



Scoil Naomh Feichín

Termonfeckin

Roll No. 16208N

Enrolment & Admissions Policy

*Policy ratified by the Board of Management of
Scoil Naomh Feichín on Feb 2nd 2016.*

Chairperson: *Mrs Denise McDonnell*

Principal: *Mr Bryan Collins*

School Enrolment Policy

Introductory Statement and Rationale:

The enrolment/admission policy of the Board of Management of *Scoil Naomh Feichín* is set out in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1998. It is envisaged that it will assist prospective parents in relation to enrolment matters while protecting the rights of the present school community should there be a conflict of interest.

School Ethos

General Information

Scoil Naomh Feichín is a Catholic primary school. The school operates under the auspices of the Department of Education and Skills and under the patronage of the Archbishop of Armagh. The school currently has a teaching staff of 15, including an administrative principal, 11 mainstream classroom teachers and 3 special education teachers. There are also 2 special needs assistants, a secretary, caretaker and cleaner employed in the school.

Scoil Naomh Feichín is a co-educational school with classes ranging from Junior Infants to 6th Class.

The school follows the curriculum prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills which may from time to time be amended in accordance with Section 9 and 30 of the Education Act 1998. Within the context and parameters of the Department's regulations and programmes, the rights of the Patron as set out by the Education Act 1998, and the funding and resources available, the school supports the principles of:

- Inclusiveness, particularly with reference to the enrolment of children with disability or other special educational needs
- Equality of access and participation
- Parental choice in relation to the school, having regard to the characteristic spirit of the school
- Respect for the diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life

Equality of access is the key value in determining the enrolment of our school. Refusal of admission will not be made on grounds of gender, disability, special education needs, ethnicity, religion, family or social circumstances.

When parents/guardians enrol their child in *Scoil Naomh Feichín* they are deemed to have accepted the code of behaviour and ethos of the school on behalf of their children as well as all other policies on curriculum, organisation and management. These policies may be amended and revised from time to time.

Enrolment Procedure

Parents/Guardians who wish to enrol their child in *Scoil Naomh Feichín* must first register their child with the school. This can be done by completing an Intention to Enrol Form which is available in the school office and also on the school website www.scoilnaomhfeichin.ie. In January of the year in which the child is due to start, a more detailed Enrolment Application Form will be sent out to the parents/guardians of each child who has been registered. This must be completed and returned, with the child's Birth Certificate and Baptismal Certificate (if applicable) in order for the child to be considered for enrolment. The return of the Enrolment

Application Form does not guarantee a place in the school. The Board of Management shall, each year, set the enrolment date for new pupils and places will be allocated subsequently.

Decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the Board of Management in accordance with this school policy. As a general rule all children will be enrolled on application provided accommodation is available.

Should accommodation be limited the Board of Management will use the following criteria, to allocate school places in the following order:

- Children residing within the Termonfechin Parish boundary
- Siblings of children already enrolled
- Children of current school staff
- Children of past pupils.
- Children residing outside the Termonfechin Parish boundary

*Where numbers exceed places available in any given year, **age** may be used as a criterion for admission.*

As a rule the Department of Education & Skills Guidelines on class size will be observed. Where any given class size has reached DES guideline numbers, the Board of Management reserves the right to refuse admission. The Board of Management will revise its enrolment policy regularly and the criteria for admission may be amended in response to prevailing circumstances.

Enrolment of children with Special Needs

- The Board shall require a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological reports. Where reports are not available, the Board shall require that the parents have the child assessed immediately. The purpose of the assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child relevant to his/her disability or special needs and to profile the support services provided. Following receipt of the report, the Board shall assess how the school could meet the needs specified in the report. Where the Board deems that further resources are required, it shall apply for provision of necessary resources. These resources may include, for example, access to, or the provision of, any or all of the following: Resource Teacher for Special Needs, Special Needs Assistant, specialised equipment or furniture, transport, and / or other services. The school shall meet with the parents of the child to discuss the child's needs and the school's suitability or capability in meeting those needs.
- The Board of Management shall insist that the Department of Education and Skills provide the resources required to meet the educational and learning needs of the child as outlined in the relevant psychological or medical report prior to the child actually starting in the school.

Enrolment of pupils transferring from another primary school

Pupils may transfer to *Scoil Naomh Feichín* at any time, subject to school policy, available space, and in relevant cases, with the approval of the Department of Education and Skills. All reports and relevant documentation from the pupil's previous school must be forwarded in advance of enrolment.

Exceptional Circumstances

The school reserves the right to refuse enrolment to any pupil in exceptional circumstances, for example where:

- A child has special needs such that, even with additional resources available from the Department of Education and Skills, the school cannot meet such needs and/or provide the pupil with an appropriate education, or
- In the opinion of the Board of Management, the pupil poses an unacceptable risk to school staff, school property, other pupils or their education.

Appeals Procedure

If a decision is communicated, by the school principal, to a parent/guardian indicating that the school is unable to accept a pupil, that parent/guardian can request a copy of the enrolment policy and enquire as to what section/sections of the policy justify the refusal.

If unhappy with the explanation, the parent can appeal the decision directly to the Board of Management within two weeks of that decision being communicated to the parent(s)/guardian(s). The Board of Management then considers the appeal and advises the parent of its decision.

The Board of Management, in informing a parent of its decision, should advise parents of the right to appeal to the Secretary General, Department of Education & Skills. This appeal must be made within 42 calendar days from the date the decision of the Board was notified to the parent. The appeal forms may be had from Primary Administration, Tullamore, Co. Offaly or on www.education.ie. The appeal will be processed by the Appeals' Administration Unit and the parents will be informed of its decision in due course.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Feichín on Feb 2nd 2016.

It will be reviewed on a regular basis.