



**Scoil Phádraic Cailíní**

Portrane Road, Donabate, Co. Dublin

**Donabate Girls' National School**

Roll No: 18412W

# **Admissions Policy**

## **2024/2025**

**School Patron:**  
**Archbishop Dermot Farrell**

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> May 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 Scoil Phádraic Cailíní'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

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní is a Catholic all girls primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Dermot Farrell.

"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 Scoil Phádraic Cailíní 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 Phádraic Cailíní strives to bring each child closer to God through the practice and teaching of our Catholic faith in partnership with parents and Priest.
- While Scoil Phádraic Cailíní is a school with a Catholic ethos, it also has due recognition for all other religions and welcomes enrolment from all girls resident in the

parish regardless of race, creed or special educational needs. All who enrol are expected to respect the ethos of the school and to abide by the Code of Behaviour.

- Scoil Phádraic Cailíní has a friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere of co-operation and learning, with consideration of others central to its core.
- Scoil Phádraic Cailíní promotes the highest standards of academic achievement consistent with the requirements of the national curriculum and the abilities of all our pupils.
- Scoil Phádraic Cailíní promotes a spirit of co-operation, tolerance and mutual respect between individuals and groups both within our school and the community.
- Scoil Phádraic Cailíní gives our pupils the opportunity to experience the pleasure and fulfilment of participation in structured physical activity and to make them aware of its contribution to a healthy lifestyle.
- Scoil Phádraic Cailíní endeavours to enrich the pupil's experience by fostering an appreciation and enjoyment of music, dance, art and drama.

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní is national school managed by the Board of Management under the governance of Archbishop's House and subject to the rules and directions of the Department of Education. The Principal, Ms Ciara Greene, assumes responsibility for the day to day running of the school.

The school follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Dept. of Ed. & Skills, which may be amended from time to time in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998).

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní has mainstream classes from junior infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class.

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní takes pride in its tradition and practice of inclusivity. Children with a disability or other special educational need(s) are supported by the school. A team of Learning Support teachers provide additional teaching and support to children with additional educational needs.

### **3. Admission Statement**

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní 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 Phádraic Cailíní will cooperate with the NCSE in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 in relation 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 Phádraic Cailíní will comply with any direction served on the board or the patron under section 37A and 67(4)(b).

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní provides education exclusively for girls and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the gender provided for by this school.

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní is a Catholic 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, where 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**

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní does not currently have a special class however our school is fully committed to inclusivity, particularly with reference to the enrolment of children with a disability or other special educational need(s).

#### **5. Admission of Students**

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní 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

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní provides education exclusively for girls and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the gender provided for by this school.

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní is a Catholic 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, where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

## 6. Oversubscription

In the event that Scoil Phádraic Cailíní 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:

**If it is not possible to admit all applicants for school the following order of criteria will apply;**

**Selection criteria**

- I. Girls whose siblings (including step-siblings and foster children in the family) attend or attended St. Patrick's National Schools (Scoil Phádraic Cailíní and St. Patrick's BNS) and children of the parish of Donabate, Portrane and Balheary (the eldest child will have priority in this ranking).
- II. Daughters of staff (the eldest child will have priority in this ranking)
- III. Girls residing outside the parish (the eldest child will also have priority).

Within each category, places will be offered strictly according to age.  
Priority will be given to the oldest children within each group

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:

The oldest children will be admitted first within each category above. In the event that two or more children with the same date of birth are tied for a place or places remaining in the categories above, the school will hold a lottery where a name or names will be randomly drawn.

## 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:

There are limited exceptions to some of these (highlighted in red below)

- (a) a student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service.
- (b) the payment of fees or contributions 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 (1) siblings of a student attending or having attended St. Patrick's National Schools.
- (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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2025 only).

## 8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Scoil Phádraic Cailíní 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 Phádraic Cailíní, 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 Phádraic Cailíní 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 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 Phádraic Cailíní 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 Phádraic Cailíní 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 in Section 13.

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

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school to classes other than the school's junior infant intake group are as follows:

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní will admit students as per section 5 of this policy unless to do so in a particular case would exceed the maximum number of pupils per class/class level as decided by the Board of Management.

If the school is over-subscribed, Scoil Phádraic Cailíní will admit students as per section 6 of this policy unless to do so in a particular case would exceed the maximum number of pupils per class/class level decided by the Board of Management.

The procedures of the school in relation to 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 above.

Scoil Phádraic Cailíní will admit students per section 5 of this policy unless to do so in a particular case would exceed the maximum number of pupils per class/class level as decided by the Board of Management.

If the school is over-subscribed, Scoil Phádraic Cailíní will admit students as per section 6 of this policy unless to do so in a particular case would exceed the maximum number of pupils per class/class level as decided by the Board of Management.

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

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of Scoil Phádraic Cailíní 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) 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.

The board will conduct such reviews in accordance with the requirements of the procedures determined under Section 29B and with section 29C of the Education Act 1998.

**Note:** Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **must request a review** of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

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

### **Right of appeal**

Under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, the parent of the student may appeal a decision of this school to refuse admission.

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

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

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

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

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

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

It is the responsibility of all the stakeholders (staff, parents and Board of Management) to familiarise themselves with the terms of this policy and to contribute positively to its on-going implementation within the school setting.

This policy will be updated annual and reviewed every three years, unless changes are required by legislation or other needs arise before then.