

Admission Policy of Esker Educate Together National School

**The Glebe, Esker Lane,
Lucan
Co. Dublin
Roll number: 20274C
Patron: Educate Together**

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 27th September 2024 and by the BOM on 30th September 2024. 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 Esker Educate Together National School's (ETNS) 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.

Esker Educate Together NS is part of the Lucan Common Enrolment System (LCES) along with Adamstown Castle ETNS, Lucan East ETNS and Griffeen Valley ETNS. All admissions will involve a centralised application to the four schools. Children are assigned to one of the four schools based on specific criteria.

The total number of places available for Junior Infants for each school year will be published on the LCES annual admissions notice. All applications received in the Lucan Common Enrolment System process will be offered a place or placed on a waiting list. Offers will be made based on the agreed criteria of siblings and proximity between home and school.

The primary aim of this system is to promote inclusive local schools, to improve traffic management and mobility in Lucan and to encourage strong, integrated local communities.

2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

Educate Together schools are committed to the values laid down in Educate Together's Charter. Our schools are learner-centred, equality-based, co-educational and democratically-run. This means that all members of the school community, whatever their social, cultural or belief background, work together in an atmosphere of dignity and respect. Students follow an Ethical Education curriculum, learning about morality and spirituality; equality and justice; belief systems and an ethical approach to the environment. It teaches students about different belief systems as well as atheism, agnosticism and humanism, without promoting any one worldview over another. Our equality-based ethos informs all policies and practices in the daily life of the school. In exercising this policy making and decision-making responsibilities, the school's Manager/Board of Management upholds the characteristic spirit of the school.

Educate Together schools provide for equality of access in line with the Educate Together Charter and offer places to siblings enrolled in the school at the same time in the first instance.

The definition of a sibling in this policy includes step siblings and foster siblings who are enrolled in the school at the same time. It also may include extended family or people living at the same of address. It is essential that proof of same is provided on admission.

3. Admission Statement

Esker ETNS will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

- (a) the sex or 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.

Esker ETNS will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 in relation to the provision of education to children with additional (“special”) educational needs, including in particular by the provision and operation of a specialised class or classes when requested to do so by the Council.

Esker ETNS will comply with any direction served on the board or the patron under section 37A and 67(4)(b) of the Education (Admissions to Schools) Act 2018.

Esker ETNS is a school which has established a class, with the approval of the Minister for Education, which provide(s) an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of additional (“special”) educational needs specified by the Minister and may refuse to admit to this class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

4. Categories of Additional (“Special”) Educational needs catered for in Esker ETNS

Esker ETNS, with the approval of the Minister for Education, has established a specialised class to provide an education exclusively for students with autism¹.

5. Admission of Students

Names of all applicants for mainstream classes, Junior infants and other year groups (Senior infants to Sixth class) are placed on the LCES database hosted by Aladdin, an independent database company. Children on the database will be allocated to one of the four participating schools, until all available places are filled. The LCES, using an agreed algorithm through the Aladdin database, will determine the school to which the child will be assigned based on the agreed criteria of sibling, proximity and children returning to the school. (See Section 7 below)

A separate admissions process will be run for applications to Esker ETNS specialised class for children with autism. If the class is oversubscribed, please see Section 7b below.

Esker ETNS shall admit all applicants assigned by the LCES, except where –

- (a) the school is oversubscribed (please see section 7(a) below for further details)

¹ Please note that because not all of the schools in the Lucan Common Enrolment System have specialised classes for children with autism, admissions are managed by each individual school, but under a similar process.

- (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) Where a student is less than 4 years of age prior to the start of the school year concerned.
- (d) Where a child is 13 years of age or older on the 1st September of the school year concerned.
- (e) The specialised class for children with autism attached to Esker ETNS provides an education exclusively for students with autism and the school may refuse admission to this class, where the student concerned does not have the specified category of additional (“special”) educational needs provided for in this class.

6. 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 preschool or pre-school service - however it is strongly recommended that children avail of the Free ECCE scheme.
- (b) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school.
- (c) a student’s academic ability, skills or aptitude other than in relation to admission to a specialised class for children with autism insofar as it is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not the student has the category of special educational needs concerned and/or
- (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 students who are enrolled in the school at the same time,
- (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 during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned.

7. Oversubscription

a) Mainstream classes - Junior infants

The Boards of Management of each school in the LCES will determine the number of places that are available to offer through the LCES system in any given year. In the event that the participating schools are oversubscribed, the school Principals (on behalf of their respective BOMS) 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 LCES annual admission notice for Junior Infants.

Priority Category 1: Siblings

Applicant students who are siblings of children and enrolled in an individual school at the same time.

Priority Category 2: Proximity to the school

Applicant's proximity to the school. Proximity will be determined by reference to the distance between the applicant's house and the school as determined on the GCS (Geographic Coordinate System) in the area. An individual school will offer remaining places to the children who are in closest proximity to that school, in the order of proximity, as determined by the Aladdin data base.

Due to the close proximity of Lucan East ETNS and Griffeen Valley ETNS one GPS reference point (being the centre point of the roundabout between the two schools) is used to allocate places randomly between these two schools.

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), places will be offered or added to a waiting list by the earlier date of birth of the student.

b) Mainstream classes - Other year groups (Senior infants to Sixth class)

The Boards of Management of each school in the LCES will determine the number of places that are available to offer through the LCES system in any given year. In the event that the participating schools are oversubscribed, the school Principals (on behalf of their respective BOMS) 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 LCES annual admission notice.

Priority Category 1: Returning students

Applicant students who are returning to Esker ETNS from a reading school or speech and language special placement school.

Priority Category 2: Siblings

Applicant students who are siblings of children and enrolled in an individual school at the same time.

Priority Category 3: Proximity to the school

Applicant's proximity to the school. Proximity will be determined by reference to the distance between the applicant's house and the school as determined on the GCS

(Geographic Coordinate System) in the area. An individual school will offer remaining places to the children who are in closest proximity to that school, in the order of proximity, as determined by the Aladdin data base.

Due to the close proximity of Lucan East ETNS and Griffeen Valley ETNS one GPS reference point (being the centre point of the roundabout between the two schools) is used to allocate places randomly between these two schools.

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), places will be offered or added to a waiting list by the earlier date of birth of the student.

c) Specialised Class for children with autism

If the specialised class for children with autism is oversubscribed the school will apply the following selection criteria to students. These will be applied in the order listed below to applications received within the timeline as set out in the school's annual admission notice for the class for children with autism. The child must have a diagnosis of autism meeting DSM IV/5 or ICT diagnostic criteria, irrespective of cognitive ability and must have a recommendation for placement in a specialised class for children with autism in a mainstream school.

Applicant students who have reached the age of 4 before the 1st of September of the year they are starting school.

Priority Category 1:

Applicant students who are currently attending Esker ETNS.

Priority Category 2:

Applicant students who are siblings of children currently attending the school and are within the age range suitable for the individual class (Junior Class JI-3rd or Senior Class 4th – 6th).

Priority Category 3:

Applicant students living within the area bounded by the following four roads: N4, R113, R120 and Thomas Omar Way/Adamstown Avenue and are within the age range suitable for the individual class (i.e. Junior Class or Senior Class).

Priority Category 4:

Applicant students living with an address in Adamstown and are within the age range suitable for the individual class (i.e. Junior Class or Senior Class).

Priority Category 5:

Applicant students living with an address in Lucan and are within the age range suitable for the individual class (i.e. Junior Class or Senior Class).

In the event that there are two or more students tied for a place or places in a particular class i.e. Junior/Senior in any of the selection criteria categories above (the number of applicants exceeds the number of remaining places), places will be offered or added to a waiting list by the later date of birth.

8. Late Applications

All applications for admission to Junior Infant classes received after the closing date (as outlined in the annual admission notice for **Junior Infants and other year groups (mainstream classes)**) will be considered and decided upon based on a) siblings and b) proximity, in accordance with our school's admissions policy, the Education Admissions to School Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act

All applications for admission to mainstream classes from Senior Infants to 6th class received after the closing date will be considered and decided upon based on a) siblings and b) proximity, in accordance with our school's admissions policy, the Education Admissions to School Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act.

All applications for admission received after the closing date as outlined in the annual admission notice for our **specialised class for children with autism** will be considered and decided upon based on the 5 categories above 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 not later than three weeks after the date on which the school received the application. Late applicants will be offered a place if there is a place available. In the event that there is no place the applicant will be allocated the next available place on the waiting list.

9. Waiting list in the event of oversubscription

In the event of there being more applications to the school year concerned than places available in Junior infants or other year groups, a waiting list of students whose applications for admission to LCES were unsuccessful due to the schools being oversubscribed will be compiled and will remain valid for the school year in which admission is being sought

Placement on the waiting list is formulated by the LCES database system. This list is in the order of priority assigned to the students' applications after LCES has applied the selection criteria in accordance with this admission policy see section 7 above.

Late applications will be added to the list and dealt with in accordance with Section 8 above.

In the event of there being more applications to the school year concerned than places available in our specialised class for children with autism, a waiting list of students will be compiled and will remain valid for the school year in which admission is being sought.

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.

Late applications will be added to the list and dealt with in accordance with Section 8 above.

Waiting lists for mainstream classes and the specialised class for children with autism for any given school year will expire at the end of that school year.

10. Admissions of students after the commencement of the school year

If a place is available after the commencement of the school year in which admission is sought, the place will be offered to the next place on the waiting list if there is one or to the next application.

11. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Esker ETNS will be based on the following:

- (a)** Our school's admission policy
- (b)** The school's annual admission notice (where applicable)
- (c)** The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in our annual admission notice for receiving applications

Selection criteria that are not included in the LCES admission policy will not be used to make a decision on an application for a place in our schools.

In the event that a child is not offered a school place from their nearest LCES school, the child will be offered the nearest available LCES school.

12. Notifying applicants of decisions

Applicants will be informed in writing as to the decision of the school, within the timeline outlined in the relevant annual admissions notice but no later than three weeks after the annual admissions process or for late applications, three weeks after the school receives an application.

If a student is not offered a place in any of the four participating schools, the reasons why they were not offered a place will be communicated in writing to the applicant and details of the student's place on the waiting lists for the school year.

Applicants will be informed of the right to seek a review/right of appeal of the LCES allocation (see [section 17](#) below for further details).

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

Parents must respond within the timeline indicated in the letter of offer. If there is no response to the offer within the given timeframe as set out by the annual admission notice,

the offer of the place is withdrawn. It is the responsibility of the parent to monitor the email address that they have provided to the LCES for this Application process.

In accepting an offer of admission to Esker ETNS you must indicate —

- (a) 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
- (b) whether or not you have applied for and are 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.

If a child is offered a place in a LCES school and the parent or guardian wishes to send the child to a different LCES school, they must reapply to the LCES.

This new application will be dealt with by the LCES, according to the criteria set out in sections 5, 7 and 8 above.

14. 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 Esker ETNS 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 13](#) above.

15. 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 —

- (a) An application for admission to the school has been received
- (b) An offer of admission to the school has been made, or
- (c) An offer of admission to the school has been accepted.

The list may include any of the following:

- (a) The date on which an application for admission was received by the school

- (b) The date on which an offer of admission was made by the school
- (c) The date on which an offer of admission was accepted by an applicant
- (d) 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)

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

The Board of Esker ETNS 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.

17. Reviews/Appeals

For mainstream classes, the parent of the student may request the LCES to review a decision to refuse admission.

The LCES will determine the particular Board of Management to which an applicant may appeal. The LCES will select the Board based on which school the applicant would have been allocated if the schools had not been oversubscribed, based on the agreed criteria of a) siblings and b) proximity.

For specialised classes for children with autism the parent of the student may request the Board of Management of Esker ETNS 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.

The Board of Management 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 within 21 calendar days of the date** 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 within 21 calendar days of the date** 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 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 **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).

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.

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.

More information on appeals can be found [here](#).

18. Data Protection

The school acknowledges its obligations as a data controller under the Data Protection Acts 1988 - 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Information obtained for the purposes of allocating places in the school to students will only be used and disclosed in a manner which is compatible with this purpose. Only such personal data as are relevant and necessary for the performance of this function will be retained. The school undertakes to ensure that such information is processed fairly, that it is kept safe, secure, accurate, complete, and up to date. Individuals have the right to have any inaccurate information rectified or erased. All data submitted as part of the admissions process will be destroyed within twelve months of the end of the school year the application is for (as opposed to the receipt of the application). A copy of all personal data obtained and kept as part of the admissions process will be made available to the subject of such data on receipt of a written request to the chairperson of the board of management.

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on 30th September 2024 and will be reviewed annually.