

Admission Policy of Scoil Naomh Pádraig



School Address: Ballyroan Crescent, Ballyroan, Dublin 16, D16XK80

Roll number: 19114T

School Patron/s: Archbishop Dermot Farrell

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 20 September 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 Naomh Pádraig'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.

Expression of interest to enrol your child is via the website in early October (of the year prior to entry for new Junior Infants). This process is outlined in Section 5 of this Admission Policy.

2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

Scoil Naomh Pádraig is a Catholic primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Archdiocese of Dublin. Girls are enrolled from Junior Infants to 6th Class. Boys are enrolled for Junior and Senior Infants only.

"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 student, 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 students in the Catholic faith,

The school provides religious education for the students 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 Pádraig 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.

Mission Statement

Guided by our mission statement, our ethos is one in which we encourage the personal and academic development of all our students. The Board of Management, staff, parents and school community work in partnership to develop moral religious values in our students and to meet the needs of all our students.

The school ethos is outlined in our mission statement thus:

We strive in co-operation with the parents to provide a holistic education in a Christian, caring and secure environment where each child is encouraged to achieve to the best of her/his ability.

General Information

Scoil Naomh Pádraig has 21 mainstream classes: four Junior Infants classes, five Senior Infants classes and two classes at each level from First to Sixth Class. Infants classes are co-educational (boys and girls) and classes from First to Sixth Class are girls only. There are thirty teachers on the school staff: twenty-one classroom teachers, seven special education teachers (one shared with another school), an Autism Class teacher and an administrative principal.

The Chairperson of the Board of Management is Ms. Maeve O'Rourke, the Principal of the school and the Secretary to the Board of Management is Ms. Anna Jennings and the Patron of the school is Archbishop Dermot Farrell. In addition, there are twelve Special Needs Assistants, a secretary and a caretaker.

The school depends primarily on the resources and grants supplied by the Department of Education and Skills and it functions as a school within the rules. The Admissions policy of the school is set out within the context of regulations set down by the Department of Education and Skills.

School Curriculum

In keeping with the Primary School Curriculum (1999) and the New Primary Curriculum (2019 onwards), the school currently follows a well-balanced and broadly-based curriculum, which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of all pupils.

It is the policy of the management of the school, that we follow curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills, which may be amended from time to time in accordance with Section 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998).

The prescribed religious education programme for Catholic schools is the *Grow in Love* programme which is taught in the school. Catholic children are prepared for the reception of the sacraments of First Penance and First Eucharist in Second Class and for the reception of Confirmation in Sixth Class.

School Policies

Pupils who are enrolled in the school are required to adhere to and support the school rules and all of the school policies that have been ratified by the Board of Management.

The management of the school places parents/guardians responsible for ensuring that their child/children co-operate with said policies in an age-appropriate way. School policies are available to view on our school website: www.snp.ie

School Day

The school opening hours are as follows:

Junior & Senior Infants: 08:50 to 13:30

First to Sixth Class: 08:50 to 14:30

There are two break times during the day.

The school adheres to DES Circular 21/04 concerning the standardisation of the school year. The school calendar is distributed to parents and is available to view on our school website.

Contact Information

Should you wish to contact the school you can do so in the following ways:

- By post: Scoil Naomh Pádraig, Ballyroan Crescent, Ballyroan, D16XK80
- By email: info@snp.ie
- By telephone: 01 4946566

Correspondence to the Board of Management should be sent directly to the school.

Should you wish to speak with a member of staff please make an appointment to do so.

3. Admission Statement

Scoil Naomh Padraig 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 Pádraig is an all-girls school from 1st-6th Class and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit a boy applying for admission to this school from 1st Class – 6th Class.

Scoil Naomh Pádraig 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 Naomh Pádraig 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.

Scoil Naomh Pádraig will cooperate with the NCSE in the performance by the Council of its 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 requested to do so by the Council.

Scoil Naomh Pádraig will comply with any direction served on the board or the patron under section 37A and 67(4)(b).

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

Scoil Naomh Pádraig is a mainstream school which is inclusive of children with special needs.

Scoil Naomh Pádraig with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established an ASD class ('Fireflies') to provide an education exclusively for

- a) students with a diagnosis of ASD DSM-V/ICD-10
- b) students who have a recommendation for inclusion in a special autistic class by a clinical psychologist.

In total, 6 children will be catered for in the Autism Special Class and the progress of each child will be considered on a regular basis.

The National Council for Special Education states: 'In order to access a special class a student must have a report from a relevant professional or team of professionals (for example, psychologist, speech and language therapist, psychiatrist) stating that: 1) S/he has

a disability (in line with the designation of the special class in question) and 2) S/he has complex or severe learning needs that require the support of a special class setting and the reasons why this is the case. The professional report must meet DES requirements for the particular disability in question’.

Parents/guardians must fill in and return an application form as for all pupils. All relevant reports and assessments must be given to the school once the child has been offered a place in the school.

The Admission Policy states that the parents/guardians (and the prospective candidates for the class if required) may be invited to meet the principal, the class teacher and any other relevant parties before the child starts school. An Induction meeting of new parents will be held prior to commencement in the school, as with all pupils. The class will be co-educational and will cater for children of primary school age only – i.e. four years to thirteen years.

In accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act a parent/guardian must confirm compliance with the school’s Code of Behaviour. The Board of Management reserves the right to refuse enrolment if this confirmation is not received prior to the pupil attending the school. The Board also reserves the right to continue to suspend or expel a child under ‘Health & Safety’ regulations and in conjunction with the school ‘Code of Behaviour’ as per the National Education Welfare document if the need should arise.

A placement breakdown can sometimes occur. All placements are subject to review at the request of the parents or guardians and/or the school. The review will include input from all agencies involved (through a multi-disciplinary team meeting), the parents/guardians and the school. Following the review, a recommendation may be made that the child be enrolled in a school that can better meet his/her needs.

First preference will be given to pupils attending Scoil Naomh Pádraig and Ballyroan BNS, where a transfer will take place from mainstream to special classes if criteria have been satisfied.

The same criteria will apply in the event of oversubscription. (Please see [section 6](#) below for further details.)

Integration will be determined based on the individual needs of the child, and through discussion with the parents/guardians and the relevant class/support teacher. Following agreement, phased integration will take place in both the girls’ and boys’ schools as appropriate.

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.
- c) Scoil Naomh Pádraig is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not the Catholic faith where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

- d) Scoil Naomh Pádraig is an all-girls school from 1st to 6th Class and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the gender provided for by this school.
- e) The special class attached to Scoil Naomh Pádraig provides an education exclusively for students with a diagnosis of ASD and has a recommendation for inclusion in a special class 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.

Application Procedure for Enrolment in Scoil Naomh Pádraig

Enrolment takes in October and November each year for the following school year (see the Admission Notice for the timeline for admission). An online **Application Form** must be filled out. This is available on the school website: www.snp.ie. The completed application form should be submitted to the school via the link on the website only. The exact closing date for applications each school year will be on the school's **Annual Admission Notice**, which is available to view on the school's website, school's newsletter and noticeboard and in the Ballyroan Parish Newsletter.

Provision of Key Information by Parents at the Application Stage:

Certain information will be required when children are being enrolled. This information is provided in the Application Form. Such information will include:

- Pupil's name, age, PPS and address
- Names, addresses and contact details of pupils' parents/guardians
- Previous schools attended
- Whether the child has a sibling in the school

Provision of Key Information by Parents on Receipt of Letter of Offer:

Further information will be requested when parents/guardians have received a Letter of Offer (i.e. when the child has been offered a place in the school). Such information will include:

- Proof of address if applying from the parish of Ballyroan
- Contact telephone numbers in case of emergency, i.e. Parents/Guardians and at least one other person who is not a parent/guardian
- Details of any medical conditions which the school should be aware of
- Details of any special educational needs the child may have along with supporting relevant documentation (e.g. Psychological Report/ Speech and Language Report/ Occupational Therapy report etc.)
- Religion
- Previous primary schools attended, if any, and reasons for transfer. All relevant documentation regarding the child's progress in the previous primary school, i.e. school reports, standardised school test results etc. must be enclosed with the application form
- Any other relevant information (including any such further information as may be prescribed under the Education Welfare Act (2000) or Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act (2004)

Decision Making

The school follows the criteria for enrolment which is outlined in this policy when allocating places to pupils. Parents/Guardians of incoming Junior Infants will be notified about the status of their application by mid-November of the previous year (see the school's Annual Admission Notice). Parents/Guardians of pupils from other classes or late infant enrolments will be informed of the status of their application within 21 days after the application has been submitted in full.

Pupils may only be enrolled from the age of four years (at the beginning of the school year when starting) and upwards though compulsory attendance does not apply until the age of six years. The school will provide for a maximum of 30 pupils per class from 2024-2025 onwards.

Acceptance of Offer

Parents/Guardians will be offered a place in the school in writing. To accept a place, parents/guardians complete and return the following documents by the date specified (two weeks):

- The signed Acceptance forms
- The signed Permissions forms
- The signed Terms and Conditions
- The signed Pupil Online Database (POD) form
- Documentation needs to be returned with an original Birth/Adoption Certificate
- In the case of Catholic children who will be receiving the sacraments of First Penance, First Communion and Confirmation, a Baptismal Certificate can be provided at this time.
- Proof of address will also be required (e.g., a utility bill)

For incoming Junior Infants, a prepayment for school charges can be paid in the term prior to the year your child starts in school. The school will be in contact with you about this. This is a facility offered to help parents/guardians acquire the relevant materials for Junior Infants. Note however, that admission is not contingent on this pre-payment.

Note: It is a condition of enrolment that all parents sign the acceptance forms of the school prior to enrolment. Places will not be allocated to children whose parents/guardians have not signed the forms accepting the school's policies and agreeing that their child (and also they themselves) will be bound by them. The acceptance forms must be returned with the form indicating that the parents are accepting a place offered to them. Failure to do so will mean that their child will not be allocated a place in 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 and stepsiblings of children currently in the school (at date of enrolment) including boys who are enrolled in Ballyroan Boys' National School and/or children resident in the parish of Ballyroan (the eldest child will have priority in this ranking)
- 2) Children of current staff members (the eldest child will have priority in this ranking)
- 3) Children residing in neighbouring parishes of Rathfarnham, Ballyboden, Knocklyon, Willington and St. Pius (the eldest child will have priority in this ranking)
- 4) Children living outside neighbouring parishes (the eldest child will have priority in this ranking)

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:

- Each child's place will be determined by their date of birth with priority being given to the oldest children. Where two applicants have the same date of birth, a draw will take place by an independent person to allocate the place.
- Where there remains a surplus of applications after each of the foregoing criteria have been exhausted, selection for the enrolment of such students remaining on the list of applicants shall be determined by date of original application

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:

In accordance with section 62(7)(e) of the Education Act 1998, 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
- (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;
- (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; (with the exception of siblings attending 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.

8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Scoil Naomh Pádraig 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 Pádraig, 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 Naomh Pádraig 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 Pádraig 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 Pádraig 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

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:

From time to time a new family may move into the parish and wish to transfer their child(ren) to Scoil Naomh Pádraig. In this situation, parents wishing to enrol their child(ren) in the school must apply by completing the Application Form (available through the school's website/office). If a place is available, a Letter of Offer will be sent to parents/guardians along with relevant forms to be filled out. The applications are dated and placed on a waiting list according to the date they were received. Places will be given to such children depending on whether there is an available space. Where places are limited and more applications than places are received, places will be filled according to the previously cited criteria. A decision will be given in writing within 21 days of receipt of a complete application.

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:

Parents wishing to enrol their child(ren) in the school must apply by completing the Application Form (available through the school's website/office). If a place is available, a Letter of Offer will be sent to parents/guardians along with relevant forms to be filled out. The applications are dated and placed on a waiting list according to the date they were received. Places will be given to such children depending on whether there is an available space. Where places are limited and more applications than places are received, places will be filled according to the previously cited criteria. A decision will be given in writing within 21 days of receipt of a complete application.

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

The board of Scoil Naomh Pádraig will not charge fees for or seek payment or contributions 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 or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, who 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.

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.

Communication

This policy is available to view on the school website.

Ratification and Review

This revised Admissions Policy was approved by the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Pádraig in September 2024. It will be reviewed annually or sooner if required.

Signed *Maeve O' Rourke*
 Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed *Anna Jennings*
 Principal and Secretary to the Board of Management

Date September 2024