Admission Policy of Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary School

Tuckett's Lane

Howth

Co. Dublin

Roll number: 18080A

School Patron/s: Archbishop Dermott 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 23rd February 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 [school name] 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 Mhuire is a catholic co-educational primary school with a catholic ethos under the patronage of the Archbishop of Dublin.

'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 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

The formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith

Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary 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 Mhuire, Howth Primary 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.

Mission Statement

Our mission in Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary School is to provide a caring, nurturing environment for the children of the school, in an atmosphere of mutual respect and trust, where each individual is valued and difference respected.

We are committed to providing a high-quality learning environment that promotes motivation, self-discipline and academic excellence. We actively promote inclusion to enable pupils of diverse abilities and backgrounds to work to their full potential: intellectually, socially, spiritually, emotionally and physically. This reflects the school motto Ar Aghaidh le Chéile. We are committed to ensuring that pupils develop an awareness of Irish culture while fostering an appreciation of the unique environment of Howth in which the school is rooted.

Our curriculum aims to enable each child:

- To achieve its fullest possible overall potential as a unique individual by developing as a social being in co-operation with others and in so doing to contribute to the good of society
- To prepare for further education and lifelong learning

This school seeks to cherish and challenge children in a safe, secure and attractive learning environment. We aim to provide quality learning experiences that are engaging, enriching and enjoyable through a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.

The school sees itself as an integral part of the parish community and in partnership with parents and the church, seeks to nurture the Catholic faith through religious education, preparation for the Sacraments and through the ethos of the school. This ethos is best exemplified through the quality of all relationships in the school, which are based on dignity for each person: child, parents, teachers, staff and all visitors to the school.

Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary School seeks to be a warm and welcoming place, respectful and accommodating of diversity in race, culture, religion, gender and ability. We strive to provide an inclusive environment responsive to the needs of all. We aim to promote equality in all areas and to provide extra support for any child with a learning disability, difficulty or problem through our support structure.

We value most highly our relationship with parents and the local community and seek to continue to work in partnership with all sections of our school community to ensure the best interests of each child are served.

The school is a learning community. We promote and value lifelong learning for all, including staff. We urge you to work in partnership with us, reinforcing for children the shared values of home and school.

Ar aghaidh le chéile!

3. Admission Statement

Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary 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.

Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary School is a vertical school from Junior Infants to 6th class 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 (insert details of particular religious denomination concerned) and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary School 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 Mhuire, Howth Primary School 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.

4. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school/special class

Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary School, does not currently have a special class. However, our school is fully committed to inclusivity, particularly with reference to the enrolment of children with special educational needs.

5. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

a) the school is oversubscribed (please see section 6 below for further details)

b) a parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student

Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary School is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student /a person who is not of a Catholic faith, where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school

6. Oversubscription

In the event that the school is oversubscribed, the school will, when deciding on applications for admission, apply the following selection criteria in the order listed below to those applications that are received within the timeline for receipt of applications as set out in the school's annual admission notice:

Priority will be given in the following order:

1. Siblings and stepsiblings of pupils attending or having attended Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary School and children who reside in Howth parish
2. Children of staff members
3. Children who reside outside the parish

All criteria above will be on the basis of the eldest child having priority.

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

1. Date of birth (priority to oldest child
2. In the event of two or more students born on the same day this will be decided by the drawing of lots, with an independent party present.

7. What will not be considered or taken into account

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

(a) a student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí,

(b) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school;

(c) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude;

(d) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents;

(e) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;

(f) a student's connection to the school by virtue of a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school;

(g) the date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school,

This is subject to the application being received at any time during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned.

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

8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to [school name] will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy
- The school's annual admission notice (where applicable)
- The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in our annual admission notice for receiving applications

(Please see section 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 Mhuire, Howth Primary 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 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 Mhuire, Howth Primary 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 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:

(a) 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 Mhuire, Howth Primary 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 Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary 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 Admissions 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 applications 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.

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 or years other than the school's intake group are as follows:

If the school is not oversubscribed, and should there be space in the required class, having applied the criteria for enrolment as outlined in section 6, the pupil shall be enrolled once the necessary enrolment form and relevant documentation is provided.

In the event that there are no places available, the name of the applicant student will be added to a waiting list in accordance with Section 12 of this policy.

The Board of Management reserves the right to cap the number of pupils in a particular class, if there are additional needs in that classroom.

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 follows:

If the school is not oversubscribed, and should there be space in the required class, having applied the criteria for enrolment as outlined in section 6, the pupil shall be enrolled once the necessary enrolment form and relevant documentation is provided.

In the event that there are no places available, the name of the applicant student will be added to a waiting list in accordance with Section 12 of this policy.

The Board of Management reserves the right to cap the number of pupils in a particular class, if there are additional needs in that classroom.

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

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of Scoil Mhuire, Howth Primary 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

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

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parents or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, who has requested that the student attend the school without attending religious instruction in the school. These arrangements will not result in a reduction in the school day of such students:

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. Pupils may be given alternative work to do during religious instruction time.

18. Reviews/appeals

Review of decisions by the board of Management

The parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may request the board to review a decision to refuse admission. Such requests must be made in accordance with Section 29C of the Education Act 1998.

The timeline within which such a review must be requested and the other requirements applicable to such reviews are set out in the procedures determined by the Minister under section 29B of the Education Act 1998 which are published on the website of the Department of Education 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.

Signed: Sile Ni Mhaoldomhnaigh

Sile Ni Mhaoldomhnaigh,
Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: Mary Downes

Mary Downes
School Principal

Date: 5th October 2023