

Admission Policy of St James' NS



School Address: Cappagh, Askeaton, Co. Limerick

School Website: www.cappaghns.com

Roll number: 09702H

School Patron: Bishop Brendan Leahy

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 24th April 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 St. James' NS 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 Board will communicate to the school community via The Annual Admission Notice, school pupils, school website, parish mass and local newspaper (The Observer) regarding applications for enrolments. Application forms are available from the school office. These forms are sent to those seeking enrolments, the closing date for receipt of applications is April 22nd 2024.

2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

St. James' NS is a Catholic co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Limerick.

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

and which 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 St. James’ NS 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.

Our school recognises that each child is an individual; that all children are creative; that all children need to succeed. Therefore, St. James’ School respects the individual needs of children; fosters a caring and creative environment; and emphasises the social, emotional, physical, intellectual, spiritual and moral development of each child.

Here, we seek to create a challenging learning environment which encourages our pupils to succeed through appropriate instruction. We endeavour to foster positive relationships among students, teachers, parents and the wider community.

3. Admission Statement

St. James’ NS 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.

All denominational schools

St. James' NS 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 as a student a person who is not of the Catholic faith and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Note for Parents: the inclusion of the above wording was mandated by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018.

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

St. James' Primary School is a mainstream primary school. St. James' Primary School with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established a class to provide and education exclusively for students with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) (see Appendix 1 for enrolment criteria to this special class).

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

All denominational schools

St. James' NS is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the Catholic faith where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Note for Parents: the inclusion of the above wording was mandated by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018.

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:

Selection criteria determined by BoM:

1. *Applicants with siblings currently enrolled in the school (including stepsiblings, resident at the same address), priority eldest;*
2. *Children residing in the parish, priority eldest; (confirmed with a utility bill)*
3. *Children of staff members, priority eldest ;*
4. *Children/Grandchildren of past pupils, priority eldest;*

5. *Children not fitting into the above criteria will be entered into a lottery (independently verified)*

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

1. Size and available space in classrooms.
2. Educational needs of children of a particular age and of existing children already enrolled in the school.
3. Multi-grade classes.
4. Presence of children with SEN/behavioural needs.
5. Health and Safety.
6. Overall School capacity.
7. Availability of grants, resources, facilities and staff;

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:

- Priority to eldest in accordance with the above criteria.

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, other than in relation to a student's prior attendance at—
 - (I) an early intervention class, or
 - (II) an early start pre-school, specified in a list published by the Minister from time to time;
- (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, in the case of selection criteria mentioned in section 6 above)

In relation to parents and grandparents having attended, a school may only apply this criterion to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the

school's annual admission notice.

- (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.

8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to St. James' NS will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy
- The school's annual admission notice (where applicable)
- 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

(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.

9. 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 18](#) below for further details).

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

In accepting an offer of admission from St. James' NS , 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.

11. 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 St. James' NS where—

- (i) it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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
- (iv) an applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of 'acceptance of an offer' as set out in [section 10](#) above.

12. 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).

13. 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 St. James' NS 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 St. James' NS 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.

14. 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.

15. 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 who are not already admitted to the school to classes or years other than the school's intake group are as follows:

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 be dealt with on a case-by-case basis but will normally only be considered for admission on the first day of each new term unless the applicant is newly resident in the area.

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school, after the commencement of the school year in which admission is sought, are as follows:

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 St. James' NS 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 St. James' NS 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.

Junior Infants, with the exception of students transferring from another school, may only be admitted to the school prior to September 30th of that school year.

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

The board of St. James' NS 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. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

Our school is of a Catholic ethos and, in keeping with that ethos, children of all or no other faith are welcome to apply to this school.

We respect the decision of parents to withdraw their child/children from taking part in the religious education curriculum, religious ceremonies, school Masses, etc.

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parent(s)/guardian(s) have requested that the student attend the school without attending religious instruction (etc.) in the school. These arrangements will not result in a reduction in the school day of such students.

A written request should be made to the Principal of the school. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student, to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

18. Reviews/appeal

Review of decisions by the board of Management

The parents/guardians of 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 parents/guardians 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 **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 of St. James' NS on:

9/10/2023

Signed: Cybil Madigan

Chairperson, Board of Management

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

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 of St. James' NS on:

22nd June 2020

Signed: *Cyril Madigan*

Chairperson, Board of Management

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

*Official
Stamp*



Enrolment Application Form

St. James' NS 2024/2025

Pupil's First Name: _____ Surname: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Gender: _____

Address (at which the applicant resides): _____

Name and class of Sibling(s) currently enrolled: _____

Parish in which the applicant resides: _____

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Details:

Name: _____ [] Parent [] Custodian [] Legal Guardian

Address: _____

Home Tel. _____ Mobile _____ Email. _____

Name: _____ [] Parent [] Custodian [] Legal Guardian

Address: _____

Home Tel. _____ Mobile _____ Email. _____

Signature 1: _____ Signature 2: _____

Date: _____ Date: _____

Completed enrolment applications must be returned to **St. James' NS, Cappagh, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. V94 X661** no later than **3p.m. on April 22nd 2024.**

Appendix 1

Special class Admissions

Appendix (3)

Admissions Procedures for the Special Class for Autistic children attached to St James' Primary School

St. James' Primary School, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has decided to establish an ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) Class at St. James' Primary School, commencing September 2024. St. James' National School has a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Limerick.

The decision was taken with a view to provide an education in a mainstream setting for autistic children, who fulfil the enrolment criteria.

This class is for children:

- who have a recognised ASD diagnosis (Diagnosis in accordance with DSM V or ICD 10).
- who have been recommended for placement in an ASD Class in a mainstream Primary School.
- who meet criteria irrespective of cognitive ability, in accordance with DoE guidelines.
- who can aspire to integrate into a mainstream, age-appropriate class.

The maximum class size is 6 pupils.

Our Aims

Our ASD class offers an autism specific learning environment within a mainstream co-educational primary school. This setting facilitates optimum inclusion in mainstream education as part of the school community, as appropriate, while having due regard for levels of general learning disability, resources, and each child's current suitability for such inclusion.

We wish to provide a broad curriculum which focuses on the abilities and strengths of each child while supporting his/her areas of need. We will strive to enhance the communicative and social skills of the children in the ASD class.

Enrolment Procedure

- Registration begins with a referral from the SENO, outside agencies, a telephone call, completion of the enrolment application form for the special class or a visit from parents.
- Requests for Enrolment Application Forms for the ASD Class and queries regarding supporting documentation should be made to:

The Principal, St. James' Primary School, Cappagh, Askeaton, Co. Limerick. Telephone: 069-64780 or email cappaghns1@yahoo.ie

- A school Enrolment Application Form for the Class for Pupils with ASD is then completed.

The Enrolment Application must be accompanied by all of the following supporting documentation supplied by parents:

1. The child must have a diagnosis of Autism / Autistic Spectrum Disorder made using the DSM V or ICD 10 by the psychologist or multi-disciplinary team.
2. Original Birth Certificate.
3. A written psychological assessment /report or a written Report from a multidisciplinary team must be provided. A multi-disciplinary team may consist of a Clinical Psychologist, Occupational

Therapist, Speech & Language Therapist, Social Worker, and a Physiotherapist. (Please note all reports on a child should be provided to the school for assessment by the Admissions Team.

4. There must be a recommendation by the relevant professionals in the report that a special class placement in a mainstream school is both necessary and suitable for the child. This recommendation must be within two years of date of application. In this regard it should be noted that the academic ability of the child will be taken into account when considering an application and will be subject to continuous assessment and review

Points to note:

- All relevant reports and assessments must accompany an application to enrol form including O.T. or Speech and Language report, if relevant. Where there is insufficient information provided about a child, the Board of Management may not be able to make a decision.
- Parents/guardians of prospective candidates may be asked/ required to meet the principal and class teacher prior to enrolment.
- The Board of Management reserve the right to take into account any other criteria they deem relevant.

The closing date for applications will be included on the Admission Notice as outlined in our School's Admission Policy and procedures will follow the school's general Admission Policy.

If the school does not receive the relevant documentation with the Enrolment Application form, the application will not be processed or considered by the school. It is the responsibility of the parent(s) /guardian(s) to ensure that all supporting documentation is correct and is received by the school.

Each application will be considered by the admissions team. The team will include:

School Principal, Deputy Principal, SET, ASD class teacher and relevant class teachers.

A recommendation will be made by the admissions team in relation to each application made to the BOM. Decisions in relation to applications for enrolment are made by the BOM. Existing school, psychological, medical, speech /language, occupational therapy and other reports will be considered. The Principal may also, with written permission, consult with the professionals who prepared the reports on the child before making a recommendation to parents regarding the perceived suitability, or otherwise, of enrolling the child in the ASD class. The BOM will make the final decision.

- All applications received by the closing date will be considered.
- The school may seek the advice of the school's allocated NEPS psychologist to aid enrolment decision making.

All unsuccessful qualifying applicants will be placed on the Placement List, in accordance with the above criteria for places that may become available. All unsuccessful applicants have a right of appeal under Section 29 of the Education Act, 1998 within 42 days from the date of the decision by the Board of Management.

The Placement List is valid for vacancies which occur in the current school year only. All applications will be reviewed with reference to the selection criteria in April each year.

Parents who are offered a place must complete and return our regular Enrolment Registration Form within two weeks of the letter of offer to accept a placement. If the school does not receive the Registration Form within the two week period, the place will be offered to the next child on the Placement List for that school year.

The Board of Management is responsible for and must respect the rights of the existing school community and in particular the children already enrolled.

The principal, in consultation with the wider Admissions' Team will be responsible for placement application decisions and the communication of said decisions to the relevant parents and other parties. If necessary, the Board of Management will review application decisions made by the Principal and Admissions' Team.

Factors taken into consideration during the enrolment process are:

1. Diagnosis – Child must be diagnosed as being on the Autistic Spectrum and have a recommendation for placement in a special class attached to a mainstream school.
2. Integration – School personnel will assess each applicants potential for integration into mainstream classes. Child must be capable of integrating into mainstream, even at a minimal level, at an appropriate age level.
3. Appropriateness – Child must be capable of accessing the Primary School Curriculum. The school may request further information or a meeting with the parent and the child in the school setting, if deemed to be necessary. The school acknowledges that all children with ASD present with differing profiles. For this reason, all applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

NOTE: The receipt of the enrolment application forms, psychological report and written recommendation is not a guarantee of enrolment. It is simply the recording of an application for admission to our school.

Before allocating places, the principal and the admissions team will:

- Review all applications and all documentation relevant to a child applying for a place in the class for pupils with ASD.
- Come to a decision on the suitability of the class for pupils with ASD to meet the needs of the child.
- Verify that there is a recommendation from a recognised Psychologist for placement in a special class in a mainstream school.
- Come to a decision as to the suitability of the child for potential meaningful integration in an age-appropriate mainstream class.
- Verify that the child is 4 years old on or before August 31st on the year of enrolment.

Oversubscription:

In the event that the number of children that apply for a place is greater than the number of places, such places will be filled on review of Enrolment Applications received in the following order of priority:

1. Pupils currently enrolled in our mainstream school and seeking to transfer to the ASD class.
2. Applicants with siblings currently enrolled in the school (including stepsiblings, resident at the same address).
3. Applicants whose primary residence is in the immediate areas of Cappagh Parish, starting closest to the school and radiating outwards from the school.
4. Children of past pupils living locally. (Subject to a 25% capping)
5. Children currently enrolled in another local mainstream school.
6. If spaces are still available, places will be allocated randomly once an assessment has been made by the Principal and S.E.N. Co-ordinator.

In the event of the number of children in any category exceeds the number of places available, qualifying applicants will be offered a place in accordance with a 'first come, first served' basis as per the Waiting List.

Transfers

Pupils may transfer to the ASD class during the school year subject to availability of places. Pupils transferring must enter the same class level that they are leaving, and have the necessary diagnosis and recommendations as outlined above. The school may request other relevant documentation if a pupil is transferring from another school. All documents need to be received in order for the application to be deemed fully completed.

Discharge Policy

It is school policy to facilitate the discharge of pupils once boys & girls have completed 6th Class/ reached the age of 13. It will be deemed compulsory that the year that the student turns 13 will be their last year. Pupils who reach the age of thirteen after September 30th in any year will be permitted to complete that academic year. This means a June discharge in the following year.

The onus will be on the parents to negotiate the placement with a suitable primary/ post-primary School. St James' Primary School will facilitate all transfer of records/reports as well as assist with any information required with regard to students and St. James' National School will be deemed to have authority to forward all relevant reports and assessments to the Secondary school unless specifically instructed in writing not to do so. Discharge from the ASD Class may also happen if a pupil is fully integrated into the mainstream class. Discharge may be recommended after the first and/or any subsequent year if following psychological assessments and consultation with the parents/guardians, it is felt that the placement is no longer appropriate and serves the best interest of the child. The Board of Management has the right to overrule any decision made in this regard.

All placements will be reviewed annually in order to ensure that the placement continues to be appropriate for each child. The maximum class size is 6 pupils. Access to speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy etc. will be dependent on local H.S.E. services.

A review will take place at the end of the child's first year to assess whether the child's placement is appropriate.

- The review will be carried out by school staff with parental involvement
- The outcome of the review will be examined by the Board of Management

Placement

After placement in the class a relevant Individual Education Plan will be provided for the child. This plan will have an input from all parties involved with the education of the child. The ASD Class teacher is only obliged to produce one IEP per school year. It is up to the professional opinion of the teacher involved if the IEP needs to be updated more frequently.

Each child in the A.S.D. class will be assigned to an age appropriate mainstream class for integration purposes provided that this is in the best interests of the child, while having due regard to the educational benefit of all pupils enrolled in our school. Every opportunity will be used to promote inclusion in mainstream classes provided the child is ready for this step and has the necessary supports in place.

Types of Integration:

1. Whole class setting- integration for specific subjects such as P.E., Art etc. This takes place within the mainstream classroom, in the yard/ hall etc.
2. Reverse Integration – i.e. interaction with a group of peers from the mainstream classroom which generally takes place in the A.S.D. classroom. Areas worked on include play skills, social skills, specific subject areas etc.
3. Paired work- children with similar needs can be “paired” when learning particular skills e.g. turn taking. This would generally take place outside of the mainstream classroom.
4. Play- children in the special class will have the opportunity to mix with their peers from mainstream in the yard provided this is in the best interest of the relevant child and their peers.

The provision of integration for the children is dependent on resources and accommodation

Behaviour

It is accepted that children with special educational needs may display difficult, defiant or oppositional behaviours. All efforts will be made by the school to manage such behaviour using various strategies and through the implementation of the child’s Individual Education Plan. In the event that a child's behaviour impacts in a negative way on the other children in the class, to the extent that their constitutional right to an education is being interfered with, as judged by the school’s Board of Management, the school staff, in consultation with the child’s parents and extraneous agencies will review the suitability of their placement.

Ratification and Communication

This ASD Class Enrolment Policy has been ratified by the Board of Management of St. James’ National School, Cappagh, on _____.

The policy will be available via the school’s website.

Monitoring the Implementation of the Policy

The implementation of the policy shall be monitored by the Principal. At least one annual report shall be issued to the board of management to confirm that the measures/procedures set down under the policy are being implemented.

Reviewing and evaluating the policy

The policy should be reviewed and evaluated annually. On- going review and evaluation will take cognisance of changing information or guidelines, legislation and feedback from parents/guardians, students, school staff and others.

The policy should be revised as necessary in the light of such review and evaluation and within the framework of school planning.

Signed: **Cyril Madigan**

Chairperson, on behalf of Board of Management

Signed: **Tara Rocca**
Principal

Date:

This policy will be reviewed annually