

## Enrolment / Admissions Policy for ASD Classes, Goggins Hill N.S.

### Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (A.S.D.)

Since September 2010, The Board of Management has provided a class for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder in accordance with the Department of Education and Science guidelines and support structures.

**We now have 2 classes;**

**Class One** caters for Junior/Senior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup> class.

**Class Two** caters for children from Third to Sixth Class.

The age profile of each special class is subject to yearly review. i.e. a child may be moved to a more age-appropriate class should a place become available.

### Aims and Objectives

- A commitment to providing the highest quality of education for the children concerned
- To strive towards the integration of children in the ~~Unit~~ classes for children with Autism into mainstream education with their typically developing peers during their time in Goggins Hill N.S., having regard for levels of ability, available resources and suitability for such integration
- To enhance the communication and social skills of the children in the ~~Unit~~ classes for children with Autism

### Application Form

Parents/guardians who wish to enrol children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder are required to call to or contact the school for an Application Form. On application the criteria for admission will be given to parents/guardians and these criteria are non-negotiable. The Application Form must be completed in respect of each child and signed by the parents/guardians of the child.

### Enrolment/Eligibility

In order for a child to be enrolled in a Special Class for Children with Autism, a place must be available and he/she must fully fulfil the following criteria:-

- A multi-disciplinary team report including a psychological assessment with a diagnosis of autism only,
- The classes are not designed for children with multiple disabilities.
- A statement that the minimum level of cognitive functioning is a mild learning disability
- A recommendation for a placement in a special class attached to a mainstream school. This must be recent, within the last 12 months.
- School Application to Enrol Form - fully completed

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- The child must be able to use a regular toilet with or without assistance.
- A child shall not be admitted if behaviour is such that she/he is a danger to herself/himself and/or to others.
- Children are eligible to attend the special class for children on the Autistic spectrum between the ages of four years and thirteen years only. However, the Board of Management reserves the right to limit the age range in each class to 4 years from youngest to eldest.
- All relevant reports and assessments must accompany application to enrol form including OT and/or speech and Language report, if relevant. Where there is insufficient information provided about a child, the Board of Management may not be in a position to make a decision.
- Parents/Guardians of prospective candidates must meet Principal and Class Teacher as part of the application process.
- The Board of Management reserve the right to take into account any other criteria they deem relevant.

If the number of children who meet the above criteria on the list of applicants to enroll exceeds the number of places available, the following criteria will apply in priority order, beginning with number one.

1. Brothers and sisters of existing pupils in mainstream school - priority to oldest
2. Children living within the school catchment area - priority to oldest
3. Children of staff members - priority to oldest
4. Children living in Ballinhassig Parish - priority to oldest

If spaces are still available, places will be allocated as per waiting list, once an assessment has been made by the Board of Management.

On acceptance of a placement the parent/guardian must recognise and acknowledge that the Board of Management may terminate a placement should the Board, in consultation with the multi- disciplinary team, deem the placement unsuccessful.

### **Individual Consideration and Yearly Review of Placement**

The school acknowledges that all children with autism present with differing profiles. For this reason all applications to enrol are considered individually.

#### **The child's first year in the Unit will be used to:**

- Assess the child's educational needs
- Develop an I.E.P. to address identified needs

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- Assess whether the child's placement is appropriate

Regular reviews of the suitability of the placement will be undertaken with the cooperation of the School, Staff, Multi-Disciplinary team and Parents/Guardians. The decision of the Board of Management is final.

Placement in either of the two special classes is subject to a yearly review. Parents will be advised on future schooling with the following options considered.

- Continuation in the special class
- Continuation in a special class nearer to the child's home
- Mainstream class in Goggins NS with resource teaching support
- Mainstream Class with support in a school closer to the child's home
- Placement in a Special school
- Home Tuition

### Class size:

- The Department of Education & Science states the ratio is 6 pupils to 1 teacher. Each complete class has one full-time teacher and two SNAs.

### Service Providers:

- Funding for the special classes is provided by the DES.
- Professional development for staff is provided by Special Education Support Service.
- South Lee Autism Services (Brothers of Charity) provides a multi-disciplinary support service to children with a diagnosis of autism attending our school. This support includes psychology, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and access to both psychological and social work services.
- The multi-disciplinary team must be involved in the initial stage of enrolment to collaborate with staff in drawing up an IEP for the child and to provide on-going support for the child in the special class.

### Parental Involvement:

- Parents/guardians will be required to liaise with the class teacher on a regular basis and to participate in the Individual Educational Plans at least once a year.
- Parents/guardians will be required to keep a daily home/school journal.

### Method of instruction:

- The method of instruction within the class will be 'An Eclectic Model' in line with the recommendations of the Department of Education and Science. It will be based on TEACCH and ABA and will also use elements of PECS, Sensory Integration, Floor Time, Intensive Interaction and Social Stories and Music.

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- Individual Education Plans will be drawn up for each child in consultation with Special Needs Staff, Principal, Parents and Multi-disciplinary Team.

### **Ratification and Review**

- This Admissions' Policy will be reviewed regularly. The Board of Management reserves the right to amend or delete any aspect of this policy without notice.
- The Board of Management reserve the right to review the viability of the special classes on a yearly basis.
- This Admission's Policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 18 May 2010 and is subject to yearly review.

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Please return the section below with the Application to Enroll Form.

### **Special Class for children with Autism** **Goggins Hill N.S.**

I acknowledge I have read the conditions of this document and agree to be bound by same.

Please sign below:

Parent/ Guardian 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/ Guardian 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

