

Monaleen N.S.

Admissions Policy



Admission Policy of Monaleen National School

School Address: Castletroy, Limerick, V94T9P1

Roll number: 17937H

School Patron/s: Catholic Bishop of Limerick

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 Monaleen National 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. It is published on the school website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request, to any person who requests it.

The relevant dates and timelines for Monaleen National School'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

Monaleen National School is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Limerick.

"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, a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- (b) including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects; 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 Monaleen National School 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.

Monaleen National School is a Catholic School, committed to being a caring and inclusive school dedicated to the holistic education of all of our pupils. We strive to promote the total development of each child in his/her religious, moral, physical, emotional, aesthetic and intellectual life. We are committed to the development of personal, moral and civic responsibility in all our pupils, in conjunction with the parents and guardians, who we recognise as being the primary educators.

Our school caters for the full range of classes from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. It is an inclusive school and caters for children of all abilities. We have two special classes for children with autism.

3. Admission Statement

Monaleen National School 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.

Monaleen National School 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.

Monaleen National School 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.

Monaleen National School 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 Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Monaleen National School is a school which has established two classes, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Youth, which provide 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. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school/special class

Monaleen National School is a school which has established two classes, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Youth, which provide 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.

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.
- c) Monaleen National School 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.
- d) The Special Classes attached to Monaleen N.S. provide an education for students with autism and the school may refuse admission to this class, where the student does not meet the criteria set out in this policy.

The Board of Management reserves the right to determine the maximum number of children in each class, bearing in mind;

- Any health and safety concerns regarding staff and children.
- Available classroom space.
- The needs in an individual class
- Department of Education and Youth class size directives.

Autism Class Enrolment Procedure

Children and young people are eligible for enrolment in our special class for children with Autism when the following is provided in support of such an application.

Professional report(s) outlining;

Diagnosis of special educational needs (eg. Autism: DSM IV/V or ICD 10/11(psychologist, psychiatrist, multi-disciplinary report)

AND

A demonstration of the understanding of complexity of the child's overall level of need(s) evidenced in the professional reports

AND

Given the severity or complexity of the child's support needs, a clear professional recommendation as to what placement type would be most appropriate to best meet the child's needs, along with the rationale for

same

AND

A letter from the NCSE confirming that the child is known to them and that the child has the required diagnosis and recommendation for a special class for children with autism.

6. Oversubscription in Mainstream Classes and Special Class

In the event that our 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. Siblings – brothers and sisters of children already in the school, including step-siblings resident at the same address, priority eldest.
2. Siblings of those who have attended the school in the past, priority eldest.
3. Children of current staff, priority eldest.
4. Children of parents or grandparents who attended Monaleen NS, in the past, priority eldest. A maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's Annual Admission Notice, will be applied to this criterion.
5. Applicants whose principal primary place of residence is the parish of Monaleen. If the class is oversubscribed within the application of this particular criterion, then places will be allocated on the basis of age, starting with the oldest, until the maximum intake is reached.
6. If space is still available, class numbers are completed from the waiting list of children not covered by criteria 2-4. Priority will be given to children whose primary residence is closest to the school.

The number of Junior Infants to be enrolled shall be outlined on the school's Admission Notice, which will be published in September each year (for the following academic year).

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:

The selection will be determined by a lottery overseen by the Principal, the Deputy Principal and a member of the Board of Management.

Places will be allocated in the Autism Class in accordance with the following criteria and in the following order;

1. Pupils currently enrolled in our mainstream school who are known to the NCSE and for whom a special class placement has been recommended.
2. Children of school staff.
3. Applicants with siblings currently enrolled in the school (including stepsiblings, resident at the same address).
4. Children living in the Monaleen Parish (proof of address is required).
5. If any places remain, they will be allocated on the basis of age, the eldest child/children enrolled first, according to the child's/children's birth certificate.

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 (howsoever described) to the school;
- (c) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude other than in relation to our special class insofar as it is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not the student has the category of special 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 or grandparents of a student having attended the school.

In relation to (2) parents and grandparents having attended, a school may only apply this criteria 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.

8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Monaleen National School 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 15](#) below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and [section 16](#) 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 Monaleen National School, 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 are 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 Monaleen National School 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 Monaleen National School 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 Monaleen National School 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 a 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

Applications for admission to classes or year groups outside the school's standard intake will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Admission to Monaleen National School during the school year or for non-intake years is subject to the following conditions;

- Availability of a place in the school
- Submission of a completed Application Form for Admission - Other Classes

(available from the secretary's office or on monaleennns.ie).

Offers of places will be based on:

- Compliance with the criteria outlined in the school's Admission Policy
- Class size limits
- Available classroom space

If the number of applications for a given school year exceeds the available places, a waiting list will be created for students whose applications to Monaleen NS were unsuccessful due to oversubscription. This waiting list will remain valid for the school year in question.

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

The Board of Management of Monaleen National School 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

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parents or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, who has 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:

All children are invited to partake in Religious Education lessons, regardless of faith or personal beliefs.

If a parent/guardian wishes for a child not to partake in the Religious Education lessons, a written request should be made to the Principal. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of 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, 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 Youth.

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.

The Board of Management ratified this policy on 29.09.2026.

Chairperson: _____ Dr. Patrick Connolly

Principal: _____ Mr. Ian Madigan

Date of Implementation: 01.10.2026

Review Date: Oct 2027

The contents of this policy have been approved by St. Senan's Education Office, acting on behalf of the Patron.

