



**Admission Policy**  
**Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala**  
**Donegal Town**  
**Co. Donegal**  
**F94 EH01**

**Roll number 19963s**

**School Patron/s: Bishop Alan Mc Guckian.**

**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 the 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 on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020. It 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 **Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala** 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.**

**Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala** is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Raphoe.

“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:

- the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects; and
- a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and
- 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 **Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala** 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.

### **School’s Mission Statement, General Objectives of the School.**

#### **Mission Statement.**

**Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala** is dedicated to educational excellence and to meeting the needs of individual children in a caring, trusting and imulating environment where children are prepared to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens who contribute to our rapidly changing society.

#### **General Objectives**

Our Aim is to create an environment where each child is valued as a person and is provided with a variety of opportunities enabling her to live as a child and developing all aspects of the person; spiritual, emotional, moral, social, intellectual, cultural and physical.

We seek to develop in the child a positive self-image and a respectful caring attitude towards others.

We encourage each child to take an active part in her own development on all levels so that she can:

- enjoy being at school and contribute to making school life a good experience for all.
- be ready and able to benefit from second level education.
- go on to take her place in society as a happy fulfilled and responsible adult.

Since teaching/learning is a collaborative effort we involve parents, teachers, pupils and the wider community.

We endeavour to challenge the gifted child and to give special support, care and attention to children with any level of additional needs.

### **3. Admission Statement.**

Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following grounds:

- The gender ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned.
- The civil status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned.
- The family status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned.
- The sexual orientation ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned.
- The religious ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned
- the disability ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- the ground of race of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- the Traveller community ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned, or
- 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.

Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala 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 of the Catholic Faith and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Scoil Aodh Rua Agus Nuala is a school which has established classes 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. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school/special class.**

Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established 3 classes to provide an education exclusively for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder [ASD] and 1 class to cater for pupils with Severe Profound Learning Disability.

#### **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. Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit a student who is not of the Catholic Faith where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintaining the ethos of the school.
- d. The special classes attached to Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala provide an education exclusively for students with Autism Syndrome Diagnosis and Severe/Profound Learning Difficulties and the school may refuse admission to these classes, where the student concerned does not have the specified category of special educational needs provided for in this class.

#### **6. Oversubscription.**

In the event that 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. In general terms the Board of management will deem the school to be full based on the Department of Education staffing schedule.

### **Selection Criteria in the case of Oversubscription.**

- Children must be four years of age on the 1<sup>ST</sup> September of proposed year of enrolment.
- Siblings of children already enrolled in the school or who have attended the school in the past.
- Children whose family residence is within the parish boundary.
- Children whose family residence is outside the parish boundary
- Children whose parents or grandparents attended the school. [25% of available spaces as set out in the school's annual admission notice

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:

Priority will be given to the oldest pupil in each of the categories (both in mainstream and special education classes) in the order listed above.

Pupil/pupils who didn't get a place will be placed on the school's waiting list for that school year.

### **Special Education Classes.**

- Children must be four years old on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September of proposed enrolment year
- Children who are already enrolled in mainstream classes in Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala and who now have a Professional Report recommending placement in the appropriate special class.
- Siblings of pupils already enrolled or who have been enrolled in the past in special education classes or mainstream classes in Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala who have a Professional Report recommending placement in the appropriate special class.
- Children whose family residence is within the Parish Boundary and who have a Psychological Report recommending placement in the appropriate special class.
- Children whose family residence is outside the Parish Boundary and who have a Psychological Report recommending placement in the appropriate special class.

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:

Priority will be given to the oldest pupil in each of the categories (both in mainstream and special education classes) in the order listed above.

Pupil/pupils who didn't get a place will be placed on the school's waiting list for that school year.

**Note. 6 pupils is the maximum enrolment in Special Education classes.**

## **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) 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 professional reports in relation to admission to a special class insofar as it is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not the pupil has the category of special educational needs applicable to that class.
- 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,
  - (1) siblings of a student attending or having attended the school and/or
  - (2) parents or grandparents of a student having attended the school. (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. Decisions on applications.**

All decisions on applications for admission to **Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala** 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. 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 **Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala** 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. 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 Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala 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 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 Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala 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 Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala 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 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 Classes**

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:

Pupils may transfer to the school in accordance with the school's admission policy.

Applications Forms are available on request.

The Board of Management will offer places on a first come first basis subject to the:

- Space /Place in the age appropriate class.
- Multi- Grade class settings.

- Department of Education recommendations on class size.

The procedures in place 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:

- Pupils may be admitted to other classes throughout the school year, but, preferably at the start of a term.
- Places will be allocated on a first come first basis.
- The same criteria as above will apply. (Section 15).
- When a pupil has enrolled in Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala having transferred from another school, the principal will inform the previous school in writing and request that the pupil's school reports.

### **Transferring to a Special Education Class.**

Pupils may transfer to a special education class at the start of the school year or during the school year if places are available. Pupils must have a Psychological Report stating the pupil's diagnosis and recommending placement in a specific class. If this is not available the Board of Management will refuse enrolment in this class setting.

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

This rule applies to all schools.

The board of Scoil Aodh Rua agus Nuala 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.

- 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.

## **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 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.

### **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.