St. Michael's N.S. Rackwallace

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Admission Policy of St. Michael's National School

School Address: Rackwallace, Co. Monaghan

Roll number: 16954C

School Patron: Bishop Larry Duffy

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 23rd October 2020. 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 N.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.

1. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

This section must be completed by all schools.

St. Michael's N.S. is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Clogher

"Catholic Ethos" 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,

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 St. Michael's N.S. 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.

2. Admission Statement

St. Michael's N.S. 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.
St. Michael's N.S. 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. St. Michael's N.S. will comply with any direction served on the board or the patron under section 37A and 67(4)(b). In accordance with the Education Act, 1998 these additions to the Admission Statement of a school will require the board to seek patron approval. The Department will provide an information note on the required changes to the admissions statement, which will set out a simplified approval process for boards and patrons. The current admissions policy template will be updated to reflect the additional text required in schools policies. These documents will be available at https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/c5bd9f-school-enrolment

St. Michael's N.S. is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate in relation to the admission of a student who has applied for a place in the school in accordance with section 7A of the Equal Status Act 2000.

St. Michael's N.S. 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 a member of the Catholic faith and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

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

Not applicable

4. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

a) the school is oversubscribed (please see section 5 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.

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

5. 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:

In the event of that applications for enrolment exceed or are expected to exceed the number of places available, the following criteria will be applied in the following order:

1. Proposed entrants who have siblings in the school already
2. Proposed entrants who live in Rackwallace, then Ardaghey, then surrounding townlands in order of proximity to the school
3. Proposed entrants who are siblings of past pupils
4. Children of staff members will be accommodated wherever possible
5. In the Junior Infant class, priority will be given according to the ages of the children wishing to enrol, with children who are five years old being given preference and then places will be allocated according to the pupils' ages

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 two or more pupils being tied for a place or places after the above criteria have been applied then places shall be decided by lottery.

6. 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;
other than siblings of a student attending or having 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.

7. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to St. Michael's N.S. 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 15 below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and section 16 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.

8. 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 17 and 18 below for further details).

9. Acceptance of an offer of a place by an applicant

In accepting an offer of admission from St. Michael's N.S., 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.

10. 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 N.S. 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 9above.

11. 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

a. An application for admission to the school has been received
b. An offer of admission to the school has been made, or
c. An offer of admission to the school has been accepted

The List may include any or all of the following:

i. The date of 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 by an applicant
iv. A student's personal details including his or her name, address, date of birth and person public service number (within the meaning of section 262 of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005).

12. 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 N.S. 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 N.S. 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.

13. 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 not 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.

14. 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:

- The parent(s) /guardian of the propesed entrant shall in the first case meet with the principal
- The principal, in consultation with the staff and chairperson of the Board of Management, will consider if the school can accommodate the proposed entrant, subject to the criteria listed below
- The principal shall give the parent(s)/guardians of the proposed entrant an admissions form
- It shall be a condition of consideration that the parent(s)/ guardians of the proposed entrant shall furnish the principal with any school reports, psychological reports, behaviour reports, OT reports or any other reports that may be relevent to application
- The staff of St. Michael's N.S. shall make contact with any schools the proposed entrant may have attended. The principal may speak with the principal of these schools. The class teacher and Special Education Teacher may make contact with the class teacher and Special Education Teacher in any schools the proposed entrant has attended
- Following consideration by the principal and staff, the principal shall contact the chairperson of the Board of Management and decide if St. Michael's N.S. can accommodate the proposed entrant
- The principal shall contact the parent(s)/guardian of the propsed entrant with the decision of St. Michael's N.S.

The criteria to be considered by St. Michael's N.S. 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:

- Mindful of the fact that we teach multi-grade classes we will consider each case on its own merits and the numbers in existing class groupings in each classroom will be considered
- Proposed entrants can only be admitted if there is room in the existing class groupings and in the class as a whole
- Department of Education guidelines regarding pupil teacher ratios will be taken into account
- Due regard will be given to the educational needs of both the pupil wishing to enrol and the pupils already in the school
- Where there is a potential conflict between the needs of the pupil wishing to enrol and existing pupils; the school will give precedence to the needs of the existing pupils

15. 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.

16. 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 students, where it has been 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:

- The pupil will be allowed to complete work assigned by their parents while the rest of the class receives religious instruction
- Mindful of the fact that the class teachers; already prepare and correct large amounts of work for their classes, teach in multi-grade classes, and have limited time during the day, our school will not ask teachers to prepare or correct work completed by pupils who are not receiving religious instruction
- In the spirit of fairness, the pupil not receiving religious instruction will not be allowed to complete homework while their peers receive religious instructions

17. 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.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management at its meeting in September 2026 and shall be reviewed annually.

Signed _____ Dated _____

Chairperson

Signed _____ Dated _____

Principal

Date of next review: September 2027