



Admission Policy

Redeemer Boys' National School
Ard Easmuinn
Dundalk, Co. Louth



Admission Policy of Redeemer Boys' N.S.

School Address: Ard Easmuinn, Dundalk, County Louth

Roll number: 19246N

**School Patron: Archbishop Eamon Martin
Principal: Mrs Michelle Murray**

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 16/08/20. It is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy to any person who requests it.

The relevant dates and timelines for Redeemer Boys' N.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

Redeemer Boys' N.S. is a Catholic Boys' Primary School, catering for pupils from 4 to 12 years of age, with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Archbishop of Armagh, Eamon Martin.

"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 Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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 statement reads as follows:

'We are **R**espected here. We **B**elong here. We can **S**ucceed here.'

Aims and Objectives of Redeemer Boys' N.S.

Aims:

- Our school aims to provide each child with a balanced education to enable him to develop his skills to live a full and happy life as a child.
- This is provided in a caring and kind environment where each child learns to treat each other with charity, justice, truth, patience and love.
- The school provides a Catholic and Christian education for each child while it recognises and respects other faiths and religions.
- Our school recognises the children of our Irish culture and incorporates music, language, sport, dancing and customs into each child's education.

Objectives:

- To provide each child with the best possible education in their formative years.
- To foster a spirit of co-operation in pupils.
- To foster a spirit respect for each other and their teachers.
- To encourage a willing attitude toward work among pupils.
- To equip each child to avail of further education and instil a love of learning that will remain with them for life.
- As they grow through our school, teach them spiritual and moral values, which will remain with them to maturity.
- The school values the contribution of parents, guardians and the outside community in the development of the school and values the input of outside agencies such as psychologists, socials workers, gardaí, doctors and nurses etc. in caring for all children.
- The school values the knowledge of history, geography (local, national and international), music, singing, art, design and craft making.
- The school places emphasis on the development of skills in our national games as well as a wide range of other sports including basketball, swimming, athletics and soccer.

General School Information

Redeemer Boys' N.S. was established in 1971. The school caters for a full range of classes from Junior Infants to Sixth class and has two ASD classes attached to the mainstream school. At present, the teaching staff is comprised of 5 mainstream class teachers (2 single stream Infant classes and 3 composite classes), 2 special class teachers, 4 special education teachers (1 of these teachers is based in another school and spends 2 days working in our school) and a shared HSCL teacher, with the Principal Mrs. Michelle Murray in an administrative role. There are currently 8 full-time Special Needs Assistants working across the mainstream school and the ASD classes.

The school operates under the direction of the Department of Education and Skills (D.E.S.) from which grants and resources are received annually. The school curriculum followed is the Revised Curriculum for Primary Schools (1999) produced by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment in conjunction with D.E.S. This curriculum may be amended from time to time in accordance with section 9 & 30 of the Education Act 1998. We are also fully engaged in the implementation of the Primary Language Curriculum (2019) and are working toward becoming a 'Write to Read' school. The school benefits from holding Urban DEIS Band 1 status.

School starts at 9.00 a.m. and finishes at 2.40 p.m. Infant Classes finish at 1.40 p.m.

3. Admission Statement

Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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.

Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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.

Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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.

Single gender schools

Redeemer Boys' N.S. is an all-boys' school and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit a girl applying for admission to this school.

All denominational schools

Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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 a Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Schools with special education classes

Redeemer Boys' N.S. is a school which has established a class, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, which provides which provide an education exclusively for students with a diagnosis of autism which meets DSM-IV/V or ICD-10 criteria and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

Note for Parents: the inclusion of the above wording was mandated by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018.

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

In the case of a mainstream school with a SEN class attached

Redeemer Boys' N.S., with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established two classes to provide an education exclusively for students with a diagnostic or psychological report – confirming a diagnosis of autism meeting DSM-IV/V or ICD-10 diagnostic criteria. The classes are for all pupils who meet this criteria irrespective of cognitive ability.

In order for a child to be considered for enrolment in the autism classes, a place must be available and he must have a full psychological assessment specifying Autism by a clinical/educational psychologist or psychiatrist, with a recommendation of placement in an ASD specific class. This report should be recent, within the last 24 months, and **must** include a diagnosis of autism which meets DSM-IV/V or ICD-10 criteria. A multi-disciplinary report is also valuable, and should be presented to the school at the earliest possible date.

The maximum class size is six pupils. Please see below for selection criteria in the event of oversubscription. If a place is offered to a child and subsequently accepted, parents must then fill in the NCSE's Notification of Enrolment Form which will be forwarded to the SENO on behalf of pupil enrolled in the class. This form is available on the website www.ncse.ie

July provision will not be offered or met by the school at the present time.

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

A school that admits students of one gender only

Redeemer Boys' N.S. provides education exclusively for boys/girls and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the gender provided for by this school.

All denominational schools

Redeemer Boys' N.S. is a Catholic School and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not a Catholic where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

School with special education classes

The special classes attached to Redeemer Boys' N.S. provides an education exclusively for students with a diagnosis of autism which meets DSM-IV/V or ICD-10 criteria 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.

Note for Parents: the inclusion of the above wording was mandated by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018.

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:

- 1. Applicants who have attended Redeemer Early Start, priority eldest;**
- 2. Applicants with siblings currently enrolled in the school (including stepsiblings, resident at the same address), priority eldest;**
- 3. Applicants with sisters attending Redeemer Girls' N.S., priority eldest;**
- 4. Applicants residing in the parish, priority eldest;**
- 5. Applicants whose parents are past pupils of the school, priority eldest;**
- 6. Applicants who have a parent who is a staff member, priority eldest;**
- 7. Applicants residing outside the parish, priority eldest.**

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:

Priority to the eldest in accordance with the above criteria.

In the event that the **special classes** are 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:

- 1. Applicants who are enrolled in the mainstream school or who have attended Redeemer Early Start, priority eldest;**
- 2. Applicants with siblings currently enrolled in an ASD Class in the school, priority eldest;**
- 3. Applicants with siblings currently enrolled in the school (including stepsiblings, resident at the same address), priority eldest;**
- 4. Applicants with sisters enrolled in Redeemer Girls' N.S., priority eldest;**
- 5. Applicants residing in the parish, priority eldest;**
- 6. Applicants whose parents are past pupils of the school, priority eldest;**
- 7. Applicants who have a parent who is a staff member, priority eldest;**
- 8. Applicants residing outside the parish, priority eldest.**

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:

Priority to the eldest in accordance with the above criteria.

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, other than in relation to a student's prior attendance at—
 - (I) an early intervention class, or
 - (II) an early start pre-school, specified in a list published by the Minister from time to time;
- (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, in the case of the school wishing to include a selection criteria based on (1) siblings of a student attending or having attended the school and/or (2) parents 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 Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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 Redeemer Boys' N.S., 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 Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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 Redeemer Boys' N.S. were unsuccessful due to the school **OR** the special classes being oversubscribed will be compiled and will remain valid for the school year in which admission is being sought.

Placement on either of the waiting lists of Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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 or years other than the school's intake group are as follows:

Applications for enrolment during the school year will be considered subject to school policy, available space and the provision of information concerning attendance and the child's educational progress. Such applications will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis but will normally only be considered for admission on the first day of each new term unless the applicant is newly resident in the area.

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:

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 Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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 Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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.

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

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of Redeemer Boys' N.S. 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 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:

In all cases, a written request should be made to the Principal of the school. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s)/guardian(s) or the student, 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.

Implementation and Review

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management in December 2022.

Signed: F. Mullen, Chairperson, BOM

Date: 16/12/22

Signed: M. Murray, Principal

Date: 16/12/22

Date of next review: Term 3 2023-24

This policy was approved by the school patron on 16th December 2022.

Signed: *Niamh Black (on behalf of Archbishop Eamon Martin)*

Date: 16/12/22