

Enrolment/Admissions Policy [updated 2021]

1. Introduction

The Board of Management, Newport National School, Newport, Co. Mayo, sets out its enrolment/admissions policy in accordance with the provisions of the Education 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.

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 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 Newport NS 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

Ours is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Archbishop of Tuam, Most Reverend Michael Neary.

"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 Newport National School 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.



Plean Scoile - Organisation

Enrolment/Admissions Policy

Contact Details

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|-------------------|---|-----------|------------------|
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3. Admission Statement

Newport National School 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.

Newport National School 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 of the Catholic faith 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/special class

Newport National School is a school which has established three classes, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, which provide an education exclusively for students with a diagnosis of Autism (mild to moderate) and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified

Procedures for enrolment:

In the second school term, the Board communicates to the school community that parents who wish to enrol pupils in Junior Infants may commence this process. A specific enrolment application form is provided by the Board of Management for this purpose (copy appended), which can be completed online or manually. An Open Evening is hosted in February and all are invited to attend. A closing date for applications is set out and published on the school's website.



Such information will include:

- Adoption / Birth Certificate
- Pupil's name, age and address;
- Names and addresses of pupil's parents/guardians;
- Pupil's PPS Number
- Contact telephone numbers;
- Alternative contact telephone numbers in case of emergency;
- Details of any medical condition which the school should be aware of.
- Permissions slips
- Specific legal arrangements (custody, court order and others)

Completing an application form does not guarantee a place in the school.

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)
- 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

Newport National School is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the Catholic faith where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.



6. Oversubscription

Decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the Board of Management of the school, in accordance with school policy. As a general principle, and in so far as is practicable, having regard to the school's enrolment policy, children are enrolled on application, provided that there is space available.

In the event of applications exceeding / expected to exceed the number of spaces available, the Board of Management has determined that priority in the allocation of places will be given in order to the following groups of children:

- 1. Siblings of children already enrolled in the school
- 2. Children who live within the parish
- 3. Age may need to be considered with preference being given to older pupils
- 4. Children who live outside the parish
- 5. First come, first offered a placement (Enrolment for the year ahead opens in February and parents then apply for a place in September)

In this event, parents will be notified of the decision of the Board of Management within 21 days of its meeting at which enrolment decisions are made. In determining enrolment, the Board of Management shall take into account Department of Education and Skills regulations regarding staffing provisions, maximum class size, maximum class average, and any other relevant requirements concerning accommodation such as physical space, the educational needs and rights of children already enrolled, multi-grade classes, and the presence of children with special educational/ behavioural needs.

The Board of Management shall at all times have regard for the Health, Safety, and Welfare of pupils and teachers and others who work in the school.

The Board of Management is bound by the Department of Education's rules for National Schools, which provides that pupils may only be enrolled from the age of 4 years and upwards, though compulsory attendance does not apply until the age of 6 years.



Plean Scoile - Organisation

Enrolment/Admissions Policy

Enrolment of children with special needs

In relation to applications for the enrolment of children with special needs, it is open to the Board of Management to request a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological report, or, where such a report is not available, to request that the child be assessed prior to starting school.

The special class attached to Newport National School provides an education exclusively for students with mild to moderate ASD 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.

Enrolment to Explorer's Classes for children with A.S.D.

Priority will be given to:

- Siblings of children already enrolled in the school
- Children who live within the parish
- Age may need to be considered with preference being given to older pupils
- Children who live outside the parish
- First come, first offered a placement (Enrolment for the year ahead opens in February and parents then apply for a place in September)

The following criteria will also apply:

- The class caters for children with <u>mild</u> or <u>moderate</u> learning difficulties.
- Maximum number of pupils 6 per class
- ASD pre-school Early Intervention Class for age 3 years and 6 months to 6 years of age. Transfer to ASD Special classes not automatic
- All Pupils wishing to enrol must have a written diagnosis of Autism, with a recommendation of placement in a special Autism Class.



- As staffing is never on a one-to-one basis it is necessary that a pupil:
 - Can follow an instruction
 - Can use or are beginning a form of communication
 - Can pull down and pull up pants/trousers
 - Is toilet trained or is showing interest in using toilet
 - Can hang up coat independently
 - Can complete an independent task e.g. puzzle, table top activity
 - Is demonstrating engagement in curriculum
 - Can work at table with minimum adult intervention
 - Can eat without immediate supervision

The school will meet with the parents of the child to discuss the child's needs and the school's suitability or capability in meeting those needs. If necessary, a full case conference involving all parties may be held. The Board may decide to defer enrolment of a particular child, pending

- (a) the receipt of an assessment report and/or
- (b) the provision of appropriate resources by the DES to meet the needs specified in the psychological and/or medical report.

Consultation as to who might be enrolled in class will be made by a panel consisting of Principal, Teacher in Autism class, representative of the Board of Management, a NEPS psychologist, and a representative from Western Care. In the event of there being changing needs and the school finds itself in a position where it can no longer cater for those needs, a child may be disenrolled. Final decision will be made by Principal, Special Class Teacher, and Chairperson of Board of Management.



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 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 an early intervention class,
- b) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school;
- (c) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude, other than in relation to admission to a special class insofar as it is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not the student has the category of special educational needs concerned.
- (d) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents;
- (e) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission.
- (f) a student's connection to the school by virtue of a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school, other than siblings of a student attending or having attended the school and/or parents or grandparents of a student having attended the school.
- (g) the date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school. This is subject to the application being received at any time during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned. 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 Newport National School 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 below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and 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 below for further details).



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

In accepting an offer of admission from Newport National School, you must indicate-

- 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 Newport National School 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 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 Newport National School 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 Newport National School 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.

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 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 above.



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

While Junior Infants and pre-school pupils should be admitted to school on the first school day of September, pupils may also be enrolled during the school year provided they are transferring from another school. Pupils will not be enrolled during the year unless transferring from another school. This is for educational reasons as the curriculum is progressive and it is necessary for the child to complete one full year. Enrolment applications during the school year are brought to the next Board of Management meeting, after which a decision will be relayed to the applicant.

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

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

(a) an application for admission of a student to the school, or

(b) the admission or continued enrolment of a student in the school.

17. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parents have 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:



A written request should be made to the Principal of the school. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s) or the student, as the case may be, to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

18. 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.

Right of appeal

Under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, the parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may appeal a decision of this school to refuse admission.

An appeal may be made under Section 29 (1) (c) (i) of the Education Act 1998 where the refusal to admit was due to the school being oversubscribed.



An appeal may be made under Section 29 (1) (c) (ii) of the Education Act 1998 where the refusal to admit was due a reason other than the school being oversubscribed.

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant must request a review of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management)

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to a reason other than the school being oversubscribed, the applicant may request a review of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management)

Appeals under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 will be considered and determined by an independent appeals committee appointed by the Minister for Education and Skills.

The timeline within which such an appeal must be made and the other requirements applicable to such appeals are set out in the procedures determined by the Minister under section 29B of the Education Act 1998 which are published on the website of the Department of Education and Skills.



- Appendix 1 sample Enrolment Application Form
- Appendix 2 sample Enrolment Application Form for ASD Explorers Class
- Appendix 3 Annual Admissions Notice



Appendix 1 – Enrolment Form – Front and Back pages (sample only)

| Section A, B and C to be Section D to be complete Please attach a COPY of y | A Comparison of the second sec | ON ns ng from another schoo | | OFFICE USE ONLY Enrolment form received Additional docs requested Additional docs received Declined Deferred Withdrawn Enrolled Enrolment confirmation sent | |
|---|--|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|---|-------|
| SECTION A: CONTAC | T & FAMILY DETAILS | | (to be complete | ed by all parents/guardian | s) |
| Full name of child | | | National | ity | |
| known as (if different) | | | Home Te | lephone No. | |
| Date of Birth | | Sex (M/F) | 1 [| | |
| Home address | | • | MobileT | elephone no.s | _ |
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| Email address: | | | | | |
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| Place in Family | | l T | s PPS no. | | |
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| attending Newport NS Details of any younger sib | | | | | 4 |
| year of birth | ings, including | | | | |
| Father's name | | Mother's nan | ne | | |
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| Work Telephone no. | | Work Telepho | one no. | | = |
| . [| | 1 | | | |
| SECTION B: PERMISS | | | (to be complete | d by all parents/guardian | s) |
| | oto and/or schoolwork may be use | ed in school newsletter | rs, school website and | local | |
| | and accept the terms of the Accep | · · · · | | = | 4 |
| My child's PPS no., religion | n and ethnicity may be entered on | to the Department of | Education POD datab | ase | |
| My child may participate i | n standardised school tests throug | hout his/her school ye | ars (eg MIST, Sigma-T, | Micra-T, NRIT) | |
| The school will periodically | y send texts to my mobile phone re | egarding school events | s or news | | |
| I have read and agree to t | he school's code of behaviour, incl | uding the wearing of s | chool uniform | | |
| I understand and agree to | the school's policy on emergency | medical assistance | | | 7 |
| I understand that my child | I may be brought out of school for | trips (eg to church, na | ture walks, playgroun | d) | = |
| Intimate Care - occasionally | following a trip, spill or accident a chil isent to a member of staff changing yo | d's clothes may need to l | | | |
| | PLE | ASE TURN OVERLEAF | TO COMPLETE THE R | ST OF THE ENROLMENT I | FORM. |



| Yes No Details boes your child suffer from any allergies? | SECTION C: HEALT | | | | |
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| bees your child suffer from asthma? be you have any concerns about your child's bees your child suffer from any long-term conditions? bees your child attended Speech and Language therapy? bees your child will require school bus transport bees your child will require school bus tr | | | Yes | No | Details |
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| lame, address and elephone no. of revious school | | | | | |
| Principal's Name: | | | | | |
| elephone no. of revious school Principal's Name: Principal's Name: Please tick this box if your child will require school bus transport | ECTION D: PREVIO | DUS SCHOOL | (only needs to be complete | ed if your child is tra | nsferring from another school or pre-school to Newport |
| Principal's Name: | | | (only needs to be complete | ed if your child is tra | |
| Please tick this box if your child will require school bus transport | Name, address and | | (only needs to be complete | ed if your child is tra | |
| Please tick this box if your child will require school bus transport | Name, address and elephone no. of | | (only needs to be complete | ed if your child is tra | |
| | SECTION D: PREVIO Name, address and telephone no. of previous school | | (only needs to be complete | ed if your child is tro | Class Level |
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| | Name, address and elephone no. of previous school | | | | Class Level |



| | wport NS g Together in Harmony t National School, Newport, Co.Mayo | Newport National School Newport, County Mayo Tel: 098 41442 Email: office@newportns. Website: www.newportns. |
|--|---|--|
| APPLICATION | FOR ENROLMENT in ASD Ju | nior Explorers Class |
| Section B to be complet Please attach a copy of y | e completed by all parents/guardians ed ONLY IF your child is transferring from another our child's BIRTH CERTIFICATE, and relevant REP o GUARDIANSHIP should also be submitted if app | ORTS |
| SECTION A: CONTACT & F | AMILY DETAILS | to be completed by all parents/guardians, |
| Full name of child | | Nationality |
| Date of Birth | Sex (M/F) | Home Telephone no. |
| Home address | | Mobile Telephone no.s |
| Email address: | | |
| Religion | Date and Place of Baptism | |
| Ethnicity | (White Irish, Irish Traveller, Roma, oth | er White, Black African, other Black, Chinese, other Asian, n |
| Place in Family | Child's PPS | i no. |
| Details of other family member attending Newport NS | s | |
| Details of any younger siblings, year of birth | including | |
| Father's name | Mother's name | |
| Present employment | Present employme | ent |
| Work Telephone no. | Work Telephone n | 0. |
| SECTION B: PREVIOUS PR | E-SCHOOL (only to be completed if | your child is transferring from another school to Newport N |
| Name, address and | | Class Level |
| telephone no. of previous school | | |
| | | Principal's Name: |
| | | |



| | | | (to be completed by all parents/guardians |
|--|--|--|--|
| | Yes | No | Details |
| Does your child suffer from any allergies? | | | |
| | | | |
| Dees your shild suffer from asthma? | | | |
| Does your child suffer from asthma? | | | |
| - | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | |
| Do you have any concerns about your child's eyesight or hearing? | | | |
| | | | |
| Does your child suffer from any long-term conditions? | | | (If Yes, please give details below) |
| | └──→ | | |
| Please give details: | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| Child's doctor's name and phone no.: | | | |
| Does your child have a professional report recommending | Yes | No | (If Yes, please include all relevant |
| a placement in an Early Intervention class? | | | reports) |
| | | | |
| Has your child been assessed for any other concerns | | | (If Yes, please give details below) |
| | | | |
| (for example dyspraxia, ADHD etc)? Please give details: | | | |
| Please give details: | | | (to be completed by all parents/guardians |
| Please give details: SECTION D: PERMISSIONS | | | (to be completed by all parents/guardians |
| Please give details: SECTION D: PERMISSIONS I give permission for the following: (please tick) | website and lo | ocal newspap | |
| Please give details: SECTION D: PERMISSIONS I give permission for the following: (please tick) My child's photo may be used in school newsletters, school | | | ers |
| Please give details: SECTION D: PERMISSIONS I give permission for the following: (please tick) My child's photo may be used in school newsletters, school My child's PPS no., religion and ethnicity may be entered on | n to the Depar | tment of Edu | ers |
| Please give details: SECTION D: PERMISSIONS I give permission for the following: (please tick) My child's photo may be used in school newsletters, school My child's PPS no., religion and ethnicity may be entered on My child may participate in standardised school tests throug | n to the Depar ghout his/her | tment of Edu | ers cation POD database eg MIST, Sigma-T, Micra-T, NRIT) |
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