



**Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Fheargus,  
An Gleann,  
Co. Luimnigh.**

**St.Fergus' National School,  
Glin,  
Co. Limerick.  
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## **ENROLMENT POLICY – *St. Fergus' National School***

### **Introductory Statement:**

This enrolment policy is being set out in accordance with the provision of the Education Acts of 1998 and 2000. The Board of Management trusts that by so doing, parents will be assisted in relation to enrolment matters. The chairperson of the Board of Management, Mr. Jack Dunne and the Principal Mrs. Deirdre Kennelly will be happy to clarify any matters arising from the policy. St. Fergus National School operates under the Rules for National Schools, The Education Act (1998), The Education Welfare Act (2000), the Education of Persons with Special Education Needs Act (2004), all relevant equality legislation and Department of Education & Skills Circulars.

### **Aims of the Policy:**

This policy provides general information on St. Fergus' National School and outlines the procedures for enrolment in the school.

### **General Information:**

St. Fergus National School,  
Glin,  
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Roll No: 20102T

St. Fergus' National School is a Catholic school under the patronage of the Bishop of Limerick. A Catholic Ethos permeates all aspects of the curriculum. The school has 4 Mainstream class teachers, 2 Resource teachers, and 1 Learning Support teacher.

St. Fergus' National School is a co-educational school in which the full ranges of classes is taught. The school depends on the grants and teacher resources provided by the Department of Education & Skills and it operates within the

regulations laid down from time to time by the Department. School policy has regard to the resources and funding available.

The curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills are followed. These programmes may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act 1998. Within the context and parameters of Department regulation and programmes, the rights of the patron as set out in the Education Act, 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 education need.
- Equality of access and participation in the school
- Parental choice in relation to enrolment.
- Respect for the diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life in society.

The official opening and closing times for St. Fergus National School are 9.20 a.m. to 3.05 p.m. Pupils are expected to arrive on time and parents are expected to collect their children on time each day. The Board of Management does not accept responsibility for pupils outside of opening and closing times.

In early September a letter is sent to each parent/guardian informing them of intended school closures for the school year.

### **Enrolment Procedures:**

- In Term 2 each year parents/guardians are invited to enroll new entrants to the school.
- Parents/guardians are informed of this enrolment opportunity through word of mouth and also by placing a notice in the parish newsletter.
- A standard Enrolment Application Form (appendix 1), together with a cover letter will be available to each applicant from the school office or will be posted on request.
- Completed Enrolment Application Forms should be returned to the school. The closing date for receipt of application is the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014.
- An Enrolment Registration Form (appendix 2) also forms part of the enrolment procedures. This form will accompany the letter of offer issued to parents/guardians and must be returned to the school within 14 days of the date of issue. Failure to return this form will be interpreted as a refusal of the offer to enrol.
- The address at which the applicant resides will be the address used by the school for correspondence.
- The completion of an enrolment application form or the placement of your child's/ward's name on a list, however early, does not confer an automatic right to a place in the school.

## **Decision Making**

Decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the Board of Management in accordance with school policy. The Board will notify parents of their decision within 21 days of the closing date for the receipt of applications.

The Board will have regard for relevant Department of Education and Skills 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 children.

The Board is bound by the Department of Education and Skills' *Rules for National Schools* which provides that pupils may only be enrolled from the age of 4 years and upwards, though compulsory attendance does not apply until the age of 6 years. Children applying to enrol in St. Fergus National School must have reached the age of 4 years by August 31<sup>st</sup> of the year they will commence school.

In the event that applications for enrolment exceed/is expected to exceed the number of places available the following decision making process will apply:

- Applications with siblings currently enrolled in the school.
- Children residing in Glin parish.

The Board of Management reserves the right to determine the maximum number of children in each separate classroom bearing in mind Department of Education guidelines in relation to class size and staffing provisions. Other factors that may be considered are:

- Size and available space in classrooms.
- Educational needs of children of a particular age.
- Multi-grade classes.
- Presence of children with special educational/behavioural needs.
- Health & Safety.

## **Enrolment of Children with Special Needs**

On enrolment of children with special needs the Board of Management will request a copy of the child's medical and/or psychological report or where such a report is not available, will request that the child be assessed immediately. The purpose of the assessment report is to assist the school in establishing the educational and training needs of the child relevant to his/her disability or special needs and to profile the support services required.

Following receipt of the report, the Board will assess how the school can meet the needs specified in the report. Where the Board deems that further resources are required, it will request the Special Education Needs Organiser (NCSE see Circular 01/05) to provide the resources required to meet the needs of the child as outlined in the psychological and/or medical report. These resources may include for example, access to or the provision of any or a combination of the following: visiting teacher service, resource teacher for special needs, special needs assistant, specialised equipment or furniture, transport services or other.

The school will meet with the parents/guardians of the child and with the SENO to discuss the child's needs and the school's suitability or capability in meeting those needs. Where necessary, a full case conference involving all parties will be held, which may include parents, principal, class teacher, learning support teacher, special class teacher, resource teacher for special needs, Special Educational Needs Organiser or psychologist, as appropriate.

It may, in certain circumstances, be necessary for the Board of Management to defer admission of a child pending the completion of an assessment report and/or provision of the necessary resources by the Department of Education and Science.

### **Pupils Transferring:**

Applications for enrolment during the school year will be considered subject to school policy, available space and the provision of information concerning attendance and the child's educational progress.

Such applications will only be considered for admission on the first day of each new term unless the applicant is newly resident in the area.

### **Code of Behaviour:**

All offers of enrolment are subject to acceptance of the School's Code of Behaviour, a copy of which is furnished to parents with Registration Form.

### **Appeals:**

The Board of Management of St. Fergus National School, in compliance with section 19(3) of the Educational Welfare Act 2000 will make a decision in writing in respect of an application for enrolment within 21 days of the closing date for the receipt of enrolment applications and will inform the parents/guardians in writing of that decision.

Parents/guardians will be informed of their entitlement to appeal a decision of the Board of Management in relation to a refusal to enrol in the letter issued 21 days after the closing date for the receipt of applications. (Please note the address at

which the applicant resides will be the address used by the school for correspondence regarding enrolment).

If the Board of Management refuses to enrol a student in the school, the parent/guardian of the student may appeal the decision at local level. The appeal must be submitted within 10 days of the date of the refusal to enrol. It must be made in writing, addressed to the Chairperson of the Board, and clearly state the grounds for the appeal. The Board of Management will respond within 10 days of the receipt of such an appeal.

If following the conclusion of the appeal procedures at school level, a parent/guardian is dissatisfied with the decision made that parent/guardian has a statutory entitlement under section 29 of the Education Act (as amended by Section 4 of the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2007), to appeal that decision to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Science. It should be noted that such an appeal must be lodged within 42 days of the school's refusal to enrol.

Details on appealing decisions on enrolment under section 29 of the Education Act (as amended by Section 4 of the Education (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 2007), are available on the Department of Education and Science website at [www.education.ie](http://www.education.ie)

### **Exceptional Cases**

The Board of Management of St. Fergus National School reserves the right to refuse enrolment or, to rescind an offer of enrolment to any child, in exceptional cases. Such an exceptional case could arise where either:

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

**Policy Approval/Ratification**

The policy was ratified by the Board of Management of St. Fergus National School on \_\_\_\_\_ .

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
TOMMY WALLACE,  
Chairperson,  
Board of Management

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

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_  
On behalf of the Patron.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_