**Admission Policy of SN Muire**

**School Address: Rampark, Jenkinstown, Dundalk**

**Roll number: 18101F**

**School Patron: Archbishop of Armagh**

## **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 [date]. 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 SN Muire 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.

## **Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school**

SN Muire is a co-educational primary school under the patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Armagh. The school aims to promote the full and harmonious development of all pupils: cognitive, intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual including a living relationship with God and other people and promotes a catholic philosophy of life.

## **Admission Statement**

SN Muire will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

1. the gender ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
2. the civil status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
3. the family status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
4. the sexual orientation ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
5. the religion ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
6. the disability ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
7. the ground of race of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
8. the Traveller community ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned, or
9. 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.

In accordance with Section 62 of the Education (admissions to school’s act}, the board of

management of SN Muire has included the following text to the schools

admissions statement, as required by the Education (provision in respect of children with

special educational needs) act 2022.

SN Muire, Rampark 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.

SN Muire, Rampark 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.

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| SN Muire 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 Roman Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school. |

## **Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school**

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| SN Muire will cater to the needs of children with Special Educational Needs in line with the DES Continuum of Support for Children with Special Educational needs and the school’s Special Education policy. |

## **Admission of Students**

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

1. the school is oversubscribed (see Section 6 for further details)
2. 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

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| SN Muire is a Roman Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not Roman Catholic where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school |

## **Oversubscription**

In the event that the school is oversubscribed, when deciding on applications for admission, the school will 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:

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| 1. Brothers and sisters, (including stepsiblings) residing at the same address of children already enrolled, with priority going to oldest. 2. Children living within the parish boundary- priority oldest 3. Children whose home address is closest to the school (as measured by a straight line on an OS map) if the child is normally resident outside of the agreed parish catchment area. 4. Children of current school staff- priority oldest |

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:

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| The place will be decided by the drawing of lots. |

## **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:

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| 1. a student’s prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí, 2. the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school; 3. a student’s academic ability, skills or aptitude; 4. the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student’s parents; 5. a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission; 6. 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.  This is also subject to the school making offers based on existing waiting lists (up until 31st January 2025 only). |

## **Decisions on applications**

All decisions on applications for admission to SN Muire 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

All decisions in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and in relation to applications for places in years other than the intake group will be subject to procedures outlined in section 15 below.

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.

## **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)

## **Acceptance of an offer of a place by an applicant**

In accepting an offer of admission from SN Muire, 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.

## **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 SN Muire where—

1. it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
2. 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.
3. 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
4. an applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of ‘acceptance of an offer’ as set out above.

## **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.

## **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 SN Muire 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 SN Muire 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.

## **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.

## **Procedures for admission of students to other years and during the school year**

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| 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 be enrolled at the start of the school   * If newly resident in the area * In the case where the class/school is not oversubscribed * Application form and Code of Behaviour is signed by both parents. |

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| 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:  Other pupils may be enrolled during the school year   * If newly resident in the area * In the case where class/school is not oversubscribed * Application form and Code of behaviour are signed by both parents |

## **Declaration in relation to the non-charging of fees**

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of SN Muire or any persons acting on its behalf will not charge fees for or seek payment or contributions (howsoever described) as a condition of-

1. an application for admission of a student to the school, or
2. the admission or continued enrolment of a student in the school.

## **Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction**

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| The following are the school’s arrangements for students, where the parent~~s~~ or in the case of a pupil who has reached the age of 18years, the pupils 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 pupils:   * A written request should be made to the Principal of the School. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s) or the pupil, as the case may be, to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school. |

## **Reviews/appeals**

**Review of decisions by the Board of Management**

The parent of the student, or in the case of a 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 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.

Ratified by Board of Management after a remote meeting Tuesday 28th April 2020.

Signed : Peter Murphy Chairperson

Updated 29th November 2022

Signed:

