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Boards Ireland
*Boird Oideachais &
Oiliúna Éireann*



Duntaheen Road Fermoy Co. Cork

Coláiste an Chraoibhín

POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOL YEAR 2021/2022

A decision on an application for admission will be based on the implementation of this Policy, the information set out in the annual Admission Notice of the school and the information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission, once received before the closing date set out in the annual Admission Notice. The Principal of Coláiste an Chraoibhín is responsible for the implementation of this Admission Policy.

INTRODUCTION TO COLÁISTE AN CHRAOIBHÍN

Mission Statement

To give our pupils a holistic education through the dedication of college staff and the cooperation of students, parents, guardians in a safe and caring environment

Coláiste an Chraoibhín was established in 1987. We are a co-educational school under the auspicious of the Cork ETB and are situated in the town of Fermoy which is a large satellite of Cork city. We currently have 861 students in the school-489 boys and 362 girls. We cater for all abilities and our student cohort comes from 19 primary schools which spans a large area of North Cork. Every student is supported by the hard work of staff and this promotes the academic and holistic aspects of our school. Our pastoral care system is held in high regard by the community.

In recent years, our school population has grown steadily which necessitated the building of a large extension which was opened in September 2019. Our curriculum offers an extensive range of subjects. At Junior Cert level we offer 11 optional subjects. We also offer Irish English Maths, Science, History and Coding as core subjects on our curriculum. Guidance, CSPE, SPHE, Religious Education, Physical Education form part of our Wellbeing programme. At senior cycle we offer 20 optional subjects to higher level. We also provide LCVP for our students. Our TY programme provides a vital link between Junior and Senior cycle . We also have a thriving LCA programme which provides an alternative to the traditional Leaving Cert. We are justifiable proud of the increasing academic achievements of our students and our aim is to surpass the already high standards we have set ourselves.

We are an educational community which caters for all traditions, values, languages, and beliefs. We have grown in numbers, but our core values have remained the same which is based on mutual respect and care for everyone who walks through the door of our school. Going forward our vision is to build on our academic achievements and not to stand still. We recognise that constant evaluation of our structures is needed to achieve our vision. We will strive to maintain the positive links with our community of students and parents. Staff development will continue to ensure that we maintain the highest standards by providing every possible support available so that every individual student is catered for.

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PART A

General Information for All Applicants

- 1. Glossary of terms***
- 2. Admission Statement***
- 3. Legal Framework***
- 4. General Admission Provisions (for all Applicants)***

1 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

‘Applicant’ means the parent / guardian of a Student, or, in the case of a Student who has reached the age of 18 years, the Student, who has made an application for admission to Coláiste an Chraoibhín.

‘Student’ means the person in respect of whom the application is being made. All uses of the word throughout this Policy therefore imply ‘prospective’ as part of the interpretation. That is, the use of the word ‘Student’ does not mean that the application for him/her has been accepted such that s/he is regarded as a Student of Coláiste an Chraoibhín by virtue of application alone.

‘Gender’, in line with the definition of “*the gender ground*” in the Equal Status Act 2000, is such that “*one is male and the other is female*”. This does not prejudice any Student who is Intersex or identifies as Androgynous/Androgyne, Bigender, Demigender, Gender Fluid, Genderqueer, Multigender, Neutrois, Non-binary, Transgender, Transsexual or otherwise

‘Parent’ has the same meaning as in the Education Act 1998 and includes a foster parent and a guardian appointed under the Guardianship of Children Acts, 1964 to 1997.

‘Feeder Primary School’ refers to the primary schools of preference for application to Coláiste an Chraoibhín. The feeder primary schools for Coláiste an Chraoibhín are:

Adair NS

Araglin NS

Ballyhooly NS

Ballynoe NS

Ballyduff Upper NS

Ballyduff Lower NS

Bartlemy NS

Bishop Murphy Memorial NS

Castlelyons NS

Castletownroche NS

Clondulane NS

Conna NS

Gaelscoil De hÍde
Glanworth NS
Glenville NS
Grange NS
Kilmagner NS
Kilworth NS
Presentation Convent NS
Rathcomrac NS
St Josephs NS
Watergrasshill NS

For the purpose of the selection criterion relating to the student having a sibling who previously attended the school, **‘Sibling’** refers to full siblings, half-siblings, foster-siblings and step-siblings.

For the purpose of the selection criterion relating to the student having a sibling currently enrolled in the school, **‘Sibling’** refers to full siblings, half-siblings, foster-siblings, step-siblings and students who reside in the same household.

Note: the wider definition of sibling in the second of the two paragraphs immediately above is for the purpose of facilitating families who are required to do more than one drop-off and/or collection to/from the school.

‘Special Class’ means a class that has, with the approval of the Minister of Education and Skills, been established by a school to provide an education exclusively for Students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister of Education and Skills . Coláiste an Chraoibhín has a Special Class, established to cater for special educational needs of Students with Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

‘First-Year’ means the intake group of Students for the most junior class or year in a school.

2 Admission Statement

Cork Education and Training Board is the patron of Coláiste an Chraoibhín. Coláiste an Chraoibhín is a state, co-educational, multi-denominational school underpinned by the core values of:



- Excellence in Education;
- Care;
- Equality;
- Community;
- Respect.

As a state provider of education, Cork Education and Training Board defines a ‘multi-denominational’ school in the following way:

In Cork Education and Training Board schools, all students are given equal opportunities for enrolment in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018. Once enrolled, our schools strive to provide all students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life. In all aspects of school life all members of our school communities are treated equitably regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status.

Coláiste an Chraoibhín 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 or background. Our school promotes a fully inclusive education that recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents and staff. We prepare open-minded, culturally sensitive and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values.

In Coláiste an Chraoibhín students of all religions and beliefs are treated equally. The school environment and activities do not privilege any particular group over another whilst at the same time acknowledging and facilitating students of all religions and beliefs.

Accordingly, Coláiste an Chraoibhín shall not discriminate in its admission of a Student based on the following grounds:

- 2.1. Gender of the Student or Applicant. However, where a school admits students of one gender only, it is not discriminatory to refuse to admit Students not of that gender.
- 2.2. Civil status of the Student or Applicant
- 2.3. Family status of the Student or Applicant
- 2.4. Sexual orientation of the Student or Applicant
- 2.5. Religion of the Student or Applicant
- 2.6. Disability of the Student or Applicant
- 2.7. Race of the Student or Applicant
- 2.8. The Student's or Applicant's membership of the Traveller community
- 2.9. Special educational needs of the Student or Applicant. However, where the school provides education exclusively for a category or categories of special educational need(s) in a Special Class, it is not discriminatory to refuse to admit to that class a Student who does not have the specified special educational need(s).

Coláiste an Chraoibhín shall not charge fees or payments or seek contributions as a condition of admission or continued enrolment of a Student.

3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Cork ETB was established under the Education and Training Board Act 2013 which sets out the functions of all ETBs, including to establish and maintain recognised schools, centres for education and education and training facilities in each ETB's functional area.

The Board of Management of Coláiste an Chraoibhín is a committee established under section 44 of the Education and Training Board Act 2013 and also constitutes a Board of Management within the meaning of the Education Act 1998.

The Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 place a duty on all recognised schools to prepare and publish an Admission Policy.

The Education Act, 1998 provides for an appeal process in the event of a refusal to enrol. The appeal process is set out in section 5.3 in respect of applications made to the First-Year Group and in section 6.3 in respect of applications made to all years other than the First-Year Group.

Section 62(7)(n) of the Education Act 1998 requires each school to set out in its Admission Policy the arrangements it has in place where a parent, or student over 18 years of age, requests that the student opt-out of religious instruction.

Opting Out of Religious Instruction

Coláiste an Chraoibhín offers *religious education* in all year groups as it promotes the holistic development of students and can contribute positively to their wellbeing in line with the principles of the Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle Frameworks. It facilitates the intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, values and moral development of students and encourages respect for all members of our school communities. In addition, *religious education* supports the 'multi-denominational' aspect of our school's ethos as it provides opportunities for students to engage with questions around their own religious or non-religious beliefs and those of their peers.

It is important to understand that our school does not provide '*religious instruction*' and therefore the legal requirement to advise of the option to opt-out of religious instruction

does not arise in this school. There is an important distinction between ‘*religious instruction*’ and ‘*religious education*’:

- *Religious instruction* is a term used in Ireland to indicate instruction in accordance with the rites, practices and teachings of a particular religion or denomination for pupils of that religious tradition.
- *Religious education* is open to all pupils regardless of their commitment to any particular religion or worldview. It seeks to contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all students equally.

As ETB schools are ‘multi-denominational’, Coláiste an Chraoibhín supports the provision of *religious education* that caters for all students regardless of their religious or non-religious beliefs.

However, as per Section 30(2)(e) of the Education Act (1998), Coláiste an Chraoibhín recognises the right of parents, or students over the age of 18, attending publicly funded schools to withdraw from any subject contrary to their conscience, including *religious education*.

Parents or students over the age of 18 who wish to opt-out of *religious education* must make a written submission to the principal in the first instance. The submission should outline reasons why the opt-out is being requested. The principal will then arrange to meet with the parent(s) or student over the age of 18 to discuss the request. If after that meeting the parent or student over the age of 18 still wishes to opt out of *religious education*, the school will facilitate this in the following way:

Students who opt-out of *religious education* remain in the classroom and study when the RE class is taking place.

As per Section 62(7)(n) of the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018, the school day cannot be shortened for a student as a result of a request to opt out of religious education.

4 GENERAL ADMISSION PROVISIONS

A decision on an application for admission shall be based on:

- the implementation of this Admission Policy,
- the annual Admission Notice of the school, and the
- information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission.

If, prior to the commencement of section 62 of the Education Act 1998 by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 on the 1st February 2020, Coláiste an Chraoibhín had confirmed, in writing, that an Applicant had been placed on a list relating to the allocation of school places for entrance before the 1st February 2025, then this confirmation is still valid and the Applicant will be offered that place.

In processing an application Coláiste an Chraoibhín **shall not consider:**

- 4.1 The payment of fees or contributions to the school;
- 4.2 A Student's academic ability, skills or aptitude; unless:
 - it is necessary to ascertain whether or not the Student has the category of special educational needs concerned for admission to a school approved by the Minister of Education and Skills providing education exclusively to Students with a specified category of special educational needs or a special class;
- 4.3 The occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a Student's parent(s);
- 4.4 A requirement that a Student or his or her Parent(s), attend an interview, Open Day or other meeting as a condition of admission.
- 4.5 A Student's connection to the school due to a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school, unless the connection is a sibling of the Student concerned attending, or having attended, the school.

4.6 The date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school as long as it is received during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual Admission Notice for that academic year.

Coláiste an Chraoibhín will consider the offer of a place to every Student seeking admission to the school, **unless one of the following applies:**

4.7 The Parent fails to confirm in writing that s/he accepts the Student Code of Behaviour and he/she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the Student.

4.8 The Student seeking admission to a Special Class in the school does not have the category of special educational needs specified by the Minister of Education and Skills in respect of that class.

Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín considers an application, each Student shall receive a place, unless the school is oversubscribed, in which case, selection criteria will be applied to each application.

Section 5 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for the First-Year Group.

Section 6 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for all year groups other than First-Year.

Section 7 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for the Special Class.

PART B

Information for Specific Categories of Applicants

- 5. Application to the First-Year Group***
- 6. Application to All Year Groups Other Than First-Year***
- 7. Application to the Special Class***

SECTION 5

APPLICATION TO THE FIRST-YEAR GROUP

5 APPLICATION TO THE FIRST-YEAR GROUP

5.1 Admission Provisions (First-Year Group)

- 5.1.1. Oversubscription
- 5.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 5.1.3. Selection process
- 5.1.4. Late Applications
- 5.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 5.1.6. Acceptance of a place
- 5.1.7. Refusal
- 5.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer
- 5.1.9. Appeals

5.2 Appeals

- 5.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 5.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 5.2.3 Basis for appeal

5.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (FIRST YEAR GROUP)

Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

A Student applying for the First Year Group but seeking admission to the Special Class should see section 7 of this Admission Policy.

5.1.1 Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 5.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Colaiste an Chraoibhín is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to the same year group in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications to all year groups other than First-Year.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

5.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority

Coláiste an Chraoibhín will apply the following criteria for admission to the First-Year Group:

- 5.1.2.1 Applicants with siblings who are currently attending Coláiste an Chraoibhín.
- 5.1.2.2 Applicants with siblings who previously attended Coláiste an Chraoibhín
- 5.1.2.3 Applicants whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are current staff member(s) of Coláiste an Chraoibhín
- 5.1.2.4 Students who attend a named feeder Primary school
- 5.1.2.4 All other applicants

5.1.3 Selection process

Coláiste an Chraoibhín will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available, the remaining Applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. Where the school still has places, Applicants are considered in light of the third criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

In the instance where the number of applicants for a place exceeds the number of places in the school the following procedure will apply. The Board of Management, the Principal and an independent observer will oversee this process.

- Applications will be divided into categories based on the criteria for allocation of places stated in the policy.
- Starting with category Number 1, places will be offered to applicants. Where there are sufficient places to offer a place to all applicants who qualify under category Number 1, this will be done and the process of offering places will move on to criterion number 2.
- The process outlined above will be repeated for the subsequent categories until the process reaches a category where the remaining number of places available is less than the number of applicants within this category.
- Where the remaining number of available places is less than the total number of applicants within a category, the remaining places will be offered by means of a lottery involving all the applicants within this category.
- When all available places have been allocated, the remaining applicants within the category will be placed on a waiting list in rank order based on the lottery.
- The process of placing applicants on the waiting list in rank order will then be repeated for each subsequent category until all unsuccessful applicants have been allocated a place on the waiting list.

- The waiting list will be recorded on school headed paper and the record will be signed in the presence of the Board of Management by the Chairperson of the Board of Management and the independent observer.

Siblings, (be they twins or otherwise), who apply for a place in First Year in the same year of enrolment will be counted as two completely separate applications. If a situation arises where one child gets a place and the other is placed on the waiting list the child on the waiting list cannot be offered a place in the school in the same year by virtue of his/her relationship with the sibling even though there is a category for siblings in the admissions criteria. This is because the child offered a place will only become a pupil in the school from the first day of the start of the new school year.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Coláiste an Chraoibhín will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

5.1.4 Late applications

An application received by Coláiste an Chraoibhín after the closing date published by the school, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school.

Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within the school, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8 and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

5.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Coláiste an Chraoibhín but does not accept the offer, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

5.1.6 Acceptance of a place

If the Student in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the School's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for withdrawal of an offer, as set out below.

5.1.7 Refusal

Where a Student in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

- 5.1.7.1. The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Coláiste an Chraoibhín;
- 5.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
- 5.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and

- 5.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7, and 4.8 an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 5.1.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

5.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 5.1.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 5.1.8.2. The 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 for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or
- 5.1.8.3. An Applicant has not indicated:
- (i) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
and
 - (ii) whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 5.1.4 above.

5.1.9 Appeals

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Coláiste an Chraoibhín regarding admission to the First-Year Group, see section 5.2.

5.2. Appeals

5.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:

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.

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the Board of Management of Coláiste an Chraoibhín at Duntaheen Road Fermoy Co. Cork , Email: office@colchraoibhin.ie .Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Management, or the Board of Management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

5.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

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.

Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this policy, same shall apply instead.

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an Applicant who chooses to appeal to the Board of Management is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Management, the Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

5.2.3 Basis for appeal:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.

SECTION 6

APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR

6. APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR

6.1 Admission Provisions (other than First-Year)

- 6.1.1. Oversubscription
- 6.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 6.1.3. Selection process
- 6.1.4. Late Applications
- 6.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 6.1.6. Acceptance of a place
- 6.1.7. Refusal
- 6.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer
- 6.1.9. Appeals

6.2 Appeals

- 6.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 6.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 6.2.3 Basis for appeal

6.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR)

Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to sections 4.7, and 4.8. Coláiste an Chraoibhín may also refuse an application on the following grounds

- If the space is not available in the year group being applied for
- If the school cannot offer the subject choices being studied by the transferring student
- If the capacity is not available in the core subject classes at the level chosen by the transferring student
- That the transfer is not in the best interest of the transferring Applicant and the existing Students in Colaiste an Chraoibhín

A Student applying for admission to a year-group other than First-Year but seeking admission to the Special Class should see section 7 of this Admission Policy.

6.1.1 Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 6.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to the same year group in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications to all years other than the First Year Group.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

6.1.2 Selection criteria

Coláiste an Chraoibhín may refuse an application on the following grounds

If the school does not have a place available for a student

If the school does not have available space for the student

If acceptance of the application would pose a risk to members of the school community

For all eligible applications, Coláiste an Chraoibhín will apply the following criteria for admission to a year-group other than First-Year:

- 6.1.2.1 Applicants with siblings who are already attending Coláiste an Chraoibhín.
- 6.1.2.2 Applicants with siblings who previously attended Coláiste an Chraoibhín
- 6.1.2.3 Applicants whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are current staff member(s) of Coláiste an Chraoibhín
- 6.1.2.4 Students who attend a named feeder Primary school

- 6.1.2.4 All other applicants

Any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not an Applicant is admitted.

6.1.3 Selection process

Coláiste an Chraoibhín will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available, the remaining Applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

In the instance where the number of applicants for a place exceeds the number of places in the school the following procedure will apply. This process will be done as part of a Board of Management meeting and will be conducted in the presence of the Principal and an independent observer.

- Applications will be divided into categories based on the criteria for allocation of places stated in the policy.
- Starting with category Number 1, places will be offered to applicants. Where there are sufficient places to offer a place to all applicants who qualify under category Number 1, this will be done and the process of offering places will move on to criterion number 2.
- The process outlined above will be repeated for the subsequent categories until the process reaches a category where the remaining number of places available is less than the number of applicants within this category.
- Where the remaining number of available places is less than the total number of applicants within a category, the remaining places will be offered by means of a lottery involving all the applicants within this category.
- When all available places have been allocated, the remaining applicants within the category will be placed on a waiting list in rank order based on the lottery.
- The process of placing applicants on the waiting list in rank order will then be repeated for each subsequent category until all unsuccessful applicants have been allocated a place on the waiting list.
- The waiting list will be recorded on school headed paper and the record will be signed in the presence of the Board of Management by the Chairperson of the Board of Management and the independent observer.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Coláiste an Chraoibhín will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

6.1.4 Late applications:

An application received by Coláiste an Chraoibhín after the closing date published by Coláiste an Chraoibhín and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school and subsequently the school's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with this Admission Policy.

Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Coláiste an Chraoibhín, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8 and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

6.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Coláiste an Chraoibhín but does not accept the offer, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

6.1.6 Acceptance of a place:

If the Student in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This

includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for withdrawal of an offer, as set out below.

6.1.7 Refusal:

Where a Student in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

- 6.1.7.1. The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Coláiste an Chraoibhín,
- 6.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed,
- 6.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable, and
- 6.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7 and 4.8, an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 6.1.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

6.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 6.1.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 6.1.8.2. The 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 for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or

6.1.8.3. An Applicant has not indicated:

- (i) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
and
- (ii) whether or not or s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 6.1.4 above.

6.1.9 Appeals:

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Coláiste an Chraoibhín regarding admission to a year-group other than First-Year, see section 6.2.

6.2 APPEALS

6.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:

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.

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the Board of Management of Coláiste an Chraoibhín at Duntaheen Road Fermoy Co. Cork or office@colchraoibhin.ie. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Management, or the Board of Management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

6.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

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.

An Applicant who was refused admission to Coláiste an Chraoibhín for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may choose to put his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the Board of Management of Coláiste an Chraoibhín. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a

different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an Applicant who chooses to appeal to the Board of Management is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Management, the Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

6.2.3 Basis for appeal:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.

SECTION 7

APPLICATION TO THE SPECIAL CLASS

7 APPLICATION TO THE SPECIAL CLASS

7.1 Admission Provisions for the Special Class

- 7.1.1. Oversubscription
- 7.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 7.1.3. Selection process
- 7.1.4. Late Applications
- 7.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 7.1.6. Acceptance of a place
- 7.1.7. Refusal
- 7.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer

7.2 Appeals

- 7.2.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 7.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 7.2.3. Basis for appeal

7.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS FOR THE SPECIAL CLASS

Coláiste an Chraoibhín has a Special Class, established to cater for the special educational needs of Students with Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

The Special Class in Coláiste an Chraoibhín provides for students who have diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder and have an Educational/Clinical Psychologist report recommending placement in an ASD Special Class in a mainstream post primary school setting.

Only applications in respect of Students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Class will be considered.

Where the Special Class in Colaiste an Chraoibhín is not oversubscribed, all Students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Class will be offered a place in the Special Class, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8

In line with section 4.8, where the Special Class in Coláiste an Chraoibhín is not oversubscribed, all Children whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Class will be offered a place in the Special Class, subject to section 4.7.

7.1.1 Oversubscription:

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 7.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to the same year group in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student

during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications made to all years other than the First-Year Group.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

7.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority:

Applications to the Special Class will only be considered if the Student's needs fall within the specified category of special educational needs provided for by this class. Subject to this requirement, in the event of oversubscription, the following criteria for admission to the Special Class will apply:

- 7.1.2.1 Applicants with siblings who are already attending Coláiste an Chraoibhín.
- 7.1.2.2 Applicants with siblings who previously attended Coláiste an Chraoibhín
- 7.1.2.3 Applicants whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are current staff member(s) of Coláiste an Chraoibhín
- 7.1.2.4 Students who attend a named feeder Primary school
- 7.1.2.5 All other applicants

7.1.3 Selection process:

Coláiste an Chraoibhín will apply the selection process as follows:

Having met the criteria for admission to the Special Class, applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available the remaining Applicants are considered against the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

In the instance where the number of applicants for a place exceeds the number of places in the school the following procedure will apply. The Board of Management, the Principal and an independent observer will oversee this process.

- Applications will be divided into categories based on the criteria for allocation of places stated in the policy.
- Starting with category Number 1, places will be offered to applicants. Where there are sufficient places to offer a place to all applicants who qualify under category Number 1, this will be done and the process of offering places will move on to criterion number 2.
- The process outlined above will be repeated for the subsequent categories until the process reaches a category where the remaining number of places available is less than the number of applicants within this category.
- Where the remaining number of available places is less than the total number of applicants within a category, the remaining places will be offered by means of a lottery involving all the applicants within this category.
- When all available places have been allocated, the remaining applicants within the category will be placed on a waiting list in rank order based on the lottery.
- The process of placing applicants on the waiting list in rank order will then be repeated for each subsequent category until all unsuccessful applicants have been allocated a place on the waiting list.
- The waiting list will be recorded on school headed paper and the record will be signed in the presence of the Board of Management by the Chairperson of the Board of Management and the independent observer.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Coláiste an Chraoibhín will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

7.1.4 Late applications:

An application received by Coláiste an Chraoibhín after the closing date published by Coláiste an Chraoibhín, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school and subsequently the school's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with this Admission Policy.

Where Coláiste an Chraoibhín is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Coláiste an Chraoibhín, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8 and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

7.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Coláiste an Chraoibhín but does not accept the offer, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

7.1.6 Acceptance of a place:

If the Student in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This

includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the school's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for withdrawal of an offer, as set out below.

7.1.7 Refusal:

Where a Student in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

- 7.1.7.1 The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Coláiste an Chraoibhín;
- 7.1.7.2 Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
- 7.1.7.3 Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
- 7.1.7.4 Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7 and 4.8 an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 7.1.7.5 The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

7.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 7.1.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 7.1.8.2. The 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

for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or

7.1.8.3. An Applicant has not indicated:

- (i) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
and
- (ii) whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 7.1.4 above.

7.2 APPEALS

7.2.1. **Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:**

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.

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the Board of Management of Colaiste an Chraoibhín at Duntaheen Road Fermoy Co.Cork or office@colchraoibhin.ie Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Management, or the Board of Management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

7.2.2. **Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:**

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.

An Applicant who was refused admission to Coláiste an Chraoibhín for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may choose to put his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the Board of Management of Coláiste an Chraoibhín . Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an Applicant who chooses to appeal to the Board of Management is not satisfied with the decision of the Board of Management, the Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

7.2.3. Basis for appeal:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.