SCOIL NAOMH IOSAF (SNI)

Baltinglass, Co. Wicklow
Roll No: 20039P
Charity Number: 20205609

Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin
Approved
October 2024

Patron: Most Reverend Denis Nulty.
Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin

School Admissions Policy

TOLLE LEGE
DAREN LEIGHLIN

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 Scoil Naomh Iósaf 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 5 October 2024. It is published on the school's website www.snibaltinglass.ie and will be available in hardcopy from the school office, on request.

The relevant dates and timelines for Scoil Naomh Iósaf'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 Scoil Naomh Iósaf 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

Scoil Naomh Iósaf is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos and is honoured to have Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin as Patron of the school.

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

'The Catholic Preschool & Primary Religious Education Curriculum p15'

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:

- the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects;
- a living relationship with God and with other people;
- a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and the formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith, and
- the provision of 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 Section15 (2) (b) of the Education Act, 1998 the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Iósaf, 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.

Scoil Naomh Iósaf Mission/Ethos Statement

Inspired by Catholic values, Scoil Naomh Iósaf strives to create a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment, which, enriches well-being and values happiness, encourages a spirit of respect for everyone in our school community, fosters enquiring minds and kind hearts, promotes excellence in education and cultivates a sense of responsibility for self, society and the environment.

What We Are About: Scoil Naomh Iosaf key objectives are to:

- Present our pupils with a carefully planned and coordinated curriculum that takes account of individual pupil needs, provides opportunities for each pupil to acquire essential knowledge and skills, and meets the requirements of the Primary Curriculum.
- Promote the academic, spiritual, emotional, physical, social, aesthetic and cultural development of the children in our care.
- Help our pupils acquire Christian values in a culture of inclusivity and acceptance of difference and the unique value and contribution of each individual.
- Encourage and develop personal qualities such as a sense of fairness, independence, self-esteem, self-respect and respect for others, and to help children understand that warmth and friendliness, good manners and consideration for others are very important qualities.
- Provide opportunities for success so that each child may enjoy a sense of achievement.
- Nurture and sustain a happy, caring and secure learning environment for both children and staff.
- Provide a wide variety of learning experiences to encourage pupils to reach their true potential.
- Encourage children to enjoy themselves within acceptable social limits, to have fun learning, to respect all reasonable authority and to respect themselves and others.
- Co-operate with parents, involve them in various aspects of school life, and inform them of current educational practice so that home and school may work together for the maximum benefit of the child.
- Promote liaison between the school and the local community.
- Help children appreciate and respect their immediate and wider environment.
- Facilitate the staff to further their own talents and expertise through professional development opportunities (both in-house and external) in light of their own personal professional needs, and the curricular and organisational needs of the school.

3. Admission Statement:

Scoil Naomh Iósaf 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.

Scoil Naomh Iósaf 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 Naomh Iósaf 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
Scoil Naomh Iósaf 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 Roman Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Schools with Special Education Classes
Scoil Naomh Iósaf is a school which has established two classes, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, which provide an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

4. Categories of Special Educational Needs Catered for in the Special Class/RÉALTA

Scoil Naomh Iósaf, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established two classes to provide and education exclusively for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

5. Admission of Students:

Scoil Naomh Iósaf 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
Scoil Naomh Iósaf is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the Catholic ethos where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Schools with Special Education Classes
The special class attached to Scoil Naomh Iósaf provides an education exclusively for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (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.

6. Oversubscription: Selection Criteria where there are excess applications over places available:

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:

- **Child currently attending the school (applies only to Mainstream pupils currently in the school who have gotten a recommendation for a special class with Autism and wish to transfer once the admission process opens.**
- **Siblings of a student attending the school.**
- **Proximity to the school**
- **Age**
- **Siblings of a student who previously attended the school.**
- **Children of staff members.**

In the event that there are two or more students tied for a place in any of the selection criteria categories above (the number of applicants exceeds the number of remaining places), the school will admit students based on age (month of birth).

7. What will not be considered or taken into account in relation to admission to Scoil Naomh Iosaf

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 an early intervention class for pupils enrolling in the ASD 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 the 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 as mentioned in 6 above.
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 as set out in Scoil Naomh Iosaf Annual Admission Notice.

8. Decision on Applicants

All decisions on applications for admission to Scoil Naomh Iósaf will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy
- The school's Annual Admission Notice
- The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in our Annual Admission Notice for receiving applications

Please see section 14 below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and section 15 below in relation to applications for places in years other than the intake group.

Selection criteria that are not included in our school admission policy will not be used to make a decision

on an application for a place in our school.

9. Notifying Applicants of Decisions:

Applicants will be informed in writing as to the decision of the school, within the timeline outlined in the annual admissions notice.

If a student is not offered a place in our school, the reasons why they were not offered a place will be communicated in writing to the applicant, including, where applicable, details of the student's ranking against the selection criteria and details of the student's place on the waiting list for the school year concerned.

Applicants will be informed of the right to seek a review/right of appeal of the school's decision (see section 18 below for further details).

10. Acceptance of an Offer of a Place by an Applicant

In accepting an offer of admission from Scoil Naomh Iósaf, 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 Scoil Naomh Iósaf where:

(i) It is established that information contained in the enrolment form 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 sign the section of the enrolment form to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student; or
(iv) An applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of 'acceptance of an offer' as set out in section 10 above.

12. Sharing of Data with Other Schools:

Applicants should be aware that section 66(6) of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 allows for the sharing of certain information between schools in order to facilitate the efficient admission of students. Section 66(6) allows a school to provide a patron or another board of management with a list of the students in relation to whom:

(i) An application for admission to the school has been received,

(ii) An offer of admission to the school has been made, or

(iii) An offer of admission to the school has been accepted.

The list may include any or all of the following:

(i) The date on which an application for admission was received by the school;

(ii) The date on which an offer of admission was made by the school;

(iii) The date on which an offer of admission was accepted by an applicant;

(iv) A student's personal details including his or her name, address, date of birth and personal public service number (within the meaning of section 262 of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005).

13. Waiting List in the Event of Oversubscription

In the event of there being more applications to the school year concerned than places available, a waiting list of students whose applications for admission to Scoil Naomh Iósaf 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 Scoil Naomh Iósaf 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 as 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 in Section 13.

15. Procedures for Admission of Students to Other Classes and During the School Year

The procedures of the school in relation to

1. the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school to classes or years other than the school's intake group, and
2. the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school, after the commencement of the school year in which admission is sought, are as follows:

- The Parents/guardians are requested to complete the school enrolment form.
- The school will request a copy of previous school reports and any psychological, medical or other relevant reports from the parents/guardians where applicable.
- The Principal will contact the previous school to ensure that there is continuity of educational provision for the child in accordance with Section 12.
- Parents will be informed of the school's decision based on the application of the criteria at section

6 within 21 days of receipt of the completed school enrolment form.

16. Declaration in Relation to the Non-Charging of Fees

The Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Iósaf or any persons acting on its behalf will not charge fees for, or seek payment or contributions (howsoever described) as a condition of:

(a) An application for admission of a student to the school, or
(b) The admission or continued enrolment of a student in the school.

17. Arrangements Regarding Students Not Attending Religious Instruction.

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

18. Reviews/Appeals

Review of Decisions by the Board of Management

The parent of the student may request the Board of Management 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, 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 above).

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 above).

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.

This Admission Policy was approved by the Patron; Bishop Denis Nulty on 5/10/2024

This Admission Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Iósaf on 02/10/2024

Catherine Burke

(Chairperson)

Maireád Hennessy

(Principal)