

Admission Policy of Claddaghduff N.S

School Address: Claddaghduff, Co. Galway, H71 YF76

Roll number: 18608Q

School Patron: Archbishop Francis Duffy

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 6th March 2023. 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 Claddaghduff 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.

2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

The Education Act, 1998, requires the Board of Management to 'uphold the characteristic spirit of the school ethos as determined by the cultural, educational, moral, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values which are characteristic of the school.

Claddaghduff N.S is a co-educational, Catholic primary school, which strives to provide a caring, happy, safe and secure atmosphere where the intellectual, spiritual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are identified and addressed. While Claddaghduff N.S is a school with a Catholic ethos, it also has due recognition for all other religions. We are committed to the creation of a positive, stimulating learning

environment dedicated to the full and harmonious development of all the pupils in our care.

Our school motto is:

“ mól an óige agus tiocfaidh siad”

3. Admission Statement

Claddaghduff 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, ‘gender ground’, ‘civil status ground’, ‘family status ground’, ‘sexual orientation ground’, ‘religion ground’, ‘disability ground’, ‘discriminate’, ‘ground of race’ and ‘Traveller community ground’ shall be construed in accordance with section 3 of the Equal Status Act 2000.

- Claddaghduff N.S 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.
- Claddaghduff N.S 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.

All Denominational Schools

Claddaghduff N.S is a Catholic Primary 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 of Catholic denomination 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 school/Class

Claddaghduff N.S embraces the philosophy of inclusiveness and endeavours to reflect that philosophy in the admission of pupils with disabilities or other special educational needs. The school welcomes applications from children with special educational needs. Such applications will be processed in accordance with the provisions of this policy.

- Pupils with special educational needs will be resourced in accordance with the level of resources provided by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and the National Council for Special Education (NCSE).
- In order to assist the school in establishing the educational and physical needs of a successful applicant, relevant to his/her ability or special needs, and to profile the support services required the school requests that parent(s) of the pupils accepted for enrolment;
 - (i) Inform the school of any special needs as early as possible and
 - (ii) Ensure that copies of relevant professional reports are provided so that provision can be made for that applicant's welfare and educational progress.
- Where a report is not available and, in the event, that an applicant is accepted for an enrolment, a request will be made that the successful applicant be assessed immediately. Following receipt of the report, the Board of Management will assess how the school can meet the needs as specified therein.
- Where the Board of Management deems that further resources are required, it will request the DES and or NCSE and or HSE to provide resources required to meet the needs of the child as outlined in the medical and or psychological report(s).
- The Principal may, in conjunction with the Special Educational Needs Officer (SENO) or the DES Inspector, meet with the parent(s) of the child to discuss the child's needs. This meeting is not a condition of enrolment.

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

Claddaghduff N.S is a Roman Catholic School and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of Catholic denomination where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

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:

Criteria for Enrolment

While recognising the right of parents to seek to enrol their child to a school of their choice, in order to ensure the safety and educational needs of pupils, the Claddaghduff N.S BOM reserves the right to determine the maximum class sizes. The Claddaghduff N.S BOM has determined the maximum number of applicants who can be enrolled in Junior Infants each academic year as 20.

Bearing in mind;

Overall school capacity,

Availability of space in classrooms

Maximum class sizes

Health and safety requirements

Availability of staff, resources, facilities and grants

Educational needs of existing pupils enrolled in the school

The DES/Patron requirements

While the maximum number of applicants that can be enrolled in Junior Infants has been decided by the Board of Management as 20. The Board reserves the right to change this number should relevant circumstances change.

Criteria used to prioritise places for Junior Infants

Where the number of applicants for Junior Infants exceeds the number of places available the school will offer places in the priority order 1 through to 6 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.

The priority order, in the following order, is as follows;

- (i) Category 1; Siblings of present pupils
- (ii) Category 2; Applicants whose primary residence is in the immediate catchment area, which is determined as the townland of Claddaghduff
- (iii) Category 3; Applicants whose primary residence is in the extended catchment area, which is determined as the townlands Cleggan/ Kingstown
- (iv) Category 4; Children of current school staff
- (v) Category 5; Siblings of Past Pupils.
- (vi) Category 6; All other applicants If an applicant falls into a number of categories listed above, he/she will be included in the priority category which affords him/her 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:

If the maximum number of admissions is reached in any one of the categories outlined above, a selection process will apply whereby places will be offered to complete applications beginning with the oldest eligible applicant in that category and proceeding in descending order of age from the oldest to the youngest until all remaining available places have been filled. If during this selection process, two or more applicants have the same date of birth, the school will apply a random selection process to these applicants only in order to establish to whom places in that category will be offered.

A waiting list for unsuccessful applications will be compiled and applicants will be placed on the list in the order of priority as set out above. Where a vacancy becomes available, applicants on the waiting list will be offered a place in accordance with the order of priority the applicant has been placed on the list.

Incomplete applications will not be considered and applicants will not be placed on the waiting list.

In a particular year, an applicant may fulfil the enrolment criteria and be offered a place. The parents of the applicant may accept this place and subsequently decide not to send their child to school that particular year. In this instance the applicant's place cannot be deferred. Instead, the applicant must reapply the following year and will be offered a place if they fulfil the enrolment criteria for that following year.

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:

- (a) a student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí, other than in relation to a student's prior attendance at: Cleggan playschool
 - (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, in the case of the school wishing to include a selection criteria based on (1) siblings of a student attending or having attended the school and/or (2) parents or grandparents of a student having attended the school.
- In relation to (2) parents and grandparents having attended, a school may only apply this criteria to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's annual admission notice).
- (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.

This is also subject to the school making offers based on existing waiting lists (up until 31st January 2025 only).

8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to [school name] 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.

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 Claddaghduff 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.

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 [school name] 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 board 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 Claddaghduff 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 Claddaghduff 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.

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.

15. Procedures for admission of students to other years and during the school year

An application for a place in Claddaghduff N.S will only be considered should a vacancy exist. The Board of Management reserves the right to determine the maximum number of pupils enrolled in each classroom as 26. (please see section 6 above which outlines criteria for enrolment) The Board reserves the right to change this number should relevant circumstances change. Should a vacancy exist the applicant will be enrolled in an age appropriate class provided that;

(1) The school is provided with a fully completed, signed and dated enrolment application form which is available from the school office and the school's website together with all required documentation.

(2) The applicant will be required to provide all relevant reports and references from the school from which the applicant proposes to transfer or the school last attended by the applicant.

(3) Failure to provide the documents referred to above will mean an application is incomplete.

(4) A separate form must be completed for each applicant.

(5) Acceptance by the school office of an application does not mean that same will be processed. Applications that are incomplete, not signed/dated and do not include the required documentation will not be processed.

(6) Submitting inaccurate information on form or in accompanying documentation will render the application void ab initio. Where a place has been offered, this will result in the offer of the place being withdrawn and the place being reallocated. In the case of a placement on a waiting list, it will result in removal from the waiting list.

(7) Written notification of the decision regarding the application will be issued to the parent(s) of the applicant within 21 days of receipt of the fully completed, signed and dated application form provided all requested documentation has also been provided.

(8) Parent(s) of applicants who have been offered a place must inform the school in writing of the acceptance of the place, by completing and returning to the school an admission acceptance form within 10 days. Failure to do so will result in the place being forfeited and reallocated. (9) Any contact or lobbying of school personnel or Board of Management members regarding admission will disqualify an applicant.

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

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of Claddaghduff N.S 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

This section must be completed by schools that provide religious instruction to students.

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parents or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, 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 students:

- Children will be assigned other/ non-religious school work by the class teacher which can be completed independently during religious instruction time.
- Those who do wish to receive the Sacraments of Confession, Communion or Confirmation are exempt.
- Parents may choose that children not attend school masses or church celebrations. In this case supervision and alternative work will be arranged in the school building. Alternatively, parents may wish their child(ren) join their class/school in the church without partaking in prayers, Communion etc. All pupils are welcome to attend the church should they wish to do so.

- Arrangements are made in collaboration and consultation with parents.

18. 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.

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.

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.

Right of appeal

Reviewed and Ratified:



Date: 23rd March 2026

Chairperson



Date: 23rd March 2026

Principal