



Thomond Primary School
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Admissions Policy

Admission Policy of Thomond Primary School

School Address: Ballynanty Road, Limerick

Roll number: 20460W

School Patron: St. Senan's Education Office

1. 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 4th May 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 Thomond Primary School 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.

2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

Thomond Primary School is a co-educational, vertical primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Limerick Diocese.

Catholic Ethos in the context of 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, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral, and spiritual aspects; and
- (b) a living relationship with God and with other people; 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

The 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 Thomond Primary School 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.

School Mission Statement

Rooted in our Christian tradition, Thomond Primary School strives to work in partnership with parents and community to provide a holistic and high quality education in a safe, caring and nurturing environment; where everybody is respected, valued and cherished in order that each child may have the opportunity to fulfil his or her potential.

3. Admission Statement

Thomond Primary School 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 religion 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.

Thomond Primary 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 a student who has applied for a place in the school in accordance with section 7A of the Equal Status Act 2000, relating to minority religions with the same/similar ethos.

Thomond Primary 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 a student who is not Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

4. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school/special class

Thomond Primary School welcomes applications for enrolment of pupils with special needs. The school will endeavour to have suitable provisions in place when a student enters the school and throughout his attendance at the school. To help the school ensure

that this is achieved it will be recommended that parents:

- Inform the school that special provisions may be required. This will allow the school to begin what, at times, can be a lengthy process in negotiating with the Department to secure the necessary resources.
- Provide up-to-date psychological/medical reports, as appropriate. This is essential in order to support requests for resources and to enable a decision to be made.

The Board of Management will provide children with special educational needs with additional educational and/or care support in accordance with the level of resources provided by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) and guidelines in relation to the deployment of these resources

5. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (please see [section 6](#) 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
- c) Thomond Primary School is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not Catholic where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

6. 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:

1. Priority is given to brothers and sisters of children already in the school.
2. Families whose primary residence is either;

- (a) in the immediate areas of St. Munchin's Parish, starting closest to the school and radiating outwards from the school or
- (b) in St. Munchin's Parish within a 2-mile distance by road from the school.

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:

- In the event that demand exceeds supply within any single priority category, places will be allocated by age – Priority to the oldest child

7. 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 siblings of a student currently attending 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 within the timeframe specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned.

8. Application Process for Junior Infants

Application and decision dates for admission to Junior Infants will be set out in the school's Annual Admission Notice which is published annually at least one week before the commencement of the admission process for the school year concerned.

Advance notification of enrolment dates will be placed on the school website (<https://www.thomondps.ie>) and in the school and parish newsletters. The Board of Management strongly recommends that prospective Junior Infant pupils be at least 4 years of age on or before 30th August of the year of enrolment.

Parents seeking to enrol their child must complete an Application Form for Admission and attach accompanying documentation (see below).

The following documentation will be required upon acceptance of a place in the school:

- An original Birth Certificate (will be copied and returned)
- Baptismal Certificate (if applicable for Sacramental purposes)
- Any other relevant reports (Medical/Psychological etc.)

Completion of an Application Form for Admission or the placement of a child's name on a waiting list does not confer a right to a place in the school.

9. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Thomond Primary School 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 within the time frame specified in our annual admission notice for receiving applications

(Please see [section 14](#) below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and [section 15](#) 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.

10. 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 [section 19](#) below for further details).

11. Acceptance of an offer of a place by an applicant

In accepting an offer of admission from Thomond Primary School, 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.

12. 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 Thomond Primary School where—

- a) it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- b) 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.
- c) 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
- d) an applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of 'acceptance of an offer' as set out in [section 11](#) above.

13. 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.

Section 66(6) allows a school to provide a patron or another board of management with a list of the students in relation to whom—

- (i) an application for admission to the school has been received,
- (ii) an offer of admission to the school has been made, or
- (iii) an offer of admission to the school has been accepted

The list may include any or all of the following:

- (i) the date on which an application for admission was received by the school.
- (ii) the date on which an offer of admission was made by the school.
- (iii) the date on which an offer of admission was accepted by an applicant.
- (iv) a student's personal details including his or her name, address, date of birth and personal public service number (within the meaning of section 262 of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005).

14. 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 Thomond Primary School 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 Thomond Primary School 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.

Applicants whose applications are received after the closing date, outlined in the Annual Admission Notice, will be placed at the end of the waiting list in order of the date of receipt of the application.

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.

15. 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.-

Late applicants will be notified of the decision in respect of their application no later than three weeks after the date on which the school received the application. Late applicants will be offered a place if there is place available. In the event that there is no place available, the name of the applicant will be added to the waiting list as set out in Section 13.

16. Procedures for admission of students to other years and during the school year

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students to classes or years other than the school's intake group of Junior Infants are outlined below.

Provision of a place in Thomond Primary School to other years and during the school year is conditional based on the following:

- The Department requirements for the transfer of a pupil from one primary school to another are fully complied with
- The requirements of the Education Welfare Act 2000 are fully complied with
- There is a vacancy in the school
- A completed **Application Form for Admission - Other Classes** (available from the secretary's office or on the school website <https://www.thomondps.ie/>)
- Information/documentation on any special educational or behavioural needs will be requested on offer of enrolment. Thomond Primary School may need to defer enrolment pending resources.
- The school may postpone a decision on enrolment of a student pending a report from an appropriate psychological or medical professional.
- The following documentation will be required upon offer of a place, and failure to provide the documents may result in a refusal to enrol:

- An original Birth Certificate (will be copied and returned)
- Baptismal Certificate (if applicable for Sacrament purposes)
- Any other relevant reports (Medical/Psychological etc.)
- Information/documentation on any special educational or behavioural needs
- Any recent school reports

Places will be offered based on the following conditions:

- Criteria as outlined on the policy has been met
- Class numbers
- Available space in classrooms

17. Declaration in relation to the non-charging of fees

The Board of Management of Thomond Primary School 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.

18. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parents have requested that the student attend the school without attending religious instruction in the school:

- A written request should be made to the Principal of the school by the parent.
- Students will be accommodated in their own classroom and they will be given alternative work to complete by their class teacher during religious instruction.

These arrangements will not result in a reduction in the school day of such students.

19. Reviews/appeals

Review of decisions by the board of Management

The parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may request the board 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 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.

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management on **8th June 2020**.

Signed: **Canon Donal McNamara** Chairperson, Board of Management

The contents of this policy have been approved by St. Senan's Education Office, acting on behalf of the Patron.

