



Kildare Place School Admissions Policy February 2019.

Kildare Place School, 96 Upper Rathmines Road, Dublin 6, Tel: 01-4978215 is a co-educational national school in the state education system under the patronage of the Church of Ireland Archbishop of Dublin. Originally the school was the Model School for the Church of Ireland College of Education. In 2017 the school became a parish national school, linked to the Church of Ireland Parish of Rathmines with Harold's Cross.

The school has been situated on the Rathmines Campus for 50 years and is an 8 classroom teacher school with one class at each standard.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Admissions Policy (the '**Policy**') for **Kildare Place School** (the '**School**') has been devised in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1998, the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, Equal Status legislation, the relevant sections of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018, directives of the School's Patron and following consultation with the School community.
- 1.2 This policy reflects the characteristic ethos and spirit of the school. In this Policy, any reference to parents is to be taken as including reference to guardians, any reference to child is to be taken to include a child who has been adopted or fostered, any reference to siblings is to be taken as including reference to step siblings and foster siblings.

2. General Information

- 2.1 Whilst recognising the rights of parents to enrol their child in a school of their choice, the Board of Management (the '**Board**') reserves the right to both determine maximum school and class size capacity, in order to ensure the safety and educational needs of students and maintain the characteristic ethos of the school.
- 2.2 In determining the level of admissions, the Board shall take account of Department of Education & Skills ('**DES**') regulations/circulars in relation to staffing, class size and pupil teacher ratios; health and safety requirements, including, for example, traffic restrictions; it shall also have regard to issues such as physical space, multi-grade classes, the presence of pupils with special educational and/or behavioural needs, the number of pupils expected to leave the school, the size of classrooms/play areas/school premises, the deployment of teachers and the resources of the School.

In line with current guidelines published by the Department of Education the Board of Management has set the **maximum class size to 28 pupils with a maximum of 26 pupils per class commencing from August 30th 2018. Due to the reduction in the pupil teacher ratio – the Board of Management reserves the right to have 26 pupils in all classes.**

3. Notification of Intention to Apply Form

- 3.1 Those intending to apply for enrolment of a student in the School (the “**Intending Applicant**”) should contact the School and request a copy of the Registration of Intention to Apply Form. Submission of the Registration of Intention to Apply Form does not offer any priority whatsoever to the Intending Applicant nor does it in any way guarantee a place for him/her either for the term and year requested nor for any other term or year.
- 3.2 If the intention is to seek to enroll a child in less than 21 days, an Application Form should be requested and there will have to be full compliance with this Policy in terms of the application.
- 3.3 Those who have returned a Registration of Intention to Apply Form will be sent an Application Form in the proposed year of proposed enrolment in the School.

4. Applications for Admissions

- 4.1 All applications for a place in the School shall be submitted to the School Principal on the approved Application Form. An Ethos statement and Code of Behaviour (if provided at this stage) will be furnished to each Applicant with a copy of the Application Form at the appropriate time, in advance of the Admissions Application period. Both of these documents are available on the school website. www.kildareplace.ie
- 4.2 The application must be submitted during the Admissions Application period ie between **9.00 am on Monday 25th February** and **2.30 pm on Friday 8th March**.
- 4.3 The School will not accept applications in advance of **9.00 am on 25th February** or after **2.30 pm on Friday 8th March**.
- 4.4 The strict deadline for receipt of fully completed Applications form is **2.30 pm on Friday 8th March (the ‘closing date’)**.
- 4.5 Only those Application Forms that have been completed in full, signed, dated, accompanied by relevant supporting documentation and submitted by the closing date will be considered by the Board. In order for an application to be considered, all required accompanying documentation must be provided prior to the closing date.
- 4.6 An Application Form must be accompanied by**
 - (i) A birth certificate for the student in respect to whom the application has been made (the “**Applicant Student**”)
 - (ii) Proof of address in the form of a utility bill in the Applicant’s name (or in one of the Applicant’s names where there is more than one Applicant), which must be dated no later than three months prior to the closing date
 - (iii) Statement confirming that the Applicant Student is a member of a minority religion, where applicable as outlined below
 - (iv) Evidence to support the statement that the Applicant Student is a member of a minority religion, where applicable, as outlined below.
- 4.7 It should be noted that submission of an Application Form does not confer a right to admission nor does it guarantee a place in the School.
- 4.8 Submitting inaccurate information on an Application Form or in accompanying documentation will render the application void ab initio. Where a place has been

- offered, this will result in the offer of the place being withdrawn, the place being reallocated and the Applicant Student being placed last on the waiting list.
- 4.9 Submission of the Application Form early in the Admissions Application period is not a factor in the allocation of places in the School. If an application is submitted prior to the Admissions Application Period, the application will not be considered by the Board.
 - 4.10 Applicant Students, in respect of whom applications are made for junior infants, must have attained their 4th birthday (or older if applicable) no later than the **1st of May** in the year preceding the school year in respect of which the application for enrolment is made.

5. Consideration of the Applications

- 5.1 The Board having considered the applications, will issue its decisions in writing within 21 days of the closing date.
- 5.2 Waiting lists for Applicant Students only apply for the school year in respect of which the application for enrolment was made and do not carry forward to subsequent years.
- 5.3 Applicants who have been offered a place must inform the School, by completing and returning the admissions acceptance form within **14** calendar days of being offered a place. Failure to do so within this timeframe will result in the place being forfeited and being reallocated.
- 5.4 Any contact with and/or lobbying of school personnel and/or board members regarding an application for admission will automatically disqualify the applicant and a place will not be offered.
- 5.5 **Applications to classes other than Junior Infants.** Admissions to classes other than Junior Infants occur only when vacancies arise in the relevant class. **Such vacancies are rare but we do maintain a registration list.** When a vacancy occurs, the same criteria which apply to admission to Junior Infants will apply to admission to other years. A vacant place if such arises will be offered to a child strictly in accordance with the Admissions Policy. In the event that there are two or more candidates of equal standing for the same place, a lottery will take place.
- 5.6 The foregoing conditions are subject to internal review from time to time and may be changed pursuant to other factors including DES/Patron requirements, changes in legislation etc.

5.7 Priority

Kildare Place School is a Church of Ireland school. In the event that the number of applications exceeds the number of available places, the priority categories below, which are listed in order of priority, are used to determine the priority given to applications in the descending order outlined below from (a) to (c), as follows:

- (a) **Priority Category 1:** An Applicant Student who is a member of the Church of Ireland or a Protestant reformed church or is a member of a minority religion which has the same religious ethos, or a similar religious ethos to the programme of religious instruction/education which is provided in the school¹ and who lives within the boundary of **Rathmines with Harold's Cross Parish**.
- (b) **Priority Category 2:** An Applicant Student who is a member of the Church of Ireland, or a Protestant reformed church or is a member of a minority religion which has the same religious ethos, or a similar religious ethos to the programme of religious instruction/education which is provided in the school² and who lives outside the boundary of **Rathmines with Harold's Cross Parish, but within a 2km radius of Kildare Place School**.
- (c) **Priority Category 3:** All other Applicant Students who comply with the terms of this Policy.

In respect of Priority categories 1 and 2 above, the Applicant must provide the following documentation with the application form in order for the application to be complete, as the School must satisfy itself that the Applicant Student is a member of a minority religion and that it provides a programme of religious instruction or religious education which is of the same religious ethos as, or a similar religious ethos to, the religious ethos of the minority religion of the Applicant Student.

- (i) a statement from the Applicant confirming (i) that the Applicant Student is a member of a minority religion and (ii) that the Applicant wishes the Applicant Student to be educated in a school that provides a programme of religious instruction/education which is of the same religious ethos, or a similar religious ethos to, the religious ethos of the minority religion of the Applicant Student.

and

- (ii) evidence from the Applicant to support the statement that the Applicant Student is a member of the minority religion. This evidence will consist of:
 - a letter from the relevant religious leader confirming, that the Applicant Student is a member of the minority religion **or**
 - the signature and stamp of the relevant Church leader on the application form confirming, that the Applicant Student is a member of the minority religion.

It is to be noted that where oversubscription occurs in any one of the above priority categories, priority will be given within the priority category (and only in that priority category) to Applicant Students who have siblings currently enrolled in the School ("Sibling Applicant Students"). Where the number of Sibling Applicant Students in such a priority category exceeds the available number of places, the remaining places will be allocated to Sibling Applicant Students using a lottery

¹ As defined in Section 7(A)(2) of the Equal Status Act

² As defined in Section 7(A)(2) of the Equal Status Act

system (This system allocates points to each applicant based on their existing family member/s in the school with one point allocated for each year in the school. In the event of a number of applicants having the same number of points – the order of priority will be decided by lottery carried out by an unbiased individual nominated by the Admissions Board.). Where the number of Sibling Applicant Students in such priority category does not exceed the number places available, the remaining places in this category will be allocated using a lottery system of random selection by the Admissions Board.

Where the Applicant Students in a category are not successful in achieving a place, their names will be placed on a waiting list in the order in which such names were drawn in the category. Applicants will be informed of the Applicant Student's place on the waiting list as it applies in the particular priority category.

6 Refusal to Enrol

- 6.1 The School reserves the right to refuse enrolment where an Applicant does not comply with the terms of this Policy.
- 6.2 In exceptional circumstances, the School reserves the right to refuse enrolment where in the opinion of the school:
 - i. The Applicant Student has special needs such that, even with additional resources being made available from the DES/NCSE, the School cannot meet such needs and/or provide the Applicant Student with an appropriate education;
 - ii. The Applicant Student poses unacceptable risk(s) to other pupils, staff and/or school property.
- 6.3 Applicants refused under any of the above criteria will be advised of their right to appeal the Board's decision as outlined below.

7 Appeals Procedure

- 7.1 Applicants who are unhappy with an enrolment decision may appeal under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 to the DES on the official Section 29 Appeal Application Form which can be downloaded from www.education.ie. This appeal must be submitted to the DES within 42 days of receipt of the decision of the Board to refuse enrolment.

8 Ratification and Review

- 8.7 This Policy was ratified by the Board on 23rd January, 2019, and follows guidelines issued by the Patron in respect of admissions.
- 8.8 This Admissions Policy will be regularly reviewed by the Board.