

Scoil Teampall Toinne Ballyporeen

Enrolment Policy

Introduction

The Board of Management of Scoil Teampall Toinne hereby sets out its Enrolment and Admission Policy in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1998 and the Board trusts that by so doing, parents will be assisted in relation to enrolment matters. The Chairperson of the Board of Management or the Principal Teacher will be happy to clarify any matters arising from this policy.

Decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the Board of Management of the school.

The relevant dates and timelines for the school 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.

General School Information

Name of School: Scoil Teampall Toinne, Ballyporeen
Telephone No. (052)(7467536)

His Lordship, Bishop Alphonsus is the Patron of the school.

At present, the teaching staff is comprised of 4 single class Teachers, 2 multi-grade Teachers, 1 Principal/Special Education Teacher and 1.33 Classroom Assistants. We also have access to 3 hours per week of additional SET time that is allocated to the school under a time allocation. The full range of classes is taught in the school and classes are of mixed gender.

The school depends on the grants and teacher resources provided by the Department of Education and Science and it operates within the regulations laid down, from time to time, by the Department. The school Policy has regard to the resources and funding available.

Class starts at 9.20 a.m. and finishes at 3.00 p.m. Infant Classes finish at 2.00 p.m.

Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

Scoil Teampall Toinne is a Catholic, co-educational primary school with Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Waterford and Lismore.

'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/pupil, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects.
- (b). a living relationship with God and with other people
- (c). a philosophy of life inspired by the belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus
- (d). the formation of 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.

In conjunction with this religious education, the school aims:

1. To enable the pupil to live a full life as a child.
2. To prepare the children for life by teaching Christian values and helping them to practice and cherish those values in their daily lives.
3. To prepare the pupils to take their place with confidence in Second Level schools.
4. To assist the pupils in becoming full and active members of society.
5. To support the teachers in developing programmes of learning suitable to the abilities and ages of the pupils.
6. To develop teacher/parent relations to benefit the learning environment of each individual pupil.

Rationale

This policy aims to ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to enable the school

- To make decisions on all applications in an open and transparent manner consistent with the Ethos, the mission Statement of the school and legislative requirements
- To make an accurate and appropriate assessment of the capacity of the school to cater for the needs of applicants in the light of the resources available to it and
- To put in place a framework which will ensure effective and productive relations between students, parents and teachers where a student is admitted to the school

Legal Framework

Section 9 (j) of the Education Act 1998 specifies, that "A recognized school shallSubject to this Act and in particular section 15 (2) (d), establish and maintain an admissions policy which provides for maximum accessibility to the school".

Section 15 (2) (d) states the Board of Management shall "publish The policy of the school concerning admission to and participation in the school and ensure that policy principles of equality and the right of parents to send their children to a school of the parents' choice are respected".

Section 27 (1) states that "A board shall establish and maintain procedures for the purposes of informing students in a school of the activities of the school" and (2) that "the procedures established and maintained under subsection (1) shall facilitate the involvement of the students in the operation of the School having regard to the age and experience of the students, in association with their parents and teachers".

The Education Welfare Act, 2000 [Section 19 (1)] requires that a Board of Management shall not refuse to admit a child except where such refusal is in accordance with the school's Admission Policy. Section 19 (2) requires that parents must provide relevant information to the school while Section 19 (3) requires that the Board of Management, shall as soon as possible (but no later than 21 days) after receiving such information "make a decision in respect of the application concerned and inform the parent in writing thereof"

The Equal Status Act, 2000 [Sections 5 & 7 (2)] prohibits discrimination on the grounds of "gender, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race or membership of the Travelling Community" regarding admission, access to programmes, participation in the school or regarding expulsion or any other sanction. There are limited exceptions regarding single-sex schools and schools promoting particular religious values [Section 7 (3)].

Scoil Teampall Toinne 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.

Scoil Teampall Toinne 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."

Goals

The school shall have in place appropriate channels of communication and procedures

- To inform parents about the school, its programmes, activities, and procedures
- To enable applications for admission to the school to be handled in an open, transparent manner
- To put in place criteria under which applications shall be considered
- To ensure that these criteria are informed by our Ethos, our Mission Statement & current legislation
- To specify what information is required by the school at the time of application

Context, Resources, School Organisation & Curriculum

The school supports the principle of equality for all students regarding access to and participation in the school. The school respects the diversity of traditions, values, beliefs, languages and ways of life in society. The school acknowledges the right of parents to send their children to a school of the parent's choice, subject to the resources available to the school including classroom accommodation, class size, teaching resources and financial resources and subject to the capacity of the school to provide for the needs of any applicant or student. The school is staffed in accordance with the standard pupil – teacher ratios sanctioned by the Department and any additional teaching hours sanctioned by the Department in respect of curricular concessions, special needs, special programmes etc. The school operates within the regulations laid down by the Department from time to time.

The capacity of the school to implement its desired curriculum, its broad range of educational programmes, its breadth of extra-curricular activities, its school plan and policies are dependent on the resources it receives. Consequently, in determining its activities and programme for any school year the school must have due regard to the teaching, management and administrative resources and the accommodation, equipment and funding available to it.

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

Scoil Teampall Toinne is a mainstream school. It does not have a Special Class or ASD Class. An expression of interest in opening facilities of this nature has been made to our Special Education Needs Officer (SENO) as recently as October 2023 but have been turned down to date.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN) are catered for by our mainstream class teachers with the support of the Special Education Team. On enrolment of children with special needs the Board of Management will request a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological report or where such a report is not available, will request that the child be assessed immediately. The purpose of the assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child relevant to his/her disability or special needs and to profile the support services required.

Following receipt of the report, the Board will assess how the school can meet the needs specified in the report. Where the Board deems that further resources are required, it will request the Special Education Needs Organiser (NCSE see Circular 01/05) to provide the resources required to meet the needs of the child as outlined in the psychological and/or medical report. These resources may include for example, access to or the provision of any or a combination of the following: visiting teacher service, resource teacher for special needs, special needs assistant, specialised equipment or furniture, transport services or other.

The school will meet with the parents/guardians of the child and with the SENO to discuss the child's needs and the school's suitability or capability in meeting those needs. Where necessary, a full case conference involving all parties will be held, which may include parents, principal, class teacher, SET teachers, Special Educational Needs Organiser or psychologist, as appropriate.

It may, in certain circumstances, be necessary for the Board of Management to defer admission of a child pending the completion of an assessment report and/or provision of the necessary resources by the Department of Education and Skills.

Roles and responsibilities in developing and implementing this policy:

Roles of Board of Management

- To ensure that a policy is in place and that it is reviewed
- To appraise this policy with regard to its suitability and the effectiveness of its implementations and to make recommendations for improvement where appropriate.
- To decide on appeals by parents or students with respect to any decision(s) made by the Principal/Board..
- To prepare (and submit to the Education Welfare Board) a statement of Strategies regarding Attendance. The Statement of Strategy will have regard to guidelines issued by the Education Welfare Board and will set out the measures the Board of Management proposes to adopt
 - a) For the purposes of fostering and appreciation of learning among students attending the school and
 - b) Encouraging regular attendance at the school on the part of all students

Role of the Principal

- To formulate draft policy in consultation with the teaching staff, students, parents, Board and Trustees
- To monitor its implementation and to ensure that it is reviewed by the review date
- To implement the policy and to support other teaching staff in their implementation of the policy
- To apply for and acquire such resources as are available in accordance with government policies
- To ensure, within the constraints of available resources, that alternative programmes are devised where necessary and practicable to meet the needs of students
- To appraise the policy with regard to its suitability and the effectiveness of its implementation and to make recommendations for improvement where appropriate
- To ensure a register of all students attending the school is established and maintained
- To ensure that a record of attendance or non-attendance is maintained for each student registered at this school and, in the case of non-attendance, the reason for same
- Prior to registering a child, to provide the parents of an applicant with a copy of the school's Code of Behaviour and ensure that the parent confirm in writing their acceptance of the Code and an assurance that they shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with the Code by the child
- To provide, on request, to any parent of a child registered in the school with a copy of the Code of Behaviour
- Where a child is refused admission, to advise the parents of their right of appeal to the Trustees and the Department of Education setting out Title and Address of each and advising of time limits

Role of Teaching staff

- To co-operate with the implementation of this policy
- To take the needs of all students into account in the way in which they select textbooks, plan and teach their lessons and conduct assessments
- To bring concerns about Special Needs curricular matters and information to the attention of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Special Needs Teacher

- To keep parents informed through the regular Parent / Teacher Meetings and School Reports and by meeting parents from time to time as required.
- To appraise this policy with regard to its suitability and the effectiveness of its implementation and to make recommendations for improvement where appropriate

Role of Students

- To co-operate fully with the school in the implementations of the policy
- To offer suggestions for improving the service to students with special needs

Role of Parents

- To support the policy and to co-operate fully with the school in its implementation
- To bring to the attention of the school authorities any concern they may have in relation to the school's provision for the educational needs of their child
- To appraise this policy with regard to its suitability and the effectiveness of its implantation and to make recommendations for improvement where appropriate

Policy Considerations

The Board of Management of Scoil Teampall Toinne reserves the right of admission if such admissions contravene Departmental guidelines on class size, etc.

The school will not refuse a child on the basis of ethnicity, special education needs, disability, traveller status, refugee status, political or religious beliefs, family or social circumstances, provided the necessary supports are in place in the school. Reference to Ballyporeen/Skeheenarinky Parish in our criteria for enrolment is on the basis of significant financial contributions and commitments from this Parish to the school.

The school will maintain a list of refused applicants for each class, their place on that list having been determined under the criteria outlined.

The Board of Management respects parental choice in relation to enrolment, provided the enrolment criteria are fulfilled.

The Board of Management of Scoil Teampall Toinne, in its Policy of Admissions/Enrolment, respects the rights of the existing school community and the children already enrolled. Consequently, the Board of Management reserves the right to determine the maximum number of children in each class, bearing in mind:

- Integration of children from Autistic Unit to Mainstream Classes
- Health & Safety Concerns regarding Staff and Children
- Available classroom space
- Multi-grade classes
- Educational needs of the children
- Presence of children with special needs
- Department of Education & Science class size directives
- Appropriate Supports and Resources are available
- Time of school year

Arrangements regarding pupils not attending religious instruction

Parents / Guardians who wish to have their children omitted from religious instruction have the right to do so but must make this request formally, in writing, to the school Board of Management.

As Scoil Teampall Toinne is a Catholic ethos school, religious instruction occurs daily and can take the form of prayers, songs, readings, videos etc. These can also occur at any stage during the school day.

It is not practical to suggest that pupils who abstain from religious instruction be withdrawn from the classroom during this time. Pupils will be given other work to complete in class, while religious instruction takes place. They will not be asked to take an active role in the class during this time.

Occasionally, especially during significant times in the church calendar, religious ceremonies may take place. In order to uphold our Catholic ethos amongst both pupils and staff, the parents of pupils who abstain from religious instruction may be required to organise for their child to be collected/supervised while the rest of the school are in attendance at such ceremonies. Due notice will be issued to parents where this occurs.

Scoil Teampall Toinne welcomes pupils of all faiths and none into our school community and is proud to be an inclusive and multi-cultural school while upholding our own religious faith in conjunction with this.

Procedures – Application, Enrolment Criteria & Decision / Appeals

- Failure to fully complete forms may result in refusal to admit a student.
- Further relevant information may be sought at a later stage
- In applying the criteria for enrolment, the school will take into account Gender Balance Male / Female and limitations in the size of classes

Admission to the school is, of course, subject to the resources available to the school including classroom accommodation, class size, teaching resources and financial resources, and subject to the capacity of the school to provide for the needs of those who apply for admission. Where the school lacks the necessary resources to meet the needs of any applicant or student, it will make every effort to secure those resources-where the resources cannot be secured, the school reserves the unfettered right to refuse admission.

It is the responsibility of parents / guardians of any child to inform the school of any such needs on the enrolment application form for the child's own welfare. In this context the school authorities will have equal regard for the welfare of all the students and their right to an education in an atmosphere that is not detrimental to their physical, emotional, moral, social or intellectual development. Failure to fully complete the application form, failure to supply any relevant information requested by the school or failure to make reasonable arrangements to meet with the school authorities to discuss the application may result in a child being refused admission to the school.

Application for immediate admission in the current school year

- Application forms are available from the school secretary
- Failure to fully complete forms will result in refusal to admit the applicant
- The behaviour record of a student in their previous school shall be considered
- The attendance record of a student in their previous school shall be considered

Junior Infant Enrolment Procedure

The registration process is initiated on receipt by the school of a completed application form. This form must be signed and dated by one or both parents or guardians. The form will be date stamped on receipt by the school, and is attached as appendix 1 to this policy. Telephone calls or personal school visits concerning enrolment will be facilitated where possible, but are not in themselves enrolment applications.

Date of application, child's date of birth, address and telephone contact number are recorded in the School Record of Applications, and the attached acknowledgement (Appendix 2) together with a copy of this policy is sent to the applicant. The acknowledgement of an application merely confirms that it will be assessed under the criteria outlined, and does not confer any further status on that application.

Entry in the School Record of Applications means that an application will be considered in March of the relevant enrolment year, and will be evaluated on the basis of the criteria outlined in this policy.

Following this evaluation, the Principal will make a recommendation to the Board, listing proposed enrolments for the forthcoming year. Once an enrolment list is approved by the Board, all applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome, and if refused admission will be notified of their entitlement to appeal under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

Please note:

Applications for admission to Junior Infant Class must be made at the very latest by the end of February of the year in which it is expected that the child will start school.

The Board of Management strongly recommends that applicant children are at least four years of age on or before April 30th on the year of entry.

Any child whose 4th birthday occurs after April should defer enrolment until the following year.

Junior Infant Enrolment Criteria

If the number of children on the Waiting List exceeds the number of places available, the following prioritising criteria are used:

| Priority | Criterion |
|----------|---|
| 1 | Priority is given to brothers and sisters of children already in the school or who have attended the school in the past. If the class is over subscribed on the basis of this criterion, then places will be allocated on the basis of age, starting with the oldest applicant, until all places are allocated. |
| 2 | Families whose primary residence is either (a) in the immediate areas of Ballyporeen/Skeheenarinky Parish, starting closest to the school and radiating outwards from the school within the Parish or (b) in Ballyporeen/Skeheenarinky Parish within a 2 mile distance by road from the school. If the class is oversubscribed within the application of this particular criterion, then the furthest from the school under either (a) or (b) will be eliminated first. |
| 3 | Children of current teaching staff. |
| 4 | Children of parents who are past pupils of the school. If the class is oversubscribed within the application of this particular criterion, then those whose primary residence is furthest from the school will be eliminated first. |
| 5 | If space is still available, class numbers are completed from the Waiting List, which is compiled and ordered according to the date of the original application. The criteria are listed in order of priority when spaces are allocated under criterion 1 and space is still available, then criterion 2 comes into play and so on. This prioritization proceeds until all places have been allocated. |

Criteria for Enrolment to SI to 6th Classes

The following criteria will be applied if there is a surplus of applications for available places in the Senior Infants to 6th classes.

| Priority | Criterion |
|----------|---|
| 1 | Priority is given to brothers and sisters of children already in the school or who have attended the school in the past. |
| 2 | Families whose primary residence is either (a) in the immediate school areas of Ballyporeen/Skeheenarinky Parish, starting closest to the and radiating outwards from the school within the Parish or (b) in Ballyporeen/Skeheenarinky Parish within a 2 mile distance by road from the school, or who are in the process of moving to either of these areas. |
| 3 | Children of current teaching staff. |
| 4 | Children of parents who are past pupils of the school. |

All children enrolled are expected to comply with and support the school's Code of Behaviour, as well as the school's designated policies on Curriculum, Organisation and Management.

Evaluation

The Board of Management will monitor the implementation of all aspects of the Policy and review and amend the Policy as required, with particular emphasis placed upon

- Effective management placed on application process
- Clarity and transparency relating to the process
- Applicants informed in good time re the status of their application, particularly in the case of refusal to enrol
- Positive Parental feedback

Monitoring Procedures

The implementations of this policy will be monitored by the Board of Management at the appropriate time. It will also be referred by the Principal for consideration by the full staff at the same time. The Principal will report to the Board of Management regarding the process of enrolment in December each year and regularly thereafter until enrolment is complete. Where the Principal refuses admission to any applicant, by the authority delegated to him by the Board in line with this policy, any such refusal shall be communicated to the Board at the earliest opportunity.

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.

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.

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.

Policy Review Procedures:

The policy will be reviewed regularly in the light of experience. It will be reviewed by the full staff and Board of Management every five years.

Any staff member, board member, parent, guardian or student who is unhappy with the content or the implementation of any school policy may request a review at any time and such a request will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Next review of this policy will occur before or during the school year 2029.

Signed: Seán Tobin

Seán Tobin, Chairperson
On Behalf of the Board of Management

Date: _____

Appendix B: Annual Admissions Notice

SCOIL TEAMPALL TOINNE ANNUAL ADMISSION NOTICE

in respect of admissions to the 2024/2025 school year

Admission Policy and Application Form

A copy of the school's **Admission Policy** and the **Application Form for Admission** for the 2024/2025 school year is available as follows: –

To download at: www.ballyporeenns.com

On request: By emailing ballyporeenns@gmail.com or writing to: **Scoil Teampall Toinne, Ballyporeen, Cahir, Co. Tipperary E21 XP64**

Application and Decision Dates for admission to the 2023 / 2024 school year.

The following are the dates applicable for admission to junior infants:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| The school will commence accepting applications for admission on | 22nd Jan 2024 |
| The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on | 8th Mar 2024 |
| The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is | 29th Mar 2024 |
| The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is* | 5 working days |

***Failure to accept an offer within the prescribed period above may result in the offer being withdrawn.**

Note: the school will consider and issue decisions on late applications in accordance with the school's Admission Policy

Number of places being made available in the 2023 / 2024 school year

| | |
|--|-----|
| The number of available places in junior infants | 18 |
| The number of residential places is (boarding schools only) | N/A |
| The number of non-residential places is (boarding schools only) | N/A |
| The number of places being made available in the special class catering for children with <i>[insert category or categories of special education catered for in the special class]</i> ~ | N/A |