

# St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh



## Admissions Policy 26/27

Patron of the School:

Bishop Denis Nulty, Diocese of Kildare and Leighlin

Roll Number:19354Q

Charity number:20204774

## 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 15 September 2020. It is to be 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. Colman's N.S, Cappagh admission process are set out in the school's annual admission notice which is published annually on the school's website, Application for Admission Form Facebook page and Local Parish Notes 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

Catholic schools are communities which are open, welcoming and inclusive. Therefore, Catholic schools may include children who adhere to other religions or other stances for living. While mindful of their duty to educate in the distinctive beliefs, values, and practices of the Catholic community, teachers will bear witness to an attitude of respect for and appreciation of all'.

*'The Catholic Preschool & Primary Religious Education Curriculum p15'*

St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of Bishop Denis Nulty.

"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 St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh 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:**

- Our mission is to provide opportunities for children to experience their world, to respect themselves and others and to respect their environment.
- Our mission is to provide an atmosphere where children can develop socially, emotionally, physically, academically and spiritually.
- Our mission is to ensure that each individual is allowed to develop to the best of his/her potential, accepting the varying abilities of each child.
- Our mission is to provide a relaxed and positive atmosphere with a sense of community where challenge, hard work and celebration is the natural order of the day for all.
- Our mission is to value and affirm the role of Parents and to create an infrastructure that allows Parents to be active participants in the life of the school.
- Our mission is to value the fact that our School is part of a community to which the school can both give and receive.

#### **School Philosophy**

- To create learning experiences through which all our children can attain high standards in all areas of the curriculum
- To create a stimulating, exciting learning environments
- To create an environment where each child feels cared for and secure and values himself/herself and others
- To create a sense of community, culture and environment
- To create close partnership with parents and the community in general
- To create an atmosphere where pupils, parents and community feel a sense of belonging to their school and sense of loyalty

### **3. Admission Statement**

St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh 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.

### **All denominational schools**

St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh. 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 Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

## **4. Categories of Special Educational Needs Catered for in the Class/Special School**

In the case of special schools and schools with a special class or unit attached, the category/categories of SEN catered for by the school/special class/unit must be set out here.

### **(a) In the case of a mainstream school with a SEN class attached**

St Colman's NS Cappagh, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established a class to provide an education exclusively for students with Autism (ASD). The school currently has provision for 1 ASD classes with 6 pupils in total.

## **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

### **All denominational schools**

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

### **School with a special education class**

The special class attached to St Colman's NS Cappagh provides an education exclusively for students with Autism (ASD 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.

## **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:

Where the number of applications for Junior Infants, exceeds the number of places available, the School will offer places in the priority order of 1 through to 5 of the categories outlined below in order to determine admission into Junior Infants for up to and including 30th September of the year of admission.

#### Selection criteria for mainstream classes

Priority	Criterion
1.	Priority is given to siblings and step siblings residing at the same address of children attending or having attended the school.
2.	Priority will be given to pupils whose primary residence is closest to the school in kilometres as per Google Maps. (as identified by the shortest driving route between the two identified locations as per Google Maps) Proof of address required.
3.	Age

### Selection criteria for Special Class for children with Autism

Priority	Criterion
1.	All pupils must have a diagnostic or psychological assessment recommending a special ASD placement attached to a mainstream school.
2.	All pupils must have a confirmation letter from SENO to confirm eligibility for an ASD placement.
3.	Priority will be given to pupils already enrolled in a mainstream class in St Colman's NS Cappagh as of 01/09/25
4.	Priority is given to siblings and step siblings residing at the same address of children attending or having attended the school.
5.	Priority will be given to pupils whose primary residence is closest to the school in kilometres as per Google Maps. (as identified by the shortest driving route between the two identified locations as per Google Maps) Proof of address required.
5.	Age

If an applicant falls into a number of priority categories listed above, s/he will be included in the priority category which affords her/him the highest priority.

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:

Priority will be given to the eldest child. If two children have the same date of birth, then time of birth will be used to determine priority.

### **Documentation required when submitting application for Special Class for children with Autism**

Professional report(s) outlining:

■ Diagnosis of special educational needs (e.g. Autism: DSM IV/V or ICD 10/11 (psychologist, psychiatrist, multi-disciplinary report)

AND

■ 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)

## 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:

Points (a) to (g) must be included here by all schools. There are limited exceptions to some of these (highlighted in red below) and schools must retain the exceptions that apply to them and delete those that do not:

- (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 categories 1 & 2 of the selection criteria as outlined in Section 6
- (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 St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh 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 St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh, 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 St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh 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 St Colman's NS Cappagh 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 Colman's N.S. Cappagh 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:

It is advised that parents who seek admission for child/ren or who seek to transfer a child/children from another school should apply to St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh in advance of the commencement of the school year. If the number of applications received exceed the number of available spaces in any class from Senior Infants to Sixth Class, then the criteria outlined in Section 6 for children seeking a place in Junior Infants' will apply.

Prior to the Board of Management making a determination on the admission of a child into any class from Senior Infants to Sixth class (or Junior Infants once the academic year has started) St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh will post Application for Admission forms to applicants' parents / guardians and request (where applicable):

Parents / guardians will be informed of a decision on applications within 21 days of receiving completed applications.

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:

### **The following criteria apply when an application for admission during the academic year is under consideration:**

- An application for admission will not be accepted where the existing classroom, in respect of which the application relates to, has 30 pupils.
- Only pupils on the established waiting list for the relevant academic year will be accepted into Junior Infants prior to 1st October of that year (should a place become available).
- An application for admission into Junior Infants after 1st October and for the remainder of the academic year, will only be considered where a vacancy exists, the applicant was already enrolled in another primary school and is/was in attendance at that primary school for not less than 20 school days and the maximum number in the junior classroom does not exceed 30 pupils.

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

This rule applies to all schools.

The Board of St. Colman's N.S, Cappagh 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**

A written request should be made to the principal of the school. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s) to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

## **18. Reviews/appeals**

### **Reviews/Appeals Review of decisions by the Board of Management**

The parent of 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.

### **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.

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.

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

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 Admission Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of St Colman's NS**

**on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Chairperson)**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**(Principal)**