



# Gaelscoil Choráin

## Eochail

Uimhir Rolla: I9833F

### Polasaí Iontrála/Admissions Policy

#### I. Réamhrá/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 Gaelscoil Choráin 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 the 6<sup>th</sup> of December, 2022. This policy 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 Gaelscoil Choráin'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.

#### Eolas ginearálta na scoile/General school information

**Ainm na Scoile:** Gaelscoil Choráin

**Seoladh na Scoile:** Sráid na Trá, Eochail, Co. Chorcaí.

**Uimhir Teileafóin:** 024 93547

**Seoladh Ríomh-Phoist:** gaelscoilchorain@outlook.com

**Sainchreideamh:** Roman Catholic

**Pátrún:** Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Cloyne

## **2. Sainspiorad & cuspóirí ginearálta na scoile/Characteristic spirit & general objectives of the school**

Gaelscoil Choráin is a Catholic co-educational, all-Irish primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Cloyne. ‘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 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 Gaelscoil Choráin shall uphold, and be accountable to the patron to uphold, 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.

Gaelscoil Choráin is an Irish medium school in which all subjects with the exclusion of English are taught through the medium of the Irish language. Gaelscoil Choráin attends to the needs of the individual child in the local community and aims to promote the development of the whole child, i.e. spiritual, moral, social, personal and physical development. The primary school curriculum is implemented in an enjoyable educational atmosphere that recognizes every child in a professional and caring manner.

The following are the aims of Gaelscoil Choráin:

- To provide a high standard of education through the medium of the Irish language
- To promote a positive and empathetic atmosphere for the students so that they will enjoy and benefit from their time spent in school
- To develop the self-confidence of the students so that they will have self-respect and courage in dealing with situations that life presents
- To create a positive and safe environment so that the entire school community will be safe
- To recognize and respect the individual difference of students and to provide differentiated teaching to attend to the varying needs of students
- To promote a love and a respect for the Irish language amongst the school community and in the local community
- To promote the holistic development of the child through active engagement with the entire curriculum
- To provide a broad and balanced experience for the students through the use of a range of teaching methodologies
- To provide a listening and non-judgemental ear to all students, parents and staff

### **3. Ráiteas iontrála/Admission statement**

Gaelscoil Choráin 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.

Gaelscoil Choráin 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.

Gaelscoil Choráin 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.”

Gaelscoil Choráin 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 Roman Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Gaelscoil Choráin is a school which has established a class, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, which provides an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

#### **4. Na catagóirí de Riachtanais Speisialta Oideachais a ndéantar freastal orthu sa scoil/sa rang speisialta/The categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school/special class**

Gaelscoil Choráin with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established a class to provide an education exclusively for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Children must have a diagnosis of an Autistic Spectrum Disorder (i.e. Childhood Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, mild Autism, Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified) made using the DSM-IV, DSM-V or ICD 10 and a letter from a psychologist stating that the child requires a special class setting. A recent (no more than 2 years old) psychological assessment or a report from a multi-disciplinary team should be provided. Please note all reports in operation on a child should be provided to the school for assessment and consideration. Fulfilment of enrolment criteria does not necessarily ensure admission. The Special Class for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) must be considered the optimal and the most appropriate educational setting for the child.

#### **5. Daltaí a ligean isteach/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 copy of the code of behaviour is available on the school website (<http://gaelscoilchorain.ie/wordpress/>) and a hardcopy can be made available on request from the school.
- c) Gaelscoil Choráin is a Roman Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of Roman Catholic faith where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

- d) The special class attached to Gaelscoil Choráin provides an education exclusively for students with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) 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. Ró-iarratas/Oversubscription

In the event that the mainstream classes in 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. Priority Category 1: Sisters and brothers (incl. step-sisters and step-brothers) of children attending or having attended the school (this category will also include foster children being cared for by families of children attending or having attended the school).
2. Priority Category 2: Applicants whose primary residence is within the boundary of the Youghal parish area.
3. Priority Category 3: Children of past pupils. As per the Admissions Act (2018) the school may only apply this criterion to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces
4. Priority Category 4: All other applicants - priority to eldest.

In the event that the Special Class for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in 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. Priority Category 1: All children currently enrolled in the school.
2. Priority Category 2: Sisters and brothers (incl. step-sisters and step-brothers) of children attending and having attended the school (this category will also include foster children being cared for by families of children attending or having attended the school).

3. Priority Category 3: Applicants whose primary residence is within the boundary of the Youghal parish area.

It is to be noted that where oversubscription occurs in any one of the above priority categories pertaining to (a) mainstream classes in the school and to (b) Special Class for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in the school the remaining places will be allocated using a random selection/lottery system (details below). Where the applicant students in a category are not successful in achieving a place, their names will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which such names were drawn in the category.

#### **Random Selection/Lottery System:**

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:

#### **Random Selection/Lottery System**

An external independent person who does not have a direct connection to the school will be asked to draw out names at random and in a transparent and accountable manner in the presence of staff and members of Comhairle na dTuistí. The order in which names are drawn will be recorded. Applicants will be placed on the waiting list in the order in which names were drawn. A waiting list of students will be compiled and will remain valid for the school year in which admission is being sought.

#### **7. An méid nach mbreithneófar nó nach gcuirfear san áireamh/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;

other than in relation to:

admission to an Irish language school, in accordance with the provisions of section 62(9) of the act;

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

(1) siblings of a student attending or having attended the school and/or

(2) parents or grandparents of a student having attended the school.

In relation to (2) parents and grandparents having attended, a school may only apply this criterion to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's annual admission notice.

(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. Cinntí ar iarratais/Decisions on applications**

All decisions on applications for admission to Gaelscoil Choráin 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. Cinntí a chur in iúl d'iarratasóirí/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. Glacadh le tairiscint áite ag iarratasóir / Acceptance of an offer of a place by an applicant**

In accepting an offer of admission from Gaelscoil Choráin, 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. Cúinsí nach féidir tairiscintí a dhéanamh ina leith nó a tharraingt siar / 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 Gaelscoil Choráin 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. Sonraí a roinnt le scoileanna eile / 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).

### **I3.Liosta feithimh i gcás ró-iarratais/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 Gaelscoil Choráin 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 Gaelscoil Choráin 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.

#### **I4.Iarratais dhéanacha/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 I3.

#### **I5.Nósanna imeachta maidir le daltaí a ligean isteach i mblianta eile agus le linn na scoilbhliana/ 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:

1. Parents/Guardians complete an application form
2. Application is assessed using the criteria in Section 6 of this admissions policy
3. Parents notified within the timeframe – as per Annual Admission Notice
4. Applicant accepts the place & accepts the Code of Behaviour (Section II) or Applicant refuses place
5. Admission will depend on space in the required class

If refused, the applicant will be notified of their entitlement to appeal the decision under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998

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:

The procedures of the school in this instance include those laid out above in this section and Parents will be notified within 3 weeks of receiving the application.

However, the school will recommend to applicants seeking places after September 30<sup>th</sup> each year and whose children are attending schools in the locality, that where

possible, they retain their children in their current schools until the end of the instructional term (i.e. end of October, December, March).

#### **I6.Dearbhú maidir le gan táillí a ghearradh/ Declaration in relation to the non-charging of fees**

The board of Gaelscoil Choráin 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.

#### **I7.Socruithe maidir le daltaí nach bhfreastalaíonn ar theagasc reiligiúnach/ 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) or the student, as the case may be, to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

#### **I8.An ceart chun athbreithnithe/achomhairc/ Reviews/appeals**

##### **Athbhreithniú ar chinntí an Bhord Bainistíochta/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.

### **Ceart achomhairc/ 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 (I) (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 (I) (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 revised policy was formally ratified at a meeting of the Board of Management on 06.12.2022.

Antóin Ó Laoire

(Cathaoirleach An Bhoird Bhainistíochta)

Dáta: 06.12.2022