

Cnoc Mhuire Admission Policy to ASD Unit

Cnoc Mhuire is a voluntary secondary school. Procedures for admission are set out having regard for the Education Act 1998, the Education Welfare Act 2000, the Equal Status Act 2000, the Education for Persons with Special Needs Act 2004 and the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018.

The Autism Unit is funded and resourced by the Department of Education and Skills. This school policy has regard to the funding, resources, services and spaces available. Applications to the Autism Unit will only be considered in the year prior to enrolment of the candidate to Cnoc Mhuire. All students will be subject to the terms and conditions of the School's Admissions Policy.

Criteria for Enrolment

Each prospective applicant in the class must have a definite diagnosis of Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders (DSM IV/V or ICD diagnostic criteria) and a recommendation within the past two years from a NEPS psychologist, Educational/Clinical Psychologist, Psychiatrist or Multidisciplinary team for placement in an ASD support class in a mainstream post-primary school OR Special Class for Autism.

The placement of each child will be subject to regular, at least annual, review by school staff and where relevant by professionals external to the school.

The unit will only cater for children who are 12 years of age or more and less than 18 years of age on the 1st September of the school year in question, unless there is specific approval from the Department of Education and Skills for a particular student who is outside this upper age limit. Consideration will be given to the age gap in terms of management of the class. The school gets permission to access any relevant reports.

The following documentation is required:

1. A completed ASD application form seeking admission to the ASD class which is available from the school office.
2. An Educational/Clinical Psychologist's Report within the past two years, recommending the candidate is suitable for placement in an ASD Unit.
3. Reports from all previous schools attended.
4. Signed consent from parents /guardians granting the school permission to access any relevant reports from previous school attended.



Selection Criteria

1. Priority will be given to applications from students already enrolled in Cnoc Mhuire who have received their ASD diagnosis after enrolment and have been recommended for a place in an ASD classroom.
2. Siblings of existing Cnoc Mhuire students
3. Siblings of former Cnoc Mhuire Students
4. Subsequent priority will be given to applications relating to students who have been attending ASD Special Classes in feeder Primary Schools from our catchment area.
5. Students residing in the school catchment area
6. Where two or more students' applications are tied based on the above criteria, places will be allocated by random selection conducted by a member of the Gardaí.
7. Applications received after the closing date will be allocated places in order of receipt of applications.
8. A waiting list will be maintained in the event that the number of applications exceeds the numbers of places available.

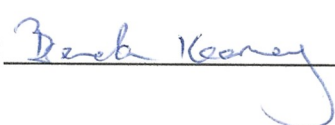
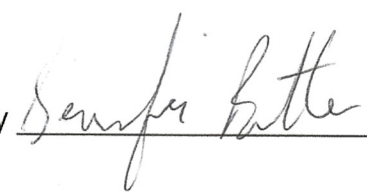
DES guidelines limit the number of places in the Autism Unit to six students. Cnoc Mhuire may in certain circumstances and following assessment, be unable to meet the needs of the applicant on the grounds that:

- The applicant is deemed a risk to themselves or others.
- Admission of the candidate would make impossible, or have a serious detrimental effect on, the provision by the school of its services to others.

Appeals Procedure

Parents /guardians of pupils who are refused admission may appeal under Section 29 of the Education Act, 1998. Submit completed Section 29 Appeals Application Form and a letter confirming the decision of the Board of Management to:

Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit,
Department of Education and Skills,
Friar's Mill Road,
Mullingar, County Westmeath.
N91 H30

Proposed by:  Seconded by 

Signed: Pauline McBrien

Pauline McBrien Principal

Signed: [Signature]

Sean Fegan, Chairperson BOM

Date 17th Feb 2022