



Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin



Ballyadams National School

School Admission Policy

Name of School: Ballyadams National School

Address: Ballyadams, via Athy, Co. Laois

Roll No: 16617H

Charity No: 20126063

Patron: Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin

Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin

Patron Approval

21/12/2021

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 first approved by the school Patron, Bishop Denis Nulty, on 15 September 2020 and, following amendment by the Board of Management, further approved on 21 December 2021. 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 Ballyadams 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

Ballyadams N.S is a Catholic co -educational primary school with a Catholic ethos. The Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin is the Patron of this 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; and
- a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- 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 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 Ballyadams 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.

Ballyadams National School Mission Statement

Ballyadams National School is a Catholic primary school for the education of children from the parish of Ballyadams. The school is committed to the aims and principals of the revised (1999) primary school curriculum. It celebrates the uniqueness of each child as expressed in each child's personality, intelligence and potential for development. The school seeks to nurture the child in all dimensions of his or her life - spiritual, moral, cognitive, emotional, imaginative, aesthetic, social and physical.

Our curriculum aims to enable each child:

To live a full life and to realise his or her potential as a unique individual

To develop as a social being, through living and co-operating with others and so contribute to the good of society.

To prepare for further education and lifelong learning.

Ballyadams National 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 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. The ethos is best exemplified through the quality of all relationships in the school, which are based on respect and dignity for each person – child, parent, teacher, principal, secretary, caretaker, classroom assistant, cleaner and visitor to the school.

Ballyadams National 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 including Travellers, refugees, non-nationals, or children with special needs. We aim to promote equity in all areas and to provide extra support for any child with a learning disability, difficulty, or problem within the confines of the resources available to the school.

We value most highly our relationship with parents and the local community and seek to continue to work in partnership with parents to ensure the best interest of each child is provided for.

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.

Ní neart go cur le chéile.

3: Admission Statement

Ballyadams 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.

All denominational schools

Ballyadams 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 of the Catholic Faith and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Schools with special education class(es)

Ballyadams N.S is a school which has been sanctioned to open special education classes, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, which provides an education exclusively for students with autism 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 School/Special Class

Ballyadams N.S with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has been sanctioned to open classes (One class opening in September 2022) to provide an education exclusively for students with autism. The criteria for admission in the special classes, incorporating the Department of Education and Skills and the HSE's policies is as follows:

Each child must have:

- A definite diagnosis of Autism (A.S.D) in line with DSM IV/V or ICD10.
- A specific recommendation from a psychologist stating that placement in an ASD Unit attached to a mainstream school is the most appropriate in the applicant's case.
- An up to date psychological assessment (i.e. within two calendar years of projected admission date) which must indicate cognitive ability.
- If the child presents with a general learning disability, it must fall within or above the mild range (this diagnosis must also be made from a professionally recognised clinical and psychological assessment procedure).
- Complex needs – the report needs to clearly specify the complex needs
- Children must be aged between 4-12 years of age to qualify for admission.

A copy of the applicant's medical and/or psychological report will be required in order to establish his or her eligibility for enrolment in the special class. All special class placements will be reviewed annually.

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

All denominational schools

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

School with special education class(es)

The special class attached to Ballyadams N.S provides an education exclusively for students with autism 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

The Board of Management makes decisions in relation to applications for enrolment, in accordance with school policy. As a general principle and in so far as practicable having regard for the school's admission policy, children will be admitted on application providing that there is space 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:

- Whether there are siblings of the proposed new entrant already attending the school
- Whether the child has reached his/her fourth birthday before September 1st of the year in which the application is being made.
- Children of current teaching staff.
- Children from outside the catchment area are welcome to apply

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;

- Every effort will be made to accommodate all children but in some years, at Junior Infants level, it may be necessary to implement a cut-off date in relation to the child's date of birth. Should this be necessary, those children eligible for enrolment will be offered a place according to their chronological age until all available spaces have been filled.
- Special Classes
If/when a place becomes available each application will be considered based on the criteria as outlined in section 4.

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 (however so 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 other than, in the case of siblings of a student attending or 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.

8: Decisions on Applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Ballyadams 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 Ballyadams 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 Ballyadams 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 Ballyadams 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 Ballyadams 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, after the commencement of the school year in which admission is sought, are as follows:

- Applications for pupils seeking admission from senior infants to sixth class before the school year begins may be submitted before the school year begins in writing.
- A pupil who leaves the school and who is removed from POD, and who subsequently wishes to return to the school must reapply to the Board of Management in writing.
- In the event of children seeking admission in any given class exceeding the number of places available preceding or during the school year, they will be placed on a class waiting list and contacted when a place becomes available. It

should be noted that children will be prioritised on waiting lists according to the criteria outlined for the admission of Junior Infants above.

- Applications for pupils seeking admission to any class during the school year may be submitted in writing.
- New Junior Infants may only be admitted to the school during the month of September (unless transferring from another school).

16: Declaration In Relation To The Non-Charging Of Fees

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of Ballyadams 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

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, 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.

This Admission Policy was approved by the Patron; Bishop Denis Nulty on 15 September 2020 and, following amendment by the Board of Management, further approved on 21 December 2021

This Admission Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Ballyadams NS on
____/____/____.

(Chairperson)

(Principal)

Diocese of Kildare & Leighlin

Patron Approval

21/12/2021