in criterion 3 will be listed in proximity to the school and place will be offered to the nearest address first.

In the event that following this process, there are still two or more students tied for a place a lottery, in the presence of these students' parents, shall decide who receives the place.

IN ADDITION IF THE SPECIAL CLASS IS OVERSUBSCRIBED PRIORITY MAY BE GIVEN TO Students already enrolled in the school with the required diagnosis as outlined in Section 4 and the supporting evidence as outlined in Section 5

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:

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,
 - (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 and/or
 - admission to an Irish language school, in accordance with the provisions of section 62(9) of the act
 - (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 a selection criteria based on (1) siblings of a student attending or having attended the school and/or (2) parents or grandparents of a student having attended the school. In relation to (2) parents and grandparents having attended, 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 Cholmcille 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.

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 Cholmcille, 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 Scoil Cholmcille 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.

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 Cholmcille 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 Cholmcille 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:

Over a period of eight years from September 2021 until September 2028, the school will phase in co-educational classes through a year on process and become a fully co-educational vertical school from Junior Infants to 6th from September 2028. During this phase-in process, Scoil Cholmcille may refuse to admit a girl applying for admission to a class level not yet co-educational.

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.

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:

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.

If a class waiting list exists, the new applicant, who applies during the school year, goes to the end of the list.

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

The board of Scoil Cholmcille 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

This section must be completed by schools that provide religious instruction to students.

The following are the school's arrangements for pupils, where the parent/s has 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) or the student, as the case may be, 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, 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. This request must be received by the board not later than 21 days after the applicant has been informed in writing as to the decision of the school in accordance with Section 9 of this policy.

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. This request must be received by the board not later than 21 days after the applicant has been informed in writing as to the decision of the school in accordance with Section 9 of this policy.

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. This request must be received by the board not later than 21 days after the applicant has been informed in writing as to the decision of the school in accordance with Section 9 of this policy.

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 and must be received by the board not later than 21 days after the applicant has been informed in writing as to the decision of the school in accordance with Section 9 of this policy.)

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 and must be received by the board not later than 21 days after the applicant has been informed in writing as to the decision of the school in accordance with Section 9 of this policy.)

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.