

St. Ronan's Primary School
Admissions Policy
2016

St. Ronan's PS (Newry)



Admissions Policy

2016

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Mission Statement

We the Governors and Staff of St Ronan's believe the school to be a vital part of the Catholic Community. We are firmly committed to:

- the aims of Catholic Education
- providing a broad and balanced curriculum to ensure that our children develop their full potential
- developing positive relationships within our school and with our parents and the wider parish community
- creating a welcoming educational community centred on Christ so that His values and Gospel message pervade the whole life of our school
- establishing a caring Catholic ethos with a positive pastoral care system
- fostering within our children the ideals of tolerance of, respect and understanding for different faiths and cultures

Our School Values:

- Happiness and enjoyment
- Effort, attitude and perseverance
- Team, school and community spirit
- Honesty, fairness and trustworthiness
- Respect and tolerance
- Politeness, kindness and caring
- High standards of behaviour
- Partnership

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School Ethos

St Ronan's Primary School sets out to create a caring and supportive environment, where all children can develop intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially, morally and spiritually.

In addition, the delivery of the curriculum is designed to develop interest and motivation in children using enthusiastic teaching and interesting and relevant learning activities.

- Children are encouraged to achieve high standards and are given as much help as they may need in order to achieve success.
- There are many extra curricular activities that encourage co-operation and discipline through team games. Children are further encouraged through a variety of musical/dramatic productions to develop self-discipline.
- Within this context there is a code of discipline that is consistently enforced to ensure that the education of children take place in an orderly and caring environment.
- Through continual monitoring of individual children's achievements, class teachers provide work pitched at a level that challenges each child yet does not frustrate.
- Good relationships within the School are vital. The staff set an example by working well together with a harmony of purpose and providing an interesting and caring environment within their classrooms.
- As part of the pastoral dimension of the School, children are taught how to care for others, to respect other people's points of view and to respect property. Children are encouraged to contribute to charity and to help people who are less fortunate than themselves.

We are a catholic maintained co- educational school seeking to promote throughout the school community an ethos, which reflects the Christian teaching and values.

We see the school as part of the wider community, responsible to it and providing an important community service. We take seriously our links with the community and encourage the involvement and interests of parents and others in the welfare of individual children and the school as a whole.

We seek to provide an excellent educational service - one that is planned and developed to the highest professional standards so that each pupil may benefit to the full.

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1 Introduction

1.1 The governing body of **St Ronan's Primary School** apply the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school.

2 Aims and objectives

2.1 We are an inclusive school that welcomes children from all backgrounds and abilities.

2.2 All applications will be treated on merit and in a sensitive manner.

2.3 The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we enforce the procedure set out below in order to determine whether a child is accepted or not. It is our wish to allow parents the right to have a place at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible, due to the excess demand on the school places available.

2.4 The level of ability of a child plays no part in the admissions policy of this school.

3 How parents can apply for their child to be admitted to our school

3.1 As our school is a community school, the school determines the admission arrangements in agreement with the Education Authority – Southern (EA(S)). EA(S) is therefore the 'Admissions Authority' for our school/nursery. The regulations for entry to each school, where the Admissions Authority is the EA(S), are published each year by the EA(S). Parents can receive a copy of these regulations directly from the EA(S).

3.2 The EA(S) publishes a composite admissions prospectus each year, which gives information about how parents can apply for a place in the school of their choice. Parents have a right to express a preference for the school of their choice and they should do so on the application form. Expressing a preference does not, in itself, guarantee a place at this school. Application forms can be obtained from the Pupil and Parent Unit of the EA(S) and should be completed by the date stipulated on the forms. The school notifies parents about the school place as soon as all the applications have been considered.

3.3 In this area, children enter school in the academic year they become 4/5. There is one admissions date per year for P1, early in September. Therefore, parents who would like their child to be admitted to this school during the year their child is four turning five they should ensure that they complete the necessary application forms at the appropriate time.

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4 Admission appeals

4.1 If we do not offer a child a place at this school/nursery, it is because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the numbers of children in the school to increase too much.

4.2 If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the EA(S). An independent appeals panel then meets to consider all appeals by parents who have been refused a place at our school and who wish to appeal against this decision. An appeals panel's decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to our school/nursery, then we will accept this and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our school/nursery.

5 The standard number

5.1 The standard number is the number of children the school can accommodate. The standard number for our school is **391** (P1 – 56). The Yearly intake number is determined by the DE. We keep these numbers under review and the governors will apply, to the DE, to change the number if circumstances allow.

6 Infant class size

6.1 We teach infant children (P1 – P4) (aged four to seven) in classes that have a maximum number of 30 children but if we find that we have to we will apply to the EA(S) for an exemption to this number.