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POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOL YEAR 2023/2024

Raheen Wood Community National School

A decision on an application for admission will be based on the implementation of this Policy, the information set out in the Annual Admission Notice of the school and the information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission, once received before the closing date set out in the annual admission notice. The Principal of Raheen Wood Community National School is responsible for the implementation of this Admission Policy.

Introduction to Raheen Wood Community National School

RWCNS is a co-educational, multid denominational, child centred school, founded on the principles of Steiner-Waldorf education, under the Patronage of the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board.

The school operates within the regulations laid down by the Department of Education, and the school Policy has regard to the resources and funding available.

Ethos

Raheen Wood Community National School is founded on the principles of Steiner-Waldorf education and the conviction that a true education must engage and nourish the whole child: body, mind and spirit. It is an education that seeks to awaken capacities. We work to develop an education that is a living, loving process. This education recognises that as a child changes and grows, so does his or her readiness and ability to take up certain tasks in their lives. This education will awaken in them the confidence and truth of their connection to and place in the wider community and world.



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Raheen Wood Community National School is committed to creating an inclusive school that fosters acceptance and respect for diversity of culture, practices, customs, and beliefs, intellectual and physical abilities. Raheen Wood Community National School is one of twenty-seven Community National Schools, which are child-centred, multid denominational, publicly-accountable schools. Our schools strive to provide high quality education for every child and give equal opportunities to all children in the communities we serve. Our four pillars are Excellence in Education, Multi-Denominational, Community–Focused and Equality Based.



Context, Resources, School Organisation & Curriculum

The school supports the principle of equality for all students regarding access to and participation in the school. The school respects the diversity of traditions, values, beliefs, languages and ways of life in society. The school acknowledges the right of parents to send their children to a school of the parent’s choice, subject to the resources available to the school including classroom accommodation, class size, teaching resources and financial resources and subject to the capacity of the school to provide for the needs of any applicant or student. The school will make every effort to secure those resources– but where the resources cannot be secured the school may refuse admission.



The limits to class size which currently apply are as follows:

Kindergarten (Combined Jnr & Snr Infants):	26
1st & 2nd Class combined:	26
3rd & 4th Class combined:	28
5th & 6th Class combined:	28
‘An Cuan’ Special Class	6

The school provides places for 6 children in ‘An Cuan’, our ASD Class. Where possible, children in ‘An Cuan’ are also part of a mainstream class.

The school is staffed in accordance with the standard pupil–teacher ratios sanctioned by the Department and any additional teaching hours sanctioned by the Department in respect of curricular concessions, special needs, special programmes etc. The school operates within the regulations laid down by the Department from time to time.

The capacity of the school to implement its desired curriculum, its broad range of educational programmes, its breadth of extra-curricular activities, its school plan and policies are dependent on the resources it receives. Consequently, in determining its activities and programme for any school year the school must have due regard to the teaching, management and administrative resources and the accommodation, equipment and funding available to it.

We teach the Stay Safe program and RSE at appropriate class level in accordance with Department of Education regulations and as part of our commitment to child protection as well as teaching the ‘Goodness Me Goodness You’ which is a multi-belief and values curriculum that has been developed for Community National Schools.



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Rationale

This policy aims to ensure that the appropriate procedures are in place to enable the school:

- To make decisions on all applications in an open and transparent manner consistent with the ethos of the school and legislative requirements
- To make an accurate and appropriate assessment of the capacity of the school to cater for the needs of applicants in the light of the resources available to it and
- To put in place a framework which will ensure effective and productive relations between students, parents and teachers where a student is admitted to the school

School starts at 8:50am and the school day ends at 1:30pm (Junior and Senior Infants) and 2:40pm (1st-6th class).

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PART A

General Information for All Applicants

- 1. Glossary of terms***
- 2. Admission Statement***
- 3. Legal Framework***
- 4. General Admission Provisions (for all Applicants)***



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1. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

‘Applicant’ means the parent / guardian of a Child who has made an application for admission to Raheen Wood Community National School.

‘Child’ means the person in respect of whom the application is being made.

‘Student’ means the person in respect of whom an offer of admission by the school has been accepted on behalf of the child.

‘Gender’, in line with the definition of “*the gender ground*” in the Equal Status Act 2000, is such that “*one is male and the other is female*”. This does not prejudice any Child who is Intersex or identifies as Androgynous/Androgyne, Bigender, Demigender, Gender Fluid, Genderqueer, Multigender, Neutrois, Non-binary, Transgender, Transsexual or otherwise.

‘Catchment Area’ refers to the designated residential area for application to Raheen Wood Community National School in respect of the person on whose behalf the application is being made. The catchment area for Raheen Wood Community National School is defined as: “*Children whose primary residence is within a 20 kilometre distance by road of the school. If a class is oversubscribed within the application of this particular criterion, then those whose primary residence is furthest from the school will be eliminated first.*”

‘Parent’ has the same meaning as in the Education Act 1998 and includes a foster parent and a guardian appointed under the Guardianship of Children Acts, 1964 to 1997.

‘Early Start Pre-Schools’ refer to the 40 classes established in some designated disadvantaged schools through the form of a one-year intervention scheme for children between the ages of 3 years and 5 years, who are at risk of not reaching their full potential within the school system. The early start classes are offered in the September prior to the Child starting Junior Infants and are designated in a list published by the Minister for Education and Skills. Participation in the ‘Free Pre-



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School' year through the ECCE scheme or an independent pre-school/creche does not qualify as participation in an Early Start Pre-School Class.

'Early Intervention Classes' refer to special education classes established in schools which are available for children aged 3 years – 5 years with autism spectrum disorder (ASD). A small number of Early Intervention Classes are available for children who are deaf/hard of hearing and children with physical disabilities.

'Junior Infants' means the intake group of Students for the most junior class in a school, but does not include the Early Start Pre-Schools/Early Intervention Classes or any crèche or pre-school groups facilitated on site.



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2. ADMISSION STATEMENT

ETB schools are state, multid denominational, co-educational schools underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence in Education
- Care
- Equality
- Community and
- Respect.



As the State provider of education, the ETB sector defines a ‘multidenominational’ school in the following way:

In ETB schools, all students are given equal opportunities for enrolment in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018. Once enrolled, our schools strive to provide all students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life. In all aspects of school life all members of our school communities are treated equitably regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status.

Our schools provide a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. They strive to enable every student to realise their full



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potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. Our schools promote a fully inclusive education that recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents and staff. We prepare open-minded, culturally sensitive and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values.

In ETB schools, students of all religions and beliefs are treated equally. The school environment and activities do not privilege any particular group over another whilst at the same time acknowledging and facilitating students of all religions and beliefs.

Accordingly, Raheen Wood Community National School shall not discriminate in its admission of a child based on the following grounds:

- 2.1. Gender of the child or applicant.
- 2.2. Civil status of the applicant
- 2.3. Family status of the child or applicant
- 2.4. Sexual orientation of the child or applicant
- 2.5. Religion of the child or applicant
- 2.6. Disability of the child or applicant
- 2.7. Race of the child or applicant
- 2.8. The child's or applicant's membership of the Traveller community
- 2.9. Special educational needs of the child or applicant.

Raheen Wood Community National School shall not charge fees or payments or seek contributions as a condition of admission or continued enrolment of a child.



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3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Limerick Clare Education Training Board [LCETB] was established under the Education and Training Board Act 2013 which sets out the functions of all ETBs, including to establish and maintain recognised schools, centres for education and education and training facilities in each ETB's functional area.

The board of management of Raheen Wood Community National School is a committee established under section 44 of the Education and Training Board Act 2013 and also constitutes a board of management within the meaning of the Education Act 1998.

The Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 place a duty on all recognised schools to prepare and publish an Admission Policy.

The Education Act, 1998 provides for an appeal process in the event of a refusal to enrol. The appeal process is set out in section 5.2 in respect of applications made to the Junior Infant group, in section 6.2 in respect of applications made to all classes other than the Junior Infant group and in section 7.2 in respect of applications to the Special Class.

Section 62(7)(n) of the Education Act 1998 requires each school to set out in its Admission Policy the arrangements it has in place where a parent requests their child to opt-out of religious instruction. Where Community National Schools do not provide religious instruction within the school day, the need to make alternative arrangements does not arise. Community National Schools deliver a 'multi-belief and values education' curriculum called 'Goodness Me! Goodness You!' (GMY). This curriculum is designed to cater for children of all religions and beliefs attending the school.

However, if a parent wishes to opt their child out of GMY, the parent/guardian must make a written request to the Principal in the first instance. The request should outline the reasons that s/he is seeking an opt-out. The Principal will then arrange to meet with the parent(s) to discuss the



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request. If, after that meeting, the parent still wishes to opt-out of the subject, the school will make arrangements to facilitate this without it resulting in a shortened school day for the child in question or the use of any Special Educational Needs Teaching hours to facilitate the request.



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4. GENERAL ADMISSION PROVISIONS

A decision on an application for admission shall be based on:

- the implementation of this Admission Policy,
- the annual Admission Notice of the school, and the
- information provided by the applicant in the application for admission.

If, prior to the commencement of section 62 of the Education Act 1998 by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 on the 1st February 2020, Raheen Wood Community National School had confirmed, in writing, that an Applicant had been placed on a list relating to the allocation of school places for entrance before the 1st February 2025, then this confirmation is still valid and the Applicant will be offered that place.

In processing an application Raheen Wood Community National School **shall not consider**:

- 4.1 The payment of fees or contributions to the school
- 4.2 A child's academic ability, skills or aptitude
- 4.3 The occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a child's parent(s);
- 4.4 A child's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, other than in relation to a child's prior attendance at an Early Intervention class or an Early Start Pre-School, which classes and schools are specified in a list published by the Minister.
- 4.5 A requirement that a child or his or her parent(s), attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
- 4.6 A child's connection to the school due to a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school, unless the connection is a sibling of the child concerned



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attending, or having attended, the school. However, the maximum number of places filled by this criterion does not exceed 25% of the available places as set out in the school's Admission Notice for that academic year.

- 4.7 The date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school as long as it is received during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admissions notice for that academic year.

Raheen Wood Community National School will consider the offer of a place to every child seeking admission to the school, **unless the following applies:**

- 4.8 The Parent fails to confirm in writing that s/he accepts the Student Code of Behaviour and shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the child if the child becomes a student in the school;

Where Raheen Wood Community National School considers an application, each Child shall receive a place, unless the school is oversubscribed, in which case, selection criteria will be applied to each application.

Section 5 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for the Junior Infant Group.

Section 6 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for all classes other than Junior Infants.

Section 7 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for the Special Class.



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PART B

Information for Specific Categories of Applicants

- 5. Application to the Junior Infant Group***
- 6. Application to All Classes Other Than Junior Infants***
- 7. Application to the Special Class***



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SECTION 5

APPLICATION TO THE JUNIOR INFANT GROUP

5. APPLICATION TO THE JUNIOR INFANT GROUP

5.1 Admission Provisions (Junior Infant Group)

- 5.1.1. Oversubscription
- 5.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 5.1.3. Selection process
- 5.1.4. Late Applications
- 5.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 5.1.6. Acceptance of a place
- 5.1.7. Refusal
- 5.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer

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- 5.2.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 5.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 5.2.3. Basis for appeal



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5.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (JUNIOR INFANT GROUP)

Where Raheen Wood Community National School is not oversubscribed, all children will be offered a school place, subject to section 4.8.

5.1.1 Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 5.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Raheen Wood Community National School is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which children have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a child does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to the same class group in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that child during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications to all classes other than the Junior Infants Group.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a child is admitted to the school.

5.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority

Raheen Wood Community National School will apply the following criteria for admission to the Junior Infant Group:

- 5.1.2.1 The child will be aged 4.5 years or over on September 1st in year of admission.
- 5.1.2.2 Priority is given to brothers and sisters of children already in the school or who have attended the school in the past.
- 5.1.2.3 The child is a son/daughter of a current member of teaching staff.
- 5.1.2.4 The child or the family of the child, who reside in Ireland, have previous experience of Steiner (Waldorf) Education.



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5.1.2.5 The child resides in the catchment area and their primary residence is within a 20 km distance by road of the school. If the class is oversubscribed within the application of this particular criterion, then a lottery for the remaining places will take place.

5.1.2.6 Any remaining applicants.

Any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not an Applicant is admitted.

5.1.3 Selection process

Raheen Wood Community National School will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available, the remaining applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Raheen Wood Community National School will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

5.1.4 Late applications

An application received by Raheen Wood Community National School after the closing date published by the school, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Raheen Wood Community National School is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications. Such late



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applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school and subsequently the school's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with this Admission Policy.

Where Raheen Wood Community National School is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the child seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within the school, subject to section 4.8 and the same process as applies to applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

5.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a child is in receipt of an offer of a place within Raheen Wood Community National School but does not accept the offer, or fails to accept within the specified time period, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next child on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

5.1.6 Acceptance of a place

If the child in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for refusal as set out below.



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5.1.7 Refusal

Where a child in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the applicant will be provided in writing with:

- 5.1.7.1. The reasons that the child was not offered a place in Raheen Wood Community National School
- 5.1.7.2. Details of the child's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the class-group to which the applicant is applying is oversubscribed
- 5.1.7.3. Details of the child's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
- 5.1.7.4. Details of the applicant's right to appeal the decision.

5.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 5.1.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 5.1.8.2. The 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 for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or
- 5.1.8.3. An applicant has not indicated:
 - (i) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
and
 - (ii) whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the child on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any



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subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that child shall be treated as a late application in line with section 5.1.4 above.

5.2 APPEALS

5.2.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:

An applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Raheen Wood Community National at:

Address: Raheen Road, Tuamgraney, Co. Clare V94RW32

Email: info@raheenwood.org (For the Attention of the Chairperson of the Board of Management)

Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

If an applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, or the board of management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

5.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

An applicant who was refused admission to Raheen Wood Community National School for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may choose to put his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Raheen Wood Community National. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by



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the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an applicant who chooses to appeal to the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, the Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

5.2.3. Basis for appeal:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.



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SECTION 6

APPLICATION TO ALL CLASSES OTHER THAN JUNIOR INFANTS

6 APPLICATION TO ALL CLASSES OTHER THAN JUNIOR INFANTS

6.1 Admission Provisions (other than Junior Infants)

- 6.1.1. Oversubscription
- 6.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 6.1.3. Selection process
- 6.1.4. Late Applications
- 6.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 6.1.6. Acceptance of a place
- 6.1.7. Refusal
- 6.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer

6.2 Appeals

- 6.2.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 6.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 6.2.3. Basis for appeal



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6.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (OTHER THAN JUNIOR INFANTS)

Where Raheen Wood Community National School is not oversubscribed, all Children will be offered a school place, subject to section 4.8.

6.1.1 Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 6.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Raheen Wood Community National School is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which children have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a child does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to the same class group in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that child during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications to all classes other than the Junior Infants Group.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a child is admitted to the school.

6.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority

Raheen Wood Community National School will apply the following criteria for admission to all classes other than Junior Infants:

- 6.1.2.1 Priority is given to brothers and sisters of children already in the school or who have attended the school in the past.
- 6.1.2.2 The child is a son/daughter of a current member of the teaching staff.
- 6.1.2.3 The child or family of the child, who reside in Ireland, have previous experience of Steiner (Waldorf) Education.



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6.1.2.4 The child resides in the Catchment Area and their primary residence is within a 20 km distance by road of the school. If the class is oversubscribed within the application of this particular criterion, then a lottery for the remaining places will take place.

6.1.2.5 Any remaining applicants.

Any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not an applicant is admitted.

6.1.3 Selection process

Raheen Wood Community National School will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available, the remaining applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Raheen Wood Community National School will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

6.1.4 Late applications:

An application received by Raheen Wood Community National School after the closing date published by the school, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Raheen Wood Community National School is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were



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received by the school and subsequently the school's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with this Admission Policy.

Where Raheen Wood Community National School is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the child seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within the school, subject to section 4.8 and the same process as applies to applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

6.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a child is in receipt of an offer of a place within Raheen Wood Community National School but does not accept the offer, or fails to accept within the specified time period, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next child on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

6.1.6 Acceptance of a place:

If the child in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the school's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the school's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for refusal as set out below.



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6.1.7 Refusal:

Where a child in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the applicant will be provided in writing with:

- 6.1.7.1. The reasons that the child was not offered a place in Raheen Wood Community National School;
- 6.1.7.2. Details of the child's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the class-group to which the applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
- 6.1.7.3. Details of the child's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
- 6.1.7.4. Details of the applicant's right to appeal the decision.

6.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 6.1.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 6.1.7.6. The 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 for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or
- 6.1.7.7. An applicant has not indicated:
 - (i) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
and
 - (ii) whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the child on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that child shall be treated as a late application in line with section 6.1.4 above.



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6.2 APPEALS

6.2.1. **Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:**

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Raheen Wood Community National School at:

Address: Raheen Road, Tuamgraney, Co. Clare V94RW32

Email: info@raheenwood.org (For the Attention of the Chairperson of the Board of Management)

Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Admission Policy, same shall apply instead.

If an applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, or the board of management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

6.2.2. **Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:**

An applicant who was refused admission to Raheen Wood Community National School for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may choose to put his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Raheen Wood Community National School. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.



Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an applicant who chooses to appeal to the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, the applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

6.2.3. Basis for appeal:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.



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SECTION 7

APPLICATION TO THE SPECIAL CLASS

7.1. Admission Provisions for the Special Class

- 7.1.1. Oversubscription
- 7.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 7.1.3. Selection process
- 7.1.4. Late Applications
- 7.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 7.1.6. Acceptance of a place
- 7.1.7. Refusal
- 7.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer

7.2. Appeals

- 7.2.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 7.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 7.2.3. Basis for a review by the board of management



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7.1. Admission Provisions for the Special Class

Raheen Wood Community National School has a Special Class, established to cater for the special educational needs of Students with Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

Only applications in respect of Students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Class will be considered. In this respect, the school requires that such needs of the student be verified in a relevant report with an official recommendation for Special Class placement which has been prepared within the 2 years immediately preceding the student's application to the Special Class.

Department of Education/NCSE policy outlines that all ability levels should be catered for within the ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder) Class. The Board of Management supports such a policy unless the nature and degree of the needs of the student are such that to enrol the student concerned would be inconsistent with both the best interests of the student concerned and the effective provision of education for other students with whom the student concerned is to be educated. Students with severe behavioural difficulties will not be enrolled. Under guidelines from the Department of Education the number of places in an Autism Class is limited to six students.

The following criteria applies to the enrolment of students in the special class;

- A psychological report with an official ASD diagnosis.
- The child is recommended for enrolment based on consultation with the National Council for Special Education (NCSE).
- An official recommendation for Special Class placement contained within a relevant report prepared within the 2 years immediately preceding the student's application to the Special Class.
- Students should be engaged with on-going external services.
- Priority will be given to those students who are, in the consideration of Raheen Wood Community National School Board of Management, most able to meaningfully participate in mainstream classes and education but would be unable to do so without the support provided by the resources in place in the school.
- Students in the Special Class are subject to the school's Code of Behaviour



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Where the Special Class in Raheen Wood Community National School is not oversubscribed, all students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Class will be offered a place in the Special Class, subject to sections 4.7, 4.8.

7.1.1. Oversubscription:

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 7.1.4 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Raheen Wood Community National School can offer further places that become available in the Special Class for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which students have been placed on the waiting list.

Where an application is made on behalf of a student for both the Special Class and a mainstream class, and his/her application for one but not both is successful, s/he will remain in the same position on the waiting list for the group to which s/he was not successful, regardless of whether the applicant accepts the place in the group to which the student was successful.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a student does not receive a place in the Special Class for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to Special Class in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications for the Special Class.

If a transfer student is offered a place in the Special Class from the waiting list, the offer is subject to there being a place available in the relevant year group for that student. If there is not a place available in the relevant year group, the next person on the waiting list for the Special Class will be considered for the place in question but this will not change the initial student's place on the waiting list for the Special Class for the remainder of that school year, i.e. if another place subsequently



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became available in the Special Class during that school year, the initial student at the top of the waiting list would be considered first, but again subject to there being a place in the relevant year group for that Student.

For clarity, even if a place becomes available in a given mainstream year group, if there is a waiting list for that year group, the students on that list have first refusal at the place in the year group irrespective of any matters relating to the Special Class.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether a student is admitted to the school.

7.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority

Raheen Wood Community National School will apply the following criteria for admission to all classes other than Junior Infants:

- 7.1.2.1 Priority is given to brothers and sisters of children already in the school or who have attended the school in the past.
- 7.1.2.2 The child is a son/daughter of a current member of the teaching staff.
- 7.1.2.3 The child or family of the child, who reside in Ireland, have previous experience of Steiner (Waldorf) Education.
- 7.1.2.4 The child resides in the Catchment Area and their primary residence is within a 20 km distance by road of the school. If the class is oversubscribed within the application of this particular criterion, then a lottery for the remaining places will take place.
- 7.1.2.5 Any remaining applicants.

Any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not an applicant is admitted.



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7.1.3 Selection process

Raheen Wood Community National School will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available, the remaining applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Raheen Wood Community National School will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

7.1.4 Late applications:

An application received by Raheen Wood Community National School after the closing date published by the school, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Raheen Wood Community National School is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school and subsequently the school's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with this Admission Policy.

Where Raheen Wood Community National School is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the child seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within the school, subject to section 4.8 and the same process as applies to applicants whose applications were received before



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the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

7.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a child is in receipt of an offer of a place within Raheen Wood Community National School but does not accept the offer, or fails to accept within the specified time period, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next child on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

7.1.6 Acceptance of a place:

If the child in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the school's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the school's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for refusal as set out below.

7.1.7 Refusal:

Where a Child in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the applicant will be provided in writing with:

- 7.1.7.1 The reasons that the child was not offered a place in Raheen Wood Community National School;



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- 7.1.7.2 Details of the child's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the class-group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
- 7.1.7.3 Details of the child's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
- 7.1.7.4 Details of the applicant's right to appeal the decision.

7.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 7.1.8.1 The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 7.1.8.2 The 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 for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or
- 7.1.8.3 An applicant has not indicated:
 - (iii) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
and
 - (iv) whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the child on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that child shall be treated as a late application in line with section 7.1.4 above.



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7.2 APPEALS

7.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:

An applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Raheen Wood Community National School at:

Address: Raheen Road, Tuamgraney, Co. Clare V94RW32

Email: info@raheenwood.org (For the Attention of the Chairperson of the Board of Management)

Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Admission Policy, same shall apply instead.

If an applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, or the board of management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

7.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

An applicant who was refused admission to Raheen Wood Community National School for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may choose to put his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Raheen Wood Community National School. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.



Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an applicant who chooses to appeal to the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, the Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

7.2.3 Basis for appeal:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.

Evaluation

The BoM will monitor the implementation of all aspects of the Policy and review and amend the Policy as required, with particular emphasis placed upon

- Effective management placed on application process
- Clarity and transparency relating to the process
- Applicants informed in good time re the status of their application, particularly in the case of refusal to enrol
- Parental feedback

Monitoring Procedures

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the BoM at the appropriate time. It will also be referred by the Principal for consideration by the full staff at the same time. The Principal will report to the Board regarding the process of enrolment in December each year and regularly thereafter until enrolment is complete. Where the Principal refuses admission to any applicant, by the authority delegated to him by the Board in line with this policy, any such refusal shall be communicated to the Board at the earliest opportunity.



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Review Procedure

The policy will be reviewed regularly in the light of experience and will be formally reviewed by the full staff and BoM every year. Any staff member, board member, parent/guardian or student who is unhappy with the content or the implementation of any school policy may request a review at any time and such a request will be dealt with as quickly as possible. Next formal review of this policy will occur before or during the school year of **2024/25** and will take account of stipulations outlined in Circular 07/20.

Signed

Pearse O' Shiel **Chairperson (BOM)**

Date 26/9/23

Alan Tuohy **Principal**

Date 26/9/23

