



Scoil Bhríde Eglantine School Enrolment Policy –

'Aoibhneas' Special Classes for pupils diagnosed with Autism.

Introduction

Scoil Bhríde Eglantine caters for girls from Junior Infants to 6th Class. Aoibhneas; our Special Classes for girls with Autism. Aoibhneas caters for girls from 4rs to 13yrs old. The goal for each pupil within Aoibhneas is to integrate partially or fully into our Mainstream classes.

Core Principals

Places in our Autistic Spectrum Disorder Special Class are considered on a first-come, first served basis from our pre-enrolment list or following recommendation and approval from the local Special Educational Needs Organiser and ultimately the Board of Management of Scoil Bhríde Eglantine.

A range of teaching methodologies will be used in Aoibhneas. The methodologies employed will aim to optimally address the needs of all of the children in the Special Classes for Pupils with Autism.

Professional Reports

The Professional Report required is a multi-disciplinary team report but must include a psychological assessment carried out no less than 18months from enrolment date.

A diagnosis, using the DSM V, of Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorder is required to preferably made by a Clinical Psychologist and/or Multi-disciplinary team. (Both HSE Services and Private Assessments will be accepted if the documents meet criteria.)

A Professional Report must clearly state their recommendation for a place in a Special Class for pupils with Autism attached to a mainstream school as part of the enrolment process.

The school will not accept recommendation for Special Class and/or Special School on the one document.

It must clearly state the recommendation for a Special class only if enrolling at Scoil Bhríde Eglantine. A pupil's placement needs to be as accurate a reflection of her needs so that they can be given a reasonable opportunity to integrate into the Mainstream setting.

ASD Special Classes

Parents wishing to enrol their child in the ASD Special Class / Aoibhneas must present a psychological report to the school. This report must include

- A completed pre-enrolment form (available at www.eglantine.ie)
- A diagnosis of Autism
- A preferable statement that the minimum level of cognitive functioning is a moderate learning disability is sought.
- A recommendation for a placement in a Special Class only attached to a mainstream school.

Once this report has been forwarded to the school parents will be invited to make an application to enrol the child in Aoibhneas. A pre-enrolment form will also be accepted with the professional reports. The Board of Management will then consider the application and notify the parents accordingly. Should the number of applicants exceed the number of places a waiting list will be put in place. Placement in Aoibhneas is subject to a yearly review and parents will be advised as to the child's future schooling. Parents are reminded that pupils diagnosed with Autism's needs do change.

The school reserves the right to review the child's progress after each year to determine whether this is indeed the appropriate school placement for the child. A professional up to date report may be required if a placement of a child is questioned due to progress or lack of progress in the assigned setting.

Parental Consent

When making application for enrolment in the ASD special class(es), Parents/Guardians are required to sign a form giving their consent for Health and Education providers to access relevant information/reports/assessments and to discuss their child(ren) at local meetings to ensure that the appropriate planning and provision of educational services are made available. (appendix 1)

Academic Ability

The academic ability of the applicant will be taken into account when considering an application. It is preferable that applicants who have a diagnosis of ASD and whose cognitive functioning has been assessed in the Mild/moderate General Learning ability range, using standardised psychological assessment tests, will be considered suitable for placement in Aoibhneas. This may give pupils in Aoibhneas a better opportunity to integrate into the Mainstream setting.

Children who fall into the severe/profound range of intellectual disability will not be suitable for the class.

Additional Disabilities

Applications for enrolment for pupils with additional disabilities will be considered on a case by case basis.

The school reserves the right to refuse enrolment to any student where either:-

- *The student has special needs such that even with additional resources available from the Department of Education and Skills and the Department of Health the school cannot meet such needs and/or provide the student with an appropriate education.*
- *In the opinion of the Board of Management the student poses an unacceptable risk to other students, to school or to school property.*

Staffing

A Special class in a mainstream school for pupils with ASD will be allocated 1 teacher for 6 pupils (maximum) and up to 2 SNA's.

Integration

Arrangements will be made for pupils enrolled in the special class(es) to be integrated into the mainstream according to their level of needs (educational and social) and attainments.

If a student has spent eight years in a special class placement at mainstream primary level (10 years if suitably started in an Early Intervention Class) or has completed the primary level curriculum, a placement should be considered in a mainstream second level school, a mainstream second level special class or a special school. The school promotes that these recommendations are clearly made in an up to date report prior to enrolment in a Second level environment.

All efforts will be made to assist parents in making a choice if applicable for the transition to a secondary school environment whether it is Mainstream with Special Classes for Autism or a suitable Special School

Signed *Bill Rury* Chairperson

Date *17/9/2020*



Appendix 1

Consent to communicate with Professionals and/or HSE agencies

Name of Pupil: _____

Class: _____

Class Teacher: _____

I/We parent/s of _____ give permission for the class teacher and principal to liaise and communicate with the professional who diagnosed my child and/or HSE agency that formed the diagnosis report.

It is also our duty to communicate with the school appropriately if there are any amendments or professional recommendations made in relation to _____.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Scoil Bhríde Eglantine
Board of Management – Annual Report
November 2019- August 2020

Board of Management 2019/2023

Chairperson	–	Bill Reidy
Treasurer	–	Humphrey Moynihan
Secretary	–	Eoin Kennedy
Teacher Rep	–	Paula Burke
Parent Reps	–	Elaine Linehan John Sheehan
Community Reps	–	Canon Jim O Donovan Frances O Mahony

The BOM met 8 times and a report was published on the website after each meeting

Policy Development

A school Plan was agreed and published on school website.

An Admissions policy in line with the New Schools Admissions Bill has been ratified by the BOM and submitted to the patron for approval.

Certified school accounts were submitted to FSSU and Patron.

School Ethos

While we had some preparation events early in the school year, First Communion and Confirmation were postponed due to Covid 19. A drive through graduation was held for 6th class and we hope to have them back in the school for a more formal ceremony in due course.

Other Developments

1. The BOM accepted the proposal that a pre and post school childcare provision would be available in the school from September.
2. Following a request from the National Council for Special Education the BOM approved the opening of a special class in the school in September.

Summer Works/Buildings

The fitting of windows and doors was completed. An application was submitted for replacement of the heating system but this has not been granted for this year. We remain confident that it will be forthcoming in future grant schemes.

An extensive refurbishment program was undertaken over the Summer months This involved a major clean- up of the school grounds. Painting and cleaning of the external façade of the school.

A number of rooms were re-carpeted and painted. The entrance hall had temporary structures removed, was painted and new flooring laid. New entrance doors were fitted to the main entrance.

New doors were fitted to the main entrance and to the external storage rooms

A grant received from the Dept. of Education and Science allowed us to provide new seating and desks in all classrooms

Curriculum Development

The focus of SSE in the school this year was the teaching and learning in science. Substantial progress was made on this prior to closure in March. This will be resumed in the new school year

Parents' Association

The parents' association fundraising for the school stage was greatly appreciated and the BOM agreed to provide the balance of funding required for its purchase. The stage is now in place in the main Hall

Staffing

A new school caretaker was appointed.

Signed



Chairperson

Date

20/9/2020