

## **Enrolment Policy**

The enrolment of pupils in St. Nicholas' N.S. is set out in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act (1998) and is at the discretion of the Board of Management.

The chairperson of the Board of Management, Mr. James Clarke, Adare and the principal teacher, Mrs. Margaret Brickenden, St. Nicholas' N.S. Adare will be happy to clarify any further matters arising from the policy.

The Board of Management makes decisions in relation to applications for enrolment in accordance with school policy. The Board will notify the parents of their decision within 21 days of receiving such information.

As a general principal and in so far as practicable having regard to the school's enrolment policy, children will be enrolled on application, provided there is space available.

The Board will have regard for the relevant Department of Education and Science guidelines in relation to class size and staffing provisions and /or any other relevant requirements concerning accommodation, including physical space and the health and welfare of the children.

The Board is bound by the Department of Education and Science's Rules for National Schools which provides that pupils may only be enrolled from the age of four years and upwards, though compulsory attendance does not apply until six years of age.

In the event that application for enrolment exceed/ is expected to exceed the number of places available for following decision making process may apply. The Board will exercise its discretion in the application of the following criteria:

- Children who belong to the Church of Ireland and Methodist/Presbyterian tradition and those who come from other Protestant backgrounds, within the traditional catchment area of the school/parish.
- Children who have siblings already enrolled in the school.
- Children in the (1) above but outside the parish.
- Children who belong to other religious denominations and those of no religious affiliation

The school depends on the grants and teacher resources provided by the Department of Education & Science and it operates within the regulations laid down, from time to time by the Department of Education and Science. School policy has to regard to the resources and funding by the department.

The school follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Science, which may be amended, from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 & 30 of the Education Act (1998).

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

Inclusiveness, particularly with reference to the enrolment of children with a disability or other special educational need;

- Equality of access and participation in the school;
- Parental choice in relation to enrolment; and
- Respect for diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life in society.