



Enrolment Policy for ASD Special Classes (reviewed January 2019)

The Board of Management of Cullina MS has set out this policy in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act of 1998, the Education Welfare Act 2000, the Equal Status Act 2000 and the Disabilities Act 2002. The Board trusts that by so doing, parents will be assisted in relation to enrolment.

The ASD Special Classes were funded and resourced by the Department of Education and Skills. This school policy has regard to the funding, resources, services and space available.

Enrolment Procedure

Registration process begins with a referral from the KIDS Team, a telephone call or a visit from the parents. Applications, incorporating date of application, date of birth, address and telephone number are entered in the Applications Folder. Applications will only be processed on the basis of a diagnostic and/or psychological report. Once this process has been completed the applicant secures a place on the list of applicants to enrol. A school application form, incorporating family details and medical history is completed on enrolment day for children who have secured a place.

Enrolment Criteria

The maximum class size is six pupils. If the number of children on the list of applicants to enrol exceeds the number of places available, the following criteria will apply in priority order, beginning with number one, once a definite diagnosis of Autism has been provided by a qualified professional.

1. Brothers and sisters of existing pupils
2. Children living within the parish
3. Children from within an eight kilometre radius of the school
4. If spaces are still available, places will be allocated as per waiting list.

The first year will be used to;

- Assess the child's educational and additional needs
- Develop an I.E.P./Support Plus Plan to address the identified needs
- Assess whether the child's placement is appropriate

Taking into account the Department's regulations and programmes, the rights of the patron as set out in the Education Act, and the funding available, the school supports the principles of;

- Inclusiveness, particularly with reference to the enrolment of children with a disability or other special education need
- Equality of access and participation in the school
- Parental choice in relation to enrolment
- Respect for the diversity of values, beliefs
- Traditions, languages and ways of life in society

The Board of Management will not refuse a child on the basis of ethnicity, disability, (i.e. severity of Autism diagnosis) traveller status, refugee status, political beliefs or family or social circumstances, provided they fulfil the enrolment criteria.

Aim and Objectives

- To provide a quality driven, appropriate educational service to all children in the Special Class within the requirements of all recent legislation pertaining to Special Needs Education
- To strive towards the integration of children in the Special Class into mainstream education, having regard for levels of ability, available resources and suitability for such integration
- To enhance the communicative and social skills of the children in the Special Class

Kerry Intervention & Disability Services (KIDS)

Essential services are to be provided by KIDS. These services include psychological support, Speech and Language therapy, Occupational therapy and Sensory support.

Discharge Policy

It is school policy to facilitate the discharge of pupils from the Special Class once they have reached the age in accordance with the Rules For National Schools. Discharge may also be recommended after the first year if the admissions team, after consultation with the parents/guardian, feel that the placement is not appropriate. Discharge from the Special Class may also happen if a pupil is fully integrated into the mainstream school.

Evaluation

The Board of Management will monitor the implementation of all aspects of this policy. This policy will be reviewed annually

This policy was adopted by the Board of Management of Cullina NS at its meeting held on January 29th, 2019

Signed: *Paul Neary* 29/1/2019

Paul Neary Chairperson, Board of Management.