

Admission Policy of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh

**School Address: Tara Road, Bettystown, Co Meath. A92XK64
Roll number: 20017f**

School Patrons: Rev.Tom Deenihan

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 in February 2024. 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 an Spioraid Naoimh 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 an Spioraid Naoimh is a Catholic co-educational senior primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Meath.

"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 an Spioraid Naoimh 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 an Spioraid Naoimh is a co-educational Catholic Senior Primary School. This school serves the people in the Catholic Parish of Laytown/Bettystown. It is a Parish based school.

Mission Statement

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh is a co-educational Catholic Senior Primary school. It is our mission to promote the physical, social, personal, spiritual, and moral development of our pupils. We hope to achieve this by providing quality education so that each pupil may develop to their full potential. We also strive to create an environment where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity, fairness and justice. We endeavour to ensure that all pupils are shown empathy and compassion by all adults in the school community in a real meaningful manner.

3. Admission Statement

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh 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 an Spioraid Naoimh will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) 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 an Spioraid Naoimh 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

Children with special needs enrolling in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh will be resourced in accordance with the level of resources provided to the school by the Department of Education and Skills to the Board of Management.

The Board of Management requires a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological report and/or may request that the child be assessed immediately in order to assist the school in establishing the educational needs of the child and to profile the support services required. The Board of Management will endeavour to have training, resources and support in place before the child is admitted to the school. This may include visiting teacher service, resource teacher, special needs assistants, specialized equipment or furniture, transport services.

The school may meet with the parents of the child with additional needs to discuss the school's suitability for the child as appropriate. If necessary, a full case conference may be called including parents, class teacher, Special Education Teacher, SNA and Psychologist or social workers as appropriate.

Please Note:

All reports in operation for a child should be provided to the school, for consideration by the Admissions Team. The withholding of reports from the school Admissions Team may invalidate an Enrolment Application at any time.

Criteria for enrolment in Autism Class

Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established Autism classes to provide an education exclusively for students with A.S.D. Enrolment applications will only be valid if **ALL** criteria have been met. Subject to sufficient places being available in the Autism Class. The criteria for enrolment are as follows:

Children and young people are eligible for enrolment in a special class for autism 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).

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).

Please note:

- *Fulfilling the enrolment criteria does not necessarily ensure enrolment if sufficient places are not available.*

Behaviour

All efforts will be made by the school to manage difficult, defiant or oppositional behaviours. Using various strategies (see Autism Class Code of Behaviour). All pupils including pupils with special educational needs and pupils without special educational needs are subject to the School Code of Behaviour and Health & Safety Statement. Where a child's behaviour impacts in a negative way on the other children in the Autism class or another mainstream class to the extent that their constitutional right to an education is being interfered with as judged by the Board of Management of the School (in consultation with Outside Agencies eg. NEPS, SENO, NCSE, and/or MDT) the school reserves the right to advise parents that a more suitable setting should be found for their child.

The parent(s)/carer(s) of the child must accept and agree to the SSN Code of Behaviour and Autism Class Code of Behaviour and the terms of these policies.

5. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission (and those who have met above criteria for Autism Class) **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:

In so far as it is practicable, all children of Senior Primary School entrance age (and meet the above criteria for Autism Class) who apply at least eight years of age on or before the 31st of March in the year of entry for third class.

Places in **mainstream classes** will be decided based on the following criteria:

1. Siblings of pupils currently enrolled in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh. Siblings shall be taken to include step-siblings, half-siblings or foster children resident at the same address.
2. Siblings of Pupils currently enrolled in Scoil Oilibheir Naofa.
3. All other Children living within the parish boundary.
4. All other Children from outside the parish boundary.

Places in **Autism classes** will be decided based on the following criteria:

1. Pupils currently enrolled in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh who have been formally diagnosed as being on the autism spectrum and who have been recommended as suitable pupils for placement in an Autism class in a mainstream setting.
2. Siblings of pupils currently enrolled in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh at the time of application and who also meet the essential criteria mentioned above.
3. Pupils currently enrolled in Scoil Oilibheir Naofa at the time of application and who also meet the essential criteria mentioned above.
4. Pupils living within the parish boundary with the specified category of special educational needs provided for in this class.
5. Pupils living outside the parish boundary with the specified category of special educational needs provided for in this class.

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:

- In the event of there being more applicants than available places within the above criteria, applicants will be prioritised beginning with the oldest and places will be allocated by age.
- If two or more students are tied for a place (share the same date of birth) this school will award that place by a lottery draw.
- In the event that twins (multiple births) are tied for the last remaining place, both/all will be admitted to SSN, by way of exception.

If prior to enrolment, it becomes evident that the school cannot at present meet the required needs of the child, the child will be enrolled in the school and the following actions will take place:

1. The child's admission to the school will be delayed until the required supports are provided by the DES.
2. The school will notify, in writing, the parent(s)/carer(s) of the rationale for the decision.
3. The school will notify the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) of the decision and the requirements necessary for the school to meet the specified needs of the child.
4. The situation will be reviewed upon communications from the DES/SENO/NCSE.

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) the payment of fees or contributions to the school;

(b) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude; other than in relation 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

(c) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents;

(d) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;

(e) 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 relation to siblings of a student attending or having attended the school.

(f) 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 our 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 for the duration of the current academic school year.

8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh 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 an Spioraid Naoimh, 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 an Spioraid Naoimh 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 an Spioraid Naoimh 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 an Spioraid Naoimh 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 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 13.

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:

Pupils may transfer to the school during the school year subject to school policy, available space and in some cases the approval of the DES. In so far as it is practicable, all children of Senior Primary School age who apply for a place in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh will be enrolled in the school. Classes within our school will be deemed to be full when we have a classroom enrolment of 27 pupils in mainstream classes and 6 pupils per class in relation to the Autism classes.

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:

Where spaces are available applications for enrolment will be processed within three weeks of application form being received.

Children with special needs enrolling in Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh after the commencement of the school year will be resourced in accordance with the level of resources provided to the school by the Department of Education and Skills to the Board

of Management.

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

This rule applies to all schools.

The Board of Scoil an Spioraid Naoimh 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 parents, and the student where appropriate, 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.

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.