

## Participation Policy for the ASD Class

### Introduction

The Participation Policy for the ASD class in St. Joseph's is set out by The Board of Management in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1998, the Education Welfare Act 2000, the Equal Status Act, 2004 and other relevant legislation and Circulars. The Board trusts that by so doing, parents will be assisted in relation to enrolment matters concerning our ASD class which will support children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. (ASD)

*Decisions in relation to applications for admission are made by the Board of Management of the school.*

### Background

Our first special class for supporting children with ASD will be established for the academic year 2022-2023. The purpose of the class is to support children with ASD, who are experiencing, or would experience difficulty in a mainstream class setting, to access the curriculum and maximize their potential for learning and personal development. The class will also prepare children with ASD, where suitable, to re-integrate into the mainstream setting.

### Criteria for Admission into the ASD Class

*Criteria for a child to be considered for admission into the autism class:*

- a place must be available
- A full psychological assessment specifying Autism by a clinical/educational psychologist or psychiatrist, with a recommendation of placement in an ASD specific class.
- This report should be recent, within the last 24 months, and must include a diagnosis of autism which meets DSM-IV/V or ICD-10 criteria.



- A recommendation from the diagnosing professional that the pupil has complex or severe learning needs that require the support of a special class setting and the reasons why this is the case
- School Admission Application Form – fully completed, indicating that you wish your child to be enrolled in an ASD class
- A multi-disciplinary report is also valuable, and should be presented to the school at the earliest possible date.

*The maximum class size in the ASD class is six pupils.*

**In the event that the ASD class 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 and meeting all admission criteria:

- Applicants who are enrolled in the mainstream school
- Applicants with siblings currently enrolled in the school (including stepsiblings, resident at the same address),
- Applicants within a 2 kilometer radius of the school
- Applicants outside a 2 kilometer radius of the school

## **Inclusion**

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 admission criteria does not necessarily ensure Admission if:

- The Admission Team decide that the school is unable to adequately meet the needs of the child
- Necessary resources pertaining to admission are not available
- Sufficient classroom space is not available

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**Chairperson:** Sr. Joan Watters  
**Registered Charity:** 20129132

Taking all of the above into account, and based on the advice of the Admission Team for the special class, *the Board of Management reserves the right of admission.*

### **Health Board Input**

Essential services are to be provided by the Health Service Executive. These services include Speech and Language therapy, Occupational therapy and Sensory activities.

### **Evaluation**

The Board of Management will monitor the implementation of all aspects of this policy. This policy will be amended and updated as required.

**This policy was ratified by the B.O.M. on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Sr Joan Watters

Chairperson

Dr. Roz Morris

Principal