

Enrolment Policy for Autism Spectrum class

Saint Patrick's National School

Harestown

19223B

Introduction

The Board of Management of Saint Patrick's National School hereby sets out its enrolment and Admission Policy in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1998, the Education welfare act 2000, The Equal Status Act 2004 and the Disabilities Act 2002 and other relevant legislation and circulars. The Board trusts that in doing so parents will be assisted in relation to enrolment matters .

Furthermore the Board of Management and the principal will be happy to clarify any further matters arising from the policy.

Saint Patrick's National school is a co-educational primary school under the patronage of the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Armagh. It will provide one Autism Spectrum Class from September 2022.

Background

It was felt following discussion that the school, as an important part of the community, should support children with an Autism Spectrum (AS) diagnosis who would experience difficulty in a mainstream setting to access an environment and the curriculum to maximise their potential for learning and personal development.

Our Aim

We aim to offer an autism specific learning environment within a mainstream national school that will meet the individual needs of our children and facilitate the optimum inclusion of the children as part of our school community .

Criteria for enrolment in the Autism Spectrum Class

Subject to places being available the following are the criteria for enrolment in the AS class

- An enrolment form provided by the school should be fully completed by parents/guardians on behalf of the child.
- Parents must indicate on the enrolment form that they wish their child to be considered for a place in the autism class

- A recent psychological assessment and/or a multi disciplinary report carried out by a recognised clinical or educational psychologist must be provided. All relevant reports pertaining to the child should be supplied.
- The child must be four years of age prior to September 1st on the year of enrolment
- The child must have a primary diagnosis of autism made using the results of the DSMIV/V or ICD10 assessment tools.
- The pupil must have a recommendation in the above report that a placement in an Autism specific class within a mainstream school is appropriate for the pupil.
- Final approval from the school's Special Education Needs Officer is required, when a place is accepted.

Enrolment Procedures

Enrolment in the AS class is subject to places being available and will be offered subject to the criteria listed under class size. There will be a maximum of six pupils in the class .

The process of enrolling in the AS class will be aligned with the time frame for general enrolment for the school year 2023/24

- When an enquiry is made regarding enrolment in the AS specific class the child's name will be placed on an expression of interest list. When applications for enrolment are being accepted, the parents will be contacted and invited to submit an application to the school. All relevant reports must be included at this stage. Parents must indicate on the application form that they wish their child to be considered for the AS class.
- When the application period has expired the school admission team (Principal, Deputy Principal and AP2 post holder) will meet and review the applications. Further information may be required. Offers will be made subject to children meeting the required criteria and places being available
- Offers for places will be made within one month of the closing date of applications.
- When a place has been offered in the AS class, it is a requirement of the school that confirmation of acceptance of the place is given in writing by the parents/guardians within two weeks of the offer. If the place is not accepted within that timeframe it will be offered to the next person on the waiting list.
- A notification of enrolment will be sent to the schools Special Education Needs Officer.

Class Size.

The AS class will be limited to a maximum of six pupils as per Department of Education guidelines. It may transpire that in some school years there will be no places available in the school.

Where places are available and the number of applicants exceeds the number of available places the following criteria will apply in the following priority order.

1. Siblings of children already enrolled in the school.
2. Children within the schools catchment area as defined in the school admission policy/Children of staff members.
3. Children from within the boundaries of the parish of Monasterboice.
4. Children from within the catchment area of the Drogheda and Dunleer education areas as defined by the map on DES website.
5. Children outside this area.

Where two or more children in any criteria are tied for an available place, the place will be offered to the child living closest to the school by google maps .A waiting list for available places will be established for the school year . Applicants will need to reapply for the following year.

Late Applicants.

Late applicants will be accepted and will be allocated a place if available or will be placed at the end of the waiting list.

Integration

The level of integration into a mainstream class for curriculum subjects will be on an individual basis , will differ from child to child and will be determined in consultation with the teaching team and parents. Where appropriate, a pupil may go to various lessons and join their peers in the mainstream classroom.Children will be assigned a class level where they will be integrated for some subjects (if appropriate) and break times.

Reverse Integration Where appropriate and with full parental permission children from the mainstream classrooms may go to the Autism spectrum class for some activities.

Discharge form the ASD class

It is school policy to facilitate the discharge of pupils from the AS Class on their associated class level having completed an eight year primary school programme or on having reached their 12th birthday in the school year.The responsibility will be on parents to procure a secondary school placement. Saint Patrick's NS will

facilitate the transfer of relevant documents and files subject to parental permission.

Discharge may be recommended if the pupil is fully integrated into the mainstream school.

Discharge may be recommended by the Board of Management if the school, following consultation with the parents feels that the placement is not appropriate for the child.

July Provision

The school will not participate in this scheme.

Behaviour

All pupils in the school are subject to the school code of behaviour. Where necessary a behaviour plan will be implemented for an individual child to manage some behaviours . This will be drawn up in consultation with the child's parents, teachers SNAs and principal. At all times the safety and wellbeing of all our children is paramount.

Individual Education Plan

Individual Education Plans will be drawn up to tailor an educational plan to meet the needs of each child . Parents will be invited to the school to review and discuss their child's education programme . It is expected that parents will attend these meetings at all times. Other personnel such as an SNA or a school psychologist may also be involved in the formulation of an IEP. IEPs will be formulated at the beginning of a school year and may be reviewed at the discretion of the teacher.

Evaluation

The Board of Management will monitor the implementation of this policy. This policy will be amended and updated as required.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Saint Patrick's National School on March 18th 2022.

Chairperson

