

Enrolment Policy

October
2018

Ballyea National School

Enrolment Policy

BALLYEA NATIONAL SCHOOL

S.N. BHAILE AODHA

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Introduction

This enrolment policy is set out in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act (1998). The Board of Management trusts that by so doing parents will be assisted in relation to enrolment matters. The chairperson of the Board of Management, *Mr. Liam Ashe, Ballyea N.S. Darragh, Ennis* and the principal teacher, *Mr. Martin McMahon, Ballyea N.S. Darragh, Ennis*, will be happy to clarify any further matters arising from the policy.

Ballyea N.S. operates under the Rules for National Schools, The Education Act (1998), The Education Welfare Act (2000), enacted sections of The Education of Persons with Special Education Needs Act (2004), all relevant equality legislation and Department of Education and Skills (DES) Circulars.

School Name: Ballyea National School/S.N.Bhaile Aodha

School Roll Number: 13418J

School Address: Darragh, Ennis, Co. Clare

Telephone No.: 065 6838144

Denominational Character: Catholic

Name of Patron: Very Reverend Bishop Fintan Monahan

Total No. of Teachers: 12

Range of Classes Taught: Junior Infants – Sixth Class

Gender Orientation of School: Mixed

The school depends on the grants and teacher resources provided by the Department of Education and Skills and it operates within the regulations laid down, from time to time, by the Department. School policy has regard to the resources and funding available.

The school follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills, which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998).

Within the context and parameters of Department regulations and programmes, the rights of the patron as set out in 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 a disability or other special educational need;
- equality of access and participation in the school;
- parental choice in relation to enrolment; and
- respect for diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life in society.

SECTION 2: ENROLMENT PROCEDURES

Application Procedure

Parents seeking to enroll their child(ren) in Ballyea N.S. must complete an enrolment application form which must be returned to the school office as soon as possible, but not later than May 31st of the year the enrolment is to occur. The Board of Management of Ballyea N.S. will publish enrolment application procedures in the Parish bulletin and School Newsletter each Spring, and details will also be available on the school's website.

Provision of Key Information by Parents/Guardians

The school has a specific enrolment application form (Appendix 1). A copy of this form may be obtained by contacting the school office at 065 6838144 or by downloading the form from our website.

A registration form (Appendix 2) also forms part of the enrolment procedure. This form will accompany the letter of offer that will be sent to parents/guardians of successful applicants. The completed registration form must be returned to the school within the timeline specified in the letter of offer. Failure to do so will be interpreted as a refusal of the offer to enroll.

The address at which the applicant resides will be the address used by the school for correspondence regarding enrolment.

The completion of an enrolment application form or the placement of your child's/ward's name on a list, however early, does not confer an automatic right to a place in the school.

Decision Making

Decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the Board of Management in accordance with school policy. The Board will notify parents of their decision within 21 days of the closing date for the receipt of applications.

The Board is bound by the Department of Education and Skills' *Rules for National Schools* which provides that pupils may only be enrolled from the age of 4 years and upwards, though compulsory attendance does not apply until the age of 6 years. Children applying to enroll in Ballyea N.S. must have reached the age of 4 years by August 31st of the year they will commence school. The decision of the Board is final.

In the event that applications for enrolment exceed/is expected to exceed the number of places available, the following categories will be used, in descending order of priority, to select children for enrolment:

1. *Applicants with siblings currently enrolled in the school (including stepsiblings, resident at the same address), priority eldest;*
2. *Children residing in the townlands of Ballyea, Ballyveskill, Ballyvulligan, Bansha, Barrloughra, Barnageeha, Barntick, Buncraggy, Cappagaraun, Craggykerrivan, Cragbrien, Darragh North, Darragh South, Drimeen East, Drimeen West, Dromadrehid, Drumquinn, Feagh, Islandavanna, (and children along the route from Islandavanna to the school via Claureen bridge), Killglassy, Killerk East, Killerk West, Kilmorane, Knockanira, Lackenaskagh, Lismaelbreeda, Newhall, Rathmeehan, Reaghfa, Shanacoole, and Tiermclane, priority eldest; (Proof of residence may be required)*
3. *Children of staff members, priority eldest ;*
4. *Children of families who are not resident in the catchment area, and are 4 years of age on or before the date of commencement of school.*

The Board of Management reserves the right to determine the maximum number of children in each separate classroom bearing in mind Department and Education Guidelines in relation to class size and staffing provisions. Other factors that may be considered are:

- Size and available space in classrooms.
- Educational needs of children of a particular age.
- Multi-grade classes.
- Presence of children with special educational/behavioural needs.
- Health and Safety.

The Board will have regard for relevant Department of Education and Skills' guidelines in relation to class size and staffing provisions and/or any other relevant requirements concerning accommodation, including physical space and the health and welfare of children.

The Board of Management of Ballyea NS have determined the following maximum numbers of pupils for each class level for Junior Infants to Sixth Class for the academic year 2018-2019. Our school is deemed full when the pupil numbers reach 219.

Class Level	Maximum Number of Pupils
Junior Infants	31
Senior Infants	29
First Class	30
Second Class	19
Third Class	31
Fourth Class	18
Fifth Class	33
Sixth Class	28

These numbers will be reviewed annually

Admission Day/Date

Junior Infants, with the exception of students transferring from another school, may only be admitted to the school in September of each year. In order to familiarise themselves with their new environment, it is current practice for Junior Infants to spend one informal period in school before the commencement of Summer holidays each year.

Enrolment of Children with Special Needs

On enrolment of children with special needs the Board of Management will request a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological report or where such a report is not available, will request that the child be 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 required.

Following receipt of the report, the Board will assess how the school can meet the needs specified in the report. Where the Board deems that further resources are required, it will request the Special Education Needs Organiser (NCSE see Circular 01/05) to provide the resources required to meet the needs of the child as outlined in the psychological and/or medical report. These resources may include for example, access to or the provision of any or a combination of the following: visiting teacher service, resource teacher for special needs, special needs assistant, specialised equipment or furniture, transport services or other.

The school will meet with the parents/guardians of the child and with the SENO to discuss the child's needs and the school's suitability or capability in meeting those needs. Where necessary, a full case conference involving all parties will be held, which may include parents, principal, class teacher, learning support teacher, special class teacher, resource teacher for special needs, Special Educational Needs Organiser or psychologist, as appropriate.

It may, in certain circumstances, be necessary for the Board of Management to defer admission of a child pending the completion of an assessment report and/or provision of the necessary resources by the Department of Education and Skills.

Pupils Transferring

Applications for enrolment during the school year will be considered subject to school policy, available space and the provision of information concerning attendance and the child's educational progress. Such applications will be dealt with on a case by case basis, but normally will only be considered for admission on the first day of each new term, unless the applicant is newly resident in the area.

Code of Behaviour

All offers of enrolment are subject to acceptance of the School's Code of Behaviour, a copy of which is appended to this policy.

SECTION 3: APPEALS

The Board of Management of Ballyea N.S. in compliance with section 19(3) of the Educational Welfare Act 2000 will make a decision in writing in respect of an application for enrolment within 21 days of the closing date for the receipt of enrolment applications and will inform the parents/guardians in writing of that decision.

Parents/guardians will be informed of their entitlement to appeal a decision of the Board of Management in relation to a refusal to enrol in the letter issued 21 days after the closing date for the receipt of applications. (Please note the address at which the applicant resides will be the address used by the school for correspondence regarding enrolment).

If the Board of Management refuses to enrol a student in the school, the parent/guardian of the student may appeal the decision at local level. The appeal must be submitted within 10 days of the date of the refusal to enrol. It must be made in writing, addressed to the Chairperson of the Board, and clearly state the grounds for the appeal. The Board of Management will respond within 10 days of the receipt of such an appeal.

If following the conclusion of the appeal procedures at school level, a parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the decision made that parent/guardian has a statutory entitlement under section 29 of the Education Act (as amended by Section 4 of the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007, to appeal that decision to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills. It should be noted that such an appeal must be lodged within 42 days of the schools refusal to enrol.

Details on appealing decisions on enrolment under section 29 of the Education Act (as amended by Section 4 of the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2007), are available on the Department of Education and Skills website at www.education.ie

SECTION 4: EXCEPTIONAL CASES

The Board of Management of Ballyea N.S. reserves the right to refuse enrolment or, to rescind an offer of enrolment to any child, in exceptional cases. Such an exceptional case could arise where either:

1. The 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 student with an appropriate education, or
2. In the opinion of the Board of Management, the student poses an unacceptable risk to other students, to school staff or to school property.

SECTION 5: POLICY APPROVAL/RATIFICATION

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Ballyea N.S. on

Signed: _____ Chairperson, Board of Management

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



APPENDIX (1)

Enrolment Application Form
School Name Enrolment Year

Pupil's First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

Address (at which the applicant resides): _____

Name and class of Sibling(s) currently enrolled: _____

Parish in which the applicant resides _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Details:

Name: _____ [] Parent [] Custodian [] Legal Guardian

Address: _____

Home Tel. _____ Mobile _____ Email. _____

Name: _____ [] Parent [] Custodian [] Legal Guardian

Address: _____

Home Tel. _____ Mobile _____ Email. _____

Signature 1: _____ Signature 2: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

Completed enrolment applications must be returned to **School Name and Address** no later than **closing time** on **closing date**.

APPENDIX (2)

Enrolment Registration Form

This form should be used to obtain

- SEN information
- Emergency contact details
- Medical details
- Birth Certificates
- Guardianship/custody/access arrangements (please refer to the guardianship information sheet that can be found in the resources section of www.stsenansed.ie).
- Other information sought by the school

APPENDIX (3)

Code of Behaviour