

Admissions Policy

Introduction

Scoil Mhuire is an all girls' voluntary Catholic school under the trusteeship of CEIST (Catholic Education and Irish Schools Trust). The school was founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1936. Scoil Mhuire seeks to provide a quality education for all its students in a challenging and positive environment. The school is committed to holistic development and the achievement of the full potential of each student, particularly those who are disadvantaged or marginalized. The philosophy of the school is synthesised in the Scoil Mhuire Code: Be Responsible; Be Safe; Do Your Best; Cooperate with Others; Treat Everyone with Respect (including yourself).

As trustees of Scoil Mhuire, Trim, CEIST are committed to the successful implementation of the Education legislation, in particular the Education Act (1998), the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, the Equal Status Act 2000 and Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004. The central purpose of the school community is the provision of a learning and teaching environment conducive to the holistic development of the student and the formation of right attitudes and values. CEIST fully subscribe to the principles of partnership, accountability, transparency, inclusion, and respect for diversity, parental choice and equality.

Programmes

The school operates within the context of Department of Education and Skills regulations and programs as set out in the Education Act (1998). The school operates within the religious and educational philosophy of the CEIST and in the context of the funding and resources made available to it. The school supports the principles of inclusiveness, equality of access and participation in the school. It embraces respect for diversity of traditions, values, beliefs and ways of life in society.

The financial and teaching resources of the school are provided by Department of Education and Skills grants, voluntary contributions and fund raising. The school operates within the regulations laid down from time to time by the Department of Education and Skills and follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills, which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Section 9 and 30 of the Education Act 1998. Pupils at Junior and Senior Cycle follow a core programme, with a number of optional subjects. Religious education and physical education are part of the core programme for all pupils.

Funding

Scoil Mhuire is a voluntary Secondary School under the trusteeship of the CEIST. It is grant aided by the Department of Education and Skills. In addition it receives extra funds from various fundraising activities and from a voluntary contribution.

Enrolment Procedures

For those students wishing to enrol in Scoil Mhuire the enclosed **Application for Enrolment Form** along with the **Health Information Form** must be completed and returned to the School Principal on or before **4.30pm on Friday 10th November 2017**. An 'Open Night' for intending pupils and their parents will be held in October. Pupils in local primary schools will be notified in advance. Also please read the school's **Code of Excellence** carefully and **sign the accompanying Declaration Form. This form must be returned when applying for admission (see Checklist)**

Assessment

It should also be noted that all applicants will be required to complete an assessment test in order to help the school to assess the needs of the student. This test is not used to exclude any student. The school operates a policy of non-streaming. All intending students will be notified concerning the date of this test.

Notification

Decisions made in relation to admission are made by the Board of Management in accordance with school policy. Except in very exceptional circumstances decisions regarding enrolment will be notified to parents within 21 days of the closing date for applications.

To ensure a place, parents/guardians must notify the school of their acceptance of a place within 14 days of being accepted.

It should also be noted that under the Department of Education and Skills rules secondary school students must be aged 12 on 1st January in the calendar year following the applicant's entry into first year.

Criteria for Enrolment of New First Years

In the event of excess applications resulting in the school not being able to provide places for all applicants, a points system will operate. One point will be awarded for satisfying each of the following criteria:

- Pupils from Trim Parish
- Daughters of Scoil Mhuire staff members
- Pupils attending primary schools within Trim Parish
- Sisters of present pupils
- Sisters of past pupils
- Pupils from catchment area
- Daughters of past pupils

Places will be offered on a descending order from highest to lowest points. If the number of applicants on the same points exceeds the number of available places, a lottery will be conducted by the Board of Management in the presence of an independent peace commissioner or a Garda Sergeant from the Meath District to determine the successful applicants.

Applications received after the closing date for application:

Late applications will only be considered after the waiting list of applicants who applied on time has been exhausted. Any application received after the closing date will be placed on a supplementary waiting list and numbered in order of the date and time of receipt of the completed application form. Late applicants will only be considered eligible for enrolment after the waiting list of all those who applied on time has been cleared. Places will be offered to late applicants in order of the date and time of receipt of application.

Special Needs

The Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire welcomes pupils with special educational needs. In order to assess the needs of those students the school will access the student's records from primary school in advance of entry into the school. This may involve requesting a copy of the student's medical/psychological or individual educational report if available. The school may deem it necessary to request immediate assessment in order to assist it in establishing educational and training needs of the student relevant to her special needs and to profile the support services required. This will require parental permission.

Having gathered all the relevant information, the Board of Management will assess how these needs can be met. The school will also meet with the parents/guardians to discuss the applicant's needs and the school's capabilities to meet those needs.

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If further resources are required the Department of Education and Skills will be requested to provide the necessary assistance e.g. special needs assistant, specialised equipment, transport etc. The Board of Management will do all it possibly can to identify, plan and provide for the needs of a special needs or disabled student seeking admission to the school.

Transfers

Students may transfer to Scoil Mhuire at any time from another school, subject to the school's Admissions Policy. However the school must be satisfied with reasons for the transfer and to this end information will be requested from the student's former schools concerning attendance, educational progress, disabilities and special needs.

With the best interest of the student in mind and her educational welfare and considering the issues relating to mid year transfer which may include subject choices, class sizes and available resources, the school Board may decide to refuse admission at that time and advise her parents/guardians to reapply if they so wish to at the start of the following school year.

Exceptional Circumstances

Finally the Board of Management wishes to state that it reserves the right to grant/ refuse an application for admission in exceptional circumstances. Also parents have the right to appeal a refusal by a school to enrol a student under Section 29 of the Education Act.

Checklist

When applying for admission to Scoil Mhuire please ensure that you have read the following documents carefully. These are available on the Scoil Mhuire Website www.scoilmhuiretrim.ie. These documents are also available in hard copy on request.

- Admissions Policy
- School Code of Excellence and Conduct
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Policy on Mobile Phones
- Substance Abuse Policy
- Acceptable Use for Computer usage and Internet Access Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Anti-smoking Policy
- School Tours-Field Trip Policy
- Infectious Disease Policy

When applying for admission please make sure you complete and return the following:

- Enrolment Form
- Health Information Form
- Signed Declaration Form

Please return the completed enrolment form to:

**The Principal,
Scoil Mhuire,
Trim,
Co. Meath.**

**Ratified by the Board of Management on: November 2015
To be reviewed: September 2017**