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**A81 EA37.**

***Principal: Ms F Whelan***

***Vice Principal: Mrs R Campbell***

**Admissions Policy**

## **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 as of 1st September 2020. 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 St. Michael’s National 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.

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

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| St .Michael’s National School is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Clogher, Most Reverend Lawrence Duffy.  “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:   1. the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects; and 2. a living relationship with God and with other people; and 3. a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and 4. 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. Michael’s National School shall uphold, and be accountable to the patron for 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.  In St. Michael’s National School, we welcome and cherish each child in our care. The school recognises the dignity and value of each person made in the image and likeness of God. This is reflected in the organisation of the school, its code of behaviour and its admission policy. We aim to foster a strong sense of community, and good communication between management, teachers, parents and pupils. We particularly value the close bonds our small numbers allow between all members of our school community.  The school recognises the vital role of parents in the education of their children and encourages their involvement in all aspects of school life. The skills, commitment and high professional standards of the teaching staff are recognised and valued. Ancillary staff in the school are highly respected and it is recognised that their work makes a valued contribution to the process of education.  St Michael’s National 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 special educational needs. 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.  While St. Michael’s N.S. is a school with a Catholic ethos, it welcomes and respects children of all religions and none. St. Michaels endorses the principles of inclusion of pupils with Special Educational Needs as set out in the **Education of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2004**. Déanfaidh Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Mícheál iarracht an Ghaeilge a chothú mar teanga beo na scoile. |

## **Admissions Statement**

St. Michael’s National School will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

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

As per section 61 (3) of the Education Act 1998, ‘civil status ground’, ‘disability ground’, ‘discriminate’, ‘family status ground’, ‘gender ground’, ‘ground of race’, ‘religion ground’, ‘sexual orientation ground’ and ‘Traveller community ground’ shall be construed in accordance with section 3 of the Equal Status Act 2000.

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| St. Michael’s National School is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate in relation to the admission of a student who has applied for a place in the school in accordance with section 7A of the Equal Status Act 2000 |

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

St .Michael’s National School promotes the inclusion of children with Special Educational Needs and has successfully integrated pupils with varying complex needs into mainstream education. The success of our inclusion programme is fully dependant on acquiring the services necessary for the child’s individual needs to be catered for and for there to be no significant negative impact on the educational opportunities of other children. Where there is a Special Educational Need identified, necessitating extra supports, all relevant information and reports will be forwarded to the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) as part of our application for extra supports .The Board of Management of St. Michael’s National School upholds the constitutional right of children with Special Educational Needs to be provided with the supports and /or physical infrastructure necessary to integrate them appropriately into mainstream education. It also endorses the constitutional right of all of its children to an equal and appropriate education in a safe learning environment and free from serious disruption. Therefore, in cases where the Board feels that the child’s Special Educational Needs cannot be adequately met from the supports available from NCSE and /or physical infrastructure available in the school or that other pupils’ educational opportunities will be severely compromised, it reserves the right not to proceed with an application, until such as a time as the supports are available to meet the needs.

**Admission of Students**

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

1. the school is oversubscribed (please see [section 6](#_gjdgxs) below for further details)
2. a parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student

## **Oversubscription**

While we do not anticipate that the school will be oversubscribed.

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:

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| **Selection criteria**  1.Siblings of pupils who currently attend or formerly attended the school.  2. Children living within the St. Michael’s National School Catchment Area.  3. Children of current staff, including ancillary staff.  4. Children of past pupils of the school.  5. Children living outside the St Michael’s National School Catchment Area. |

In the event that there are two or more students tied for a place or places in any of the selection criteria categories above (the number of applicants exceeds the number of remaining places), the following arrangements will apply:

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| Priority will be given to children within the particular category using the criteria of age starting with the oldest. |

## **What will not be considered or taken into account**

In accordance with section 62(7) (e) of the Education Act, the school will not consider or take into account any of the following in deciding on applications for admission or when placing a student on a waiting list for admission to the school:

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| 1. a student’s prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí, 2. the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school; 3. a student’s academic ability, skills or aptitude; 4. the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student’s parents; 5. a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission; 6. a student’s connection to the school by virtue of a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school; 7. the date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school,   This is subject to the application being received at any time during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned. This is also subject to the school making offers based on existing waiting lists (up until 31st January 2025 only) |

## **Decisions on applications**

All decisions on applications for admission to St. Michael’s National School 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 1](#_1fob9te)4 below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and [section 15](#_3znysh7)  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.

## **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](#_2et92p0) below for further details).

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

In accepting an offer of admission from St. Michael’s National School 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 are awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school or schools, and if so, you must provide details of the other school or schools concerned.

## **Circumstances in which offers may not be made or may be withdrawn**

An offer of admission may not be made or may be withdrawn by St. Michael’s National School where—

1. it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
2. an applicant fails to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission on or before the date set out in the annual admission notice of the school.
3. the parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student; or
4. an applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of ‘acceptance of an offer’ as set out in [section 10](#_30j0zll) above.

## **Sharing of Data with other schools**

Applicants should be aware that section 66(6) of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 allows for the sharing of certain information between schools in order to facilitate the efficient admission of students.

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).

## **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. Michael’s 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 St. Michael’s 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.

## **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.

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

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| The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school to classes or years other than the school’s intake group or 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.  Once the class in which the child is to join is not oversubscribed:   * Application forms are available from the Principal * Failure to fully complete forms will result in refusal to admit the applicant * The behavioural record of a student in their previous school shall be considered * The attendance record of a student in their previous school shall be considered * Reports may be sought from previous school * When a pupil has transferred to St. Michael’s National School and has been registered, the school will inform the student’s previous school and make the necessary adjustment to the Primary Online Database (POD). |

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

The board of St. Michael’s 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-

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

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

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| St Michaels National School is of a Catholic ethos and, in keeping with that ethos, children of all or no other faith are welcome to apply to this school. We respect the decision of parents to withdraw their child/children from taking part in the religious education curriculum, religious ceremonies, school Masses, etc.  The following are the school’s arrangements for students, where the parent(s)/guardian(s) 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. |

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## **Reviews/appeals**

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

The parent/guardian 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.

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 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.

The staff reviewed this policy in and it was ratified by the Board of Management in October 2022.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Chairperson of Board of Management)

Date: October 2022