



Admission Policy

Portmarnock Community School

Carrickhill Road, Portmarnock, Co. Dublin

Roll number: 91324P

**School Patron/s: Loreto Trust, the Archbishop of Dublin and the Dublin and Dún
Laoghaire ETB**

1. Introduction

This Admission Policy (the “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 Portmarnock Community School has consulted with school staff, the school patron and with parents/guardians of students attending the school.

The Policy was approved by the school patron on 14th September 2020. It is published on the school’s website www.portmarnockcommunityschool.ie and will be made available in hardcopy, on request, to any person who requests it.

The relevant dates and timelines for Portmarnock Community School’s (the “school”) 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 of external applicants 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

Mission Statement:

To instil a spirit of **intellectual enquiry** and academic **endeavor**

To foster the desire for **participation** and **challenge**

To build **individual** and **compassionate** men and women of character

Portmarnock School Community School is a co-educational, multi-denominational post-primary school under the joint patronage of the Loreto Sisters, the Archbishop of Dublin and Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB.

Community Schools provide a comprehensive system of post-primary education open to all the children of the local community. An innovative approach to delivery of a wide-ranging curriculum contributes to the spiritual, moral, mental, physical and social well-being of students within their community. Community Schools may also provide for life-long learning within their local community through the provision of adult education programmes.

Our school was established under the Deed of Trust and opened in 1979 to meet the second level education needs of the town of Portmarnock. It was one of the first community schools to be built in Ireland.

The values of Dublin and Dún Laoghaire ETB as a multi-denominational State Body and the inherited traditions, Christian values and founding intentions of the Archbishop of Dublin and the Loreto Sisters are enshrined in the characteristic spirit and in the life of our school and are respected and cherished.

The core values of Portmarnock Community School are care, respect, community, inclusion, equality, justice and fairness. These values combine to provide and support an atmosphere which is conducive to excellence in teaching and learning. We endeavour to assist each student to reach his/ her full potential in a calm, caring and creative environment.

Our values are reflected in how we live as a school community. The unique and intrinsic value of each member of the school community is recognised and respected. All are treated equally, regardless of race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, marital status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability, disability or socio-economic status. All students are given equal opportunity for enrolment, in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act (2018) construed in accordance with section 3 of the Equal Status Act 2000. Once enrolled, Portmarnock Community School provides all our students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum, school life and the local community.

Portmarnock Community School provides a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. We strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity, culture or background. Our school promotes a fully inclusive education which recognises the plurality of

identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents and staff. We prepare open-minded and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values with a view to contributing to a just and fairer society.

Our school is multi-denominational where we welcome, respect and support students of all religions and beliefs. The provision of religious education, religious worship and the work of the Chaplain all combine to reflect the founding intention of the school, the school's mission statement and the needs of the students within the school. The characteristic spirit of the school finds practical expression through the provision of pastoral, liturgical and social outreach activities, as appropriate, for each student.

In Portmarnock Community School, we celebrate the partnership, collaboration and empathy which nurtures and develops our young people in a community where the essence of our ethos is care and respect for self, others and our environment.

3. Admission Statement

Portmarnock Community 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.

4. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school

Portmarnock Community School welcomes all students, including those with special educational needs. The school will use the resources provided by the Department of Education and Skills to make reasonable provision and accommodation where possible for students with disabilities or special educational needs.

The Board of Management needs to be aware of any special needs as early as possible, so that these needs can be assessed and addressed if possible. We strive to facilitate a smooth transfer from Primary to Post-Primary education and to provide support for these students throughout their time in Portmarnock Community School.

In making provision for special needs students, the following information is required;

Has the student had access to any of the following resources:

1. Special needs assistant or classroom assistant
2. Special class
3. Help, for specific needs, from any resource teacher
4. Assistance with behavioural modification
5. Psychological assessment. Report to be provided
6. Any additional resources to help with their special needs
7. Help in areas including, visual impairment, hearing impairment, with general learning disability or emotional disturbance
8. Any resource in relation to travel or mobility etc.

If an expert report is provided, it should include a workable strategy for addressing the needs, allowing for the resources available.

The Board of Management, having gathered all relevant information and professional documentation, assesses how the needs of the special needs students can be met.

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/guardian 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

Eligibility & Admission Criteria

Portmarnock Community School's Admission Policy welcomes all students for whom the school can provide an appropriate education. The school aims to provide an integrated and inclusive education.

The Board of Management reserves the right to regularly update/amend the Admission Policy.

The operative Admission Policy for any year shall be that policy which is adopted by the Board of Management in the school year *preceding* the Application.

Each year the Board will decide in advance the number of 1st Year students for whom the school can provide an appropriate education, having regard to health and safety considerations, the standard of education it hopes to provide, the welfare of students and teachers, and the suitability of its accommodation for the proper provision of education.

Students who are eligible for Admission:

- Having reached the required age: 12 years on the 1st January in the calendar year following the child's entry into First Year in Portmarnock Community School.
- Having completed sixth class in Primary School or its equivalent.
- Those students, along with their parent(s)/guardian(s), who are willing to accept the ethos of Portmarnock Community School.
- Those willing, with parent(s)/guardian(s), to accept the Portmarnock Community School Code of Behaviour. Confirmation is required, by way of signature(s) that parent/guardian(s) and student(s) accept the Code of Behaviour.
- Those whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are willing, if required, to furnish Portmarnock Community School with two different, recent Utility Bills as proof of residence. Parents/Guardians who provide false or misleading information (e.g. use an address which is not their principal private residence at the time of application) will render their application null and void.

The application process is by way of written application only, through either:

- The **CAPPS Application Form** (Central Applications Post Primary Schools Association) for those students attending primary school within the CAPPS Education Association (see Appendix 1).
- **1st Year Application Form** for external applicants, i.e. students attending a primary school outside the CAPPS Education Association

CAPPS Applicants:

- The CAPPS Application Form is distributed to 6th class students of primary schools in the CAPPS Education Association in September.
- The completed CAPPS Form is returned to the child's primary school by a date published by the CAPPS Education Committee.

- The completed CAPPs Form is forwarded to Portmarnock Community School by the CAPPs Education Committee.
- Letters of Conditional Acceptance are sent by the school to all successful CAPPs applicants' parent(s)/ guardian(s).
- Parent(s)/ guardian(s) intending to accept a place for their child are requested to return the completed and signed Acceptance/Non-Acceptance Form by a strict deadline as per the Annual Admission Notice.

External Applicants:

- 1st Year Application Forms for 6th class students attending primary schools outside the CAPPs Education Association will be available annually following the Portmarnock Community School Open Evening, via the school website www.portmarnockcommunityschool.ie and upon written request from the school office, to anyone who requests it as per the Annual Admissions Notice. It is important for prospective parents to attend the Open Evening but it is not obligatory.
- External applicants whose primary residence is in Portmarnock will be asked to provide proof of address in the form of 2 original current utility bills at the time of application
- Letters of Conditional Acceptance are sent by the school to all successful external applicants' parent(s)/ guardian(s)
- Parent(s)/ guardian(s) intending to accept a place for their child are requested to return the completed and signed Acceptance/Non-Acceptance Form by a strict deadline as per the Annual Admissions Notice

Note: where an issue arises in relation to the residence status of a child applying in any particular year, it will be the responsibility of the parent/guardian to satisfy the Principal/Board of that status to the Principal's/Board's satisfaction.

Portmarnock Community School will cease accepting applications for admission to 1st Year on the date outlined on the Annual Admission Notice.

The fully completed Application Form should be signed and submitted to the School Office by the closing date which is noted on the Application Form and the Annual Admission Notice. Applications received after that date will be considered late and will only be considered after all other applications have been processed.

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:

Prioritisation of Applicants

Applications for places in 1st Year will be prioritised using the categories below (in strict order, with number 1 given first preference and number 10 given last preference):

- 1.** Students from St Marnock's NS and St Helen's SNS who select Portmarnock Community School as their choice on the CAPPS application form
- 2.** Students whose primary residence is in Portmarnock
- 3.** Students with siblings currently attending Portmarnock Community School. ("Sibling" shall be defined as "any brother or sister, or step brother or sister, of any child attending, or who will be attending the school during the proposed academic year of entry")
- 4.** Children of Portmarnock Community School daytime staff
- 5.** Students whose siblings are past pupils of Portmarnock Community School
- 6.** Students from St Andrew's NS and Scoil an Duinnínigh
- 7.** Subject to a maximum *25% of the enrolment figure, students whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are past pupils of Portmarnock Community School
- 8.** Students attending other primary schools in the CAPPS Education Association who selected Portmarnock Community School as their choice on the CAPPS application form
- 9.** All other applications received before the closing date
- 10.** Applications received after the date set out for submission of applications in the Annual Admissions Notice and published annually on the School website www.portmarnockcommunityschool.ie

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:

- If the number of applicants exceeds the number of spaces in any category, the places will be allocated on the basis of an independently adjudicated draw. In the case of twins/triplets entering the lottery, where one is successful, they will not be split up.

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) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school;
- (b) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude;
- (c) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents/guardians;
- (d) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents/guardians, attend an interview, Open Day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
- (e) 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 criterion to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's Annual Admission Notice).

- (f) 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 Portmarnock Community 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 CAPPs Form/ 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 Admission 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 Portmarnock Community 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 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 Portmarnock Community 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/guardian 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.

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 Portmarnock Community 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 Portmarnock Community 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.

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 Admission Policy, the Education Admissions to School Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act.

15. Procedure for admission of students to other years and during the school year

Portmarnock Community School will make every reasonable effort to facilitate a student seeking a transfer to our school.

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:

- The waiting list for years other than first years opens annually on 1st March in the academic year preceding the request for entry to Portmarnock Community School.
- Applications to years other than first for the *subsequent academic year* should be made in writing to Ms. E Deeney, Secretary to the Board of Management or by emailing admissions@portmarnockcommunityschool.ie
- All decisions relating to applications to years other than first are made at the discretion of the Board of Management.

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:

- All waiting lists remain open for the duration of the academic year and will cease operating on the final day of the school year.
- Applications made during the school year will be placed at the appropriate number on the relevant waiting list.
- Places made available in any year group will be dealt with by the Board of Management, in accordance with this Admission Policy.

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

The Board of Portmarnock Community 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

For schools with Religious Patrons, it is accepted that the NCCA Religious Education programme may form part of the core curriculum and where there are no elements of

Religious Instruction or Worship, the exemption outlined in CL13/2018 does not apply.

Students attending Portmarnock Community School do not receive denominational Religious Instruction or Worship. Students in Portmarnock Community School follow the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate Programmes as set out by the National Council for Curriculum Assessment (NCCA). Portmarnock Community School is a multi-denominational school and the Religious Education provided to our students is inclusive and focused on the pursuit of Knowledge, Skills and Understanding. The content prescribed in all of the Religion syllabuses is designed to cater for students of all faith traditions and students of none. It is intended to ensure that students are exposed to a broad range of religious traditions and to the non-religious interpretation of life. Portmarnock Community School does not provide Religious instruction from the perspective of any one particular religious or faith tradition.

The National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) states:

‘Religious Education should ensure that students are exposed to a broad range of religious traditions and to the non-religious interpretation of life. It has a particular role to play in the curriculum in the promotion of tolerance and mutual understanding. It seeks to develop in students the skills needed to engage in meaningful dialogue with those of other, or of no, religious tradition.’

The 1998 Education Act states that we must promote the spiritual and moral dimension of the student. This is the promise of holistic education – a promise to which the NCCA Religious Education Curriculum contributes uniquely. Religious Education has developed in such a way that it is open to all participants, contributing to the spiritual and moral development of students whatever their belief system: religious or secular. It promotes social cohesion and encourages tolerance and acceptance, allowing students to develop the skills and attitudes they need to engage positively, respectfully and constructively in a pluralist society.

This is in line with the Community and Comprehensive Schools’ Model of Agreement and Deed of Trust and is in keeping with the ethos, vision and Mission Statement of Portmarnock Community School.

18. Reviews/appeals

Review of decisions by the Board of Management

The parent/guardian 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 of Management 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/guardian 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 Admission Policy at its meeting on 17th September 2020.

Appendix 1

The Primary Schools within the CAPPS Education Association are:

- Ø Belmayne Educate Together N.S.
- Ø Burrow N.S., Sutton
- Ø Gaelscoil Míde, Kilbarrack
- Ø Holy Trinity S.N.S., Donaghmede
- Ø Kinsealy N.S. North Bay National School Project,
- Ø North Bay Educate Together N.S.
- Ø Pope John Paul 11 N.S., Malahide
- Ø Scoil Áine, Raheny – G.N.S
- Ø Scoil Assaim, Raheny – B.N.S.
- Ø Scoil Cholmcille, Donaghmede
- Ø Scoil Eoin, Greendale
- Ø Scoil Mearnóg, Portmarnock
- Ø Scoil Mhuire, Howth
- Ø Scoil Mhuire agus Iosaif, Bayside
- Ø Scoil Neasáin, Harmonstown
- Ø Springdale N.S., Raheny
- Ø St Andrew's N.S., Malahide
- Ø St. Benedict's, Raheny
- Ø St Brendan's N.S., Artane
- Ø St. Brigid's, Killester – B.N.S.
- Ø St Brigid's, Killester – G.N.S.
- Ø St Eithne's, Edenmore
- Ø St. Fintan's, Sutton
- Ø St. Francis of Assisi, Belmayne
- Ø St. Helen's, Portmarnock

Ø St. Laurence's National School (formerly St. Peter & Paul), Baldoyle

Ø St. Malachy's, Edenmore – B.N.S.

Ø St. Paul's, Ayrfield

Ø St. Oliver Plunkett's N.S., Malahide

Ø St. Paul's, Ayrfield

