

Murhur N. S.

Moyvane, Listowel, Co. Kerry.

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Admission Policy of Murhur N.S. Moyvane
School Address: Moyvane, Listowel, Co. Kerry
Roll Number: 13540 G
School Patron: Bishop Ray Browne

Introduction

This Admission Policy complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1998, the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Equal Status Act 2000. In drafting this policy, the board of management of the school has consulted with school staff, the school patron and with parents of children attending the school.

The policy was approved by the school patron on Friday 24th April 2020. It is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request, to any person who requests it.

The relevant dates and timelines for Murhur N.S. Moyvane's admission process are set out in the school's annual admission notice which is published annually on the school's website at least one week before the commencement of the admission process for the school year concerned.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the annual admission notice for the school year concerned.

The application form for admission is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy on request to any person who requests it.

Ethos Statement

Murhur NS is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Kerry.

"Catholic Ethos" in the context of a Catholic primary school means the ethos and characteristic spirit of the Roman Catholic Church, which aims at promoting:

- (a) the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil, a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- (b) including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects; and
- (c) a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and
- (d) the formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith;

and which school provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, and/or such ethos and/or characteristic spirit as may be determined or interpreted from time to time by the Irish Episcopal Conference.

In accordance with S.15 (2) (b) of the Education Act, 1998 the Board of Management of Murhur NS shall uphold, and be accountable to the patron for so upholding, the characteristic spirit of the school as determined by the cultural, educational, moral, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values and traditions which inform and are characteristic of the objectives and conduct of the school.

Murhur NS is a co-educational, Catholic primary school which strives to provide a well-ordered, caring, happy and secure atmosphere where the spiritual, intellectual, physical, moral and cultural needs of the pupils are fostered.

Murhur NS aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil including his/her relationship with God, with other people and with the environment.

While Murhur NS is a school with a Catholic ethos, pupils are drawn by example and teaching to appreciate and respect people of different religious affiliations and different nationalities.

Murhur NS strives to promote, both individually and collectively, the professional and personal development of teachers through staff meetings, teachers' courses, curriculum days, staff outings etc. Ancillary staff in the school are highly esteemed and respected. It is recognised that their work makes a valuable contribution to the process of education.

Murhur NS will encourage the involvement of parents through home/school contacts and through their involvement in the Parents' Council.

Murhur NS endeavours to enhance the self-esteem of everyone in the school community, to imbue in the pupils respect for people and property and encourages in them the idea of being responsible.

The school's Code of Behaviour reflects the Christian values promoted within the school with an emphasis on forgiveness, reconciliation, new beginnings and hope. Teachers are sensitive to the needs and particular circumstances of the pupils.

Murhur NS promotes gender equality amongst teachers and all other staff and pupils.

Déanfaimid tréan iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt is a chothú.

The principal and teachers aim at making the school a centre of excellence in which high professional standards are maintained and where pupils learn in a safe and happy environment.

Characteristic Spirit and General Objectives of the School

Murhur N.S. is a co-educational catholic primary school located in the village of Moyvane. The school currently has three mainstream class teachers, a Part-time Special Education Teacher shared with Ballyguilteneane N.S. and one full-time Special Education Teacher (SET) which includes a teaching principal. The school currently has one Special Needs Assistant (SNA). The range of classes taught are from Junior Infants to 6th class.

The curriculum offered in Murhur N.S. seeks to satisfy the developmental and educational needs of the children it serves in the context of the contemporary society in which they live. It provides for the children's immediate learning needs and interests, and at the same time prepares them to benefit from further education. It enables children to function effectively in a changing society and to cope successfully with the demands of modern life. The school follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills, which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998).

Within the context and parameters of the Department regulations and programmes, the rights of the Patron as set out in the Education Act (1998), and the funding of the resources available, the school supports the principle of:

- inclusiveness, particularly with reference to the enrolment of children with a disability or other educational need;
- equality of access and participation in the school;
- parental choice in relation to enrolment;
- respect for diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life in society.

In keeping with the ideal of inclusiveness that is central to the philosophy and ethos of Murhur N.S. the teachers and staff strive to ensure that the dignity and value of each child is recognised and reflected in our admission policy.

The aims and objectives are as follows:

- To smooth the integration of infant and new children into the primary school education system
- To enable the school to provide the most appropriate learning environment through knowledge of the academic and social level the child is at
- To enable optimum inclusiveness

Admission Statement

Murhur N.S. 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 religious 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.

All Denominational Schools

Murhur N.S. is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Note for parents: The inclusion of the above wording was mandated by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018.

Categories of Special Educational Needs Catered for in the School

On enrolment of children with special needs, the Board of Management will request a copy of all relevant information and reports – the child’s medical and/or psychological report. If none are available the Board will request that the child be assessed immediately. The purpose of this assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child, relevant to his/her disability or special needs and to profile the support services required.

Following receipt of the report, the Board of Management will assess how the school can meet the needs specified in the report and, as far as practicable, the child’s needs will be met. Where the Board of Management deems that further resources are required, it will request the Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO) to provide the resources required to meet the needs of the child.

These resources may include for example access to or the provision of any or a combination of the following:

- visiting teacher service
- special education teaching time
- special needs assistant
- specialised equipment or furniture
- transport services

The school meets with the parents of the child and with the SENO to discuss the child's needs and the school's suitability or capability in meeting those needs. Where necessary, a full case conference involving all parties is held which may include principal, class teacher, special education teacher, parents, S.E.N.O. and psychologist.

Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (please see [Oversubscription](#) below for further details)
- b) a parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student

Minimum Age

As per the Rules for National Schools a child may not be admitted to Murhur National School until he/she has reached the age of four:

64. (1) A child may not be allowed to attend or be enrolled in a national school before the fourth anniversary of his/her birth.

All Denominational Schools

Murhur N.S. is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of Catholic denomination where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

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:

- applicants with siblings already in the school
- ages of the children
- children residing in the parish
- children of staff member
- children of parents who are past pupils of the school
- educational needs of children of a particular age
- presence of children with special educational/behavioural needs
- multi-grade classes

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:

- random selection. The parents/Guardians will be invited to attend. This draw will be overseen by an independent witness.

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) a student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí,
- (b) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school;
- (c) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude;
- (d) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents;
- (e) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
- (f) a student's connection to the school by virtue of a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school;
(other than, 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)
- (g) the date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school, This is subject to the application being received at any time during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned.

This is also subject to the school making offers based on existing waiting lists (up until 31st January 2025 only).

Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Murhur N.S. will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy
- The school's annual admission notice
- The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in our annual admission notice for receiving applications

(Please see [Late Applications](#) below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and [Procedures for Admissions for Students](#) 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.

Notifying applicants of decisions

Applicants will be informed in writing as to the decision of the school, within the timeline outlined in the annual admissions notice.

If a student is not offered a place in our school, the reasons why they were not offered a place will be communicated in writing to the applicant, including, where applicable, details of the student's ranking against the selection criteria and details of the student's place on the waiting list for the school year concerned.

Applicants will be informed of the right to seek a review/right of appeal of the school's decision (see [Review of Decisions](#) below for further details).

Acceptance of an Offer of a Place by an Applicant

In accepting an offer of admission from Murhur N.S., 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.

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 Murhur N.S. where -

- (i) it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- (ii) an applicant fails to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission on or before the date set out in the annual admission notice of the school.
- (iii) the parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student; or
- (iv) an applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of 'acceptance of an offer' as set out above.

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.

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 Murhur N.S. 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 Murhur N.S. 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.

Late Applications

All applications for admission received after the closing date as outlined in the annual admission notice will be considered and decided upon in accordance with our school's admissions policy, the Education Admissions to School Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act.

Procedures for Admission of Students to Other Years and During the School Year

Pupils wishing to transfer from other schools may do so throughout the year subject to the school's admissions policy and available space and the provision of information concerning attendance and the child's educational progress. Such applications will be reviewed on a case by case basis. Junior Infants with the exception of students transferring from another school, may only be admitted to the school on or by the 30th September.

Parents / guardians will be informed of a decision on enrolment applications within 21 days of receiving completed applications. Applications that have not included reports requested by Murhur N.S. will not be considered complete. This also applies to children whose parents apply to enrol them mid-year.

Pupils enrolled in Murhur N.S. are required to co-operate with, and support, all published school policies, including the Code of Behaviour. The Board of Management places parents/guardians responsible for ensuring that their child/children co-operate with said policies in an age-appropriate way. A copy of the Code of Behaviour is available on our school website. A hardcopy is available at the school on request.

Declaration in Relation to the Non-Charging of Fees

This rule applies to all schools.

The Board of Management of Murhur N.S. 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.

Note: Exceptions apply only in relation to fee charging post primary schools, the boarding element in Boarding Schools and admission to post leaving cert or further education courses run by post-primary schools.

Arrangements Regarding Students not Attending Religious Instruction

The school provides Religious Education for Catholic pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and tradition of the Roman Catholic Church. Non-Catholic pupils may be exempt from the religious education programme at the request of their parents.

Review of Decisions by the Board of Management

The parent of the student, may request the Board of Management 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 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.

Policy Ratification

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Murhur National School at its meeting held on Friday 24th April 2020.

Signed: *John O'Sullivan* Chairperson, Board of Management

Signed: *Maria O'Regan* Principal

Date: *24th April 2020*