



## **Coláiste na Sceilge**

# **POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOL YEAR 2021/2022**

### **Coláiste na Sceilge Post-Primary School**

*Coláiste na Sceilge, Valentia Rd, Cahersiveen, Co Kerry, V23 Y003.*

**Adopted by the BOM on 21/9/2020**

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 Coláiste na Sceilge is responsible for the implementation of this Admission Policy.

## INTRODUCTION TO COLÁISTE NA SCEILGE

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**Mission Statement:** We Respect, We Care, We Learn, We Develop, We Belong.

**Vision:** Coláiste na Sceilge is committed to creating a community in which everyone is respected, where everyone has an opportunity to develop in a challenging, caring and happy environment, developing people who are fair, caring, assertive, knowledgeable and appreciative of their locality: its beauty, history, culture and amenities. People who have a clear sense of their worth and the valuable role they can play in the betterment of their communities. People who can enjoy their lives to the full.

**History of the School:** Coláiste na Sceilge is situated in Cahersiveen, Co Kerry and was established following the amalgamation in 1999 of St John Bosco Presentation Secondary School and previously the CBS Secondary School, Scoil Uí Chonaill Vocational School and Waterville Vocational School.

The school serves the South Kerry region and the catchment area is from Kells to Castlecove.

There are approximately 513 students with 3-4 classes per year group.

As the only post primary in the catchment area we offer a wide range of subjects to meet the educational and wellbeing needs of our students. We incorporate restorative practice into everything that we do. We provide student centred learning and utilise active teaching methodologies to differentiate the learning for students.

Students have the option of enrolling for the mainstream school, the Irish medium Aonad Lan Gaeilge, the Autism Class or the Special Education Class.

We offer Level 1 and Level 2 Learning programmes, Junior Cycle, Students of the Aonad Lan Gaeilge follow the Teanga 1 (Ref Pdasaidan Oideachais Gaeltachta), Transition Year, Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocations Programme (LCVP), Leaving Certificate Applied (LCA)

We offer many extra-Curricular Opportunities including, Athletics, Basketball, Debating, Drama, Golf, Gym (Sport's Hub), Football, Rugby, Music, Young Scientist, Chess.

We have great successes with our Green Flag initiative, Microsoft 365 and are of course very proud of our sporting heritage and support students in a host of sporting activities.

As an ETB school, we have forged many very strong community links including, KDYS

Cahersiveen Family Resource Centre, Cahersiveen Parish Council, Lorcan Murphy, Iveragh Athletics, GAA coaching, Rugby Coaches, Southern Gaels, Men's shed, Tidy Towns, CoDesRes, Comhchoiste Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh

Tá sciar mór de leithinis Uíbh Ráthaigh sa Ghaeltacht. Dá bharr seo ghlac Seirbhís Oideachais Chiarraí cinneadh i Lár na nochaidí go mbeadh soláthar oideachais Lán Ghaeilge i gColáiste na Sceilge nuair a bhunofaí an scoil. Bunaíodh Aonad Lán Ghaeilge laistigh den mhathair scoil nuair a oscalaíodh Coláiste na Sceilge i 1999. Is léiriú é seo go bhfuil rogha na Gaelscolaíochta ó thuismitheoirí Uíbh Ráthaigh.

San Aonad deantar na habhair lárnacha tré mheán na Gaeilge agus deantar an dá ábhar roghnach tré Bhéarla. Sí an Ghaeilge teanga chumarsáideach an ranga.

Is tuar dóchais don Ghaeilge go bhfuil síol na Gaelscolaíochta préamhaithe san cheantair anois agus bláthú dá réir ag teacht uirthí. Tá pacáiste cuimsitheach curtha le chéile ag Comhchoiste Ghaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh chun an Ghaelscolaíocht a fhorbairt ón mbonn aníos. Tá an pacáiste seo curtha le chéile le cabhair ó Fhoras na Gaeilge. Táimid ag obair i gcmhphartáiocht leis an Oifigeach Oideachais ata fostaithe as C.C.U.R agus an B.O.O.C agus táimid ag tacú go hiomlán leis an bPlean Gníomh don mBaile Seribhíse Gealtachta (Cathair Saidhbhín)

A large part of the Iveragh peninsula is designated as a Gaeltacht area. We greatly acknowledge the vision and support of Kerry ETB since laying the foundations for the Aonad Lán Ghaeilge in 1999 and the Aonad has continued to thrive ever since. This growth illustrates that the parents and students of Iveragh want the choice of an all-Irish provision.

In the Aonad many subjects are taught up to Junior certificate level through the medium of Irish. Irish is also the language of communication of the class. We work closely with the Comhchoiste Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthaigh and the Kerry ETB Irish Officer and we have contributed to Cahersiveen's application to Gaelteacht Services Town

The original vocational school buildings continue to serve the community as a Further Education and Training Centres.

**Characteristic Spirit:** Coláiste na Sceilge is a designated Community College with an Aonad Lan Gaeilge. Designated Community Colleges are established by the signing of a model agreement between an ETB and the local Catholic Bishop and/or a religious

congregation. Kerry ETB is the patron of the school. The model agreement provides for the participation of the Presentation Order in the organisation and management of the community college on an ongoing basis. Coláiste na Sceilge was established in 1999 in a spirit of partnership between Kerry ETB and the Presentation Order.

The inherited traditions, values and founding intentions of Kerry ETB and the Presentation Order remain enshrined in the characteristic spirit and in the life of our school. Our school is a state, co-educational, multi-denominational school underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence in Education/Quality;
- Care;
- Equality;
- Community
- Respect
- Inclusion
- Learning

All members of our school community are treated equally, regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, marital status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status. In our school all students are given equal opportunity for enrolment, in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act (2018). Once enrolled, our school strives to provide all our students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life. Coláiste na Sceilge provides a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. We strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. Our school promotes a fully inclusive education which 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.

Our school is multi-denominational. We welcome, respect and support students of all religions and beliefs. The provision of religious education, religious worship and the work of the Chaplain all combine to reflect the founding intention of the school, the school's mission statement and the needs of the students within the school. The characteristic spirit of the school finds practical expression through the provision of pastoral, liturgical and social outreach activities, as appropriate, for each student.

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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

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**‘Applicant’** means the parent / guardian of a Student, or, in the case of a Student who has reached the age of 18 years, the Student, who has made an application for admission to Coláiste na Sceilge.

**‘Student’** means the person in respect of whom the application is being made. All uses of the word throughout this Policy therefore imply ‘prospective’ as part of the interpretation. That is, the use of the word ‘Student’ does not mean that the application for him/her has been accepted such that s/he is regarded as a Student of Coláiste na Sceilge by virtue of application alone.

**‘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 Student 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 all classes other than the Special Class in Coláiste na Sceilge in respect of the person on whose behalf the application is being made. The catchment area for Coláiste na Sceilge is defined as: Kells to Castlecove.

**‘Catchment Area for the Special Classes’** refers to the designated residential area for application to the Special Classes within Coláiste na Sceilge in respect of the person on whose behalf the application is being made. The catchment area for the Special Classes within Coláiste na Sceilge is defined as: Kells to Castlecove.

**‘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.

**‘Feeder Primary Schools’** refers to the primary schools of preference for application to Coláiste na Sceilge. The feeder primary schools for Coláiste na Sceilge are:

- 1.1. Aghatubrid National School, Direen Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.
- 1.2. Scoil Bhreanainn, Portmagee Co. Kerry.
- 1.3. Coars National School, Mastergeehy, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.
- 1.4. Scoil Crochán Naofa, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
- 1.5. Scoil Náisiúnta Dar Earca, Valentia, Co Kerry.
- 1.6. Foilmore National School, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.
- 1.7. St Finian's National School, Waterville, Co. Kerry.
- 1.8. Scoil Saidhbhín National School, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.
- 1.9. Pobalscoil Náisiúnta An Ghleanna, Baile An Sceilge, Co. Ciarraí.
- 1.10. Scoil Náisiúnta, Cillin Laith, Cill Arney, Co. Ciarraí.
- 1.11. Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Mhichill, Ballinskelligs, Cahersiveen, Co Ciarraí.

**'Aonad Feeder Primary Schools'** refers to the primary schools of preference for application to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge in Coláiste na Sceilge. The Aonad feeder primary schools for Coláiste na Sceilge are primary schools that provide education through the medium of Irish:

- 1.1. Pobalscoil Náisiúnta An Ghleanna, Baile An Sceilge, Co. Ciarraí.
- 1.2. Scoil Náisiúnta, Cillin Laith, Cill Arney, Co. Ciarraí.
- 1.3. Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Mhichill, Ballinskelligs, Cahersiveen, Co Ciarraí.

And all English speaking feeder Primary schools in the catchment area:

- 1.4. Aghatubrid National School, Direen Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.
- 1.5. Scoil Bhreanainn, Portmagee Co. Kerry.
- 1.6. Coars National School, Mastergeehy, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.
- 1.7. Scoil Crochán Naofa, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
- 1.8. Scoil Náisiúnta Dar Earca, Valentia, Co Kerry.
- 1.9. Foilmore National School, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.
- 1.10. St Finian's National School, Waterville, Co. Kerry.
- 1.11. Scoil Saidhbhín National School, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.



For the purpose of the selection criterion relating to the student having a sibling currently enrolled in the school, **‘Sibling’** refers to full siblings, half-siblings, foster-siblings, step-siblings and students who reside in the same household.

**‘Special Class’** means a class that has, with the approval of the Minister of Education, been established by a school to provide an education exclusively for Students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister of Education. Coláiste na Sceilge has two Special Classes, established to cater for special educational needs of Students with the Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Moderate General Learning Disability and Mild General Learning Disability.

**‘Relevant Report’**, as advised by the Department of Education and Skills and the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), means a written report based on an assessment by a relevant professional who makes a recommendation for a Special Class placement. The relevant professional may include an educational psychologist, psychologist, other relevant health professionals, HSE disability services or HSE multi-disciplinary team staff, in line with guidance issued by the NCSE on this point.

**‘Aonad Lán-Gaeilge’** offers partial instruction through Irish in a designated number of subjects to a cohort of Students within the school.

**‘First-Year’** means the intake group of Students for the most junior class or year in a school.

## 2 ADMISSION STATEMENT

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### Kerry ETB's Patron statement

Kerry ETB School is a state, co-educational, multi-denominational schools underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence in Education/Quality
- Care
- Equality;
- Community
- Respect
- Inclusion and
- Learning



As the state provider of education, the Education and Training Board (ETB) sector defines a 'multi-denominational' 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 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, Coláiste na Sceilge shall not discriminate in its admission of a student based on the following grounds:

- 2.1. Gender of the Student or Applicant. However, where a school admits students of one gender only, it is not discriminatory to refuse to admit Students not of that gender;
- 2.2. Civil status of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.3. Family status of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.4. Sexual orientation of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.5. Religion of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.6. Disability of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.7. Race of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.8. The Student's or Applicant's membership of the Traveller community;
- 2.9. Special educational needs of the Student or Applicant. However, where the school provides education exclusively for a category or categories of special educational need(s) in a Special Class, it is not discriminatory to refuse to admit to that class a Student who does not have the specified special educational need(s).

Coláiste na Sceilge shall not charge fees or payments or seek contributions as a condition of admission or continued enrolment of a Student.

### 3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

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Kerry ETB 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 Coláiste na Sceilge 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 (Admissions 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 5.3 in respect of applications made to the First-Year group and in section 6.3 in respect of applications made to all year other than the First-Year group.

Coláiste na Sceilge offers religious education in all year groups as it promotes the holistic development of students and can contribute positively to their wellbeing in line with the principles of the NCCA Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle Frameworks. It facilitates the intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual, values and moral development of students and encourages respect for all members of our school communities. In addition, *religious education* supports the 'multi-denominational' aspect of our school's ethos as it provides opportunities for students to engage with questions around their own religious or non-religious beliefs and those of their peers.

It is important to understand that our school does not provide '*religious instruction*' and therefore the need to opt-out does not arise in this school. It is also important to understand the distinction between '*religious instruction*' and '*religious education*':

- *Religious instruction* is a term used in Ireland to indicate instruction in accordance with the rites, practices and teachings of a particular religion or denomination for

pupils of that religious tradition. Religious Instruction may be provided in a denominational school setting.

- *Religious education* is open to all pupils regardless of their commitment to any particular religion or worldview. It seeks to contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all students equally.

As ETB schools are ‘multi-denominational’, Coláiste na Sceilge supports the provision of *religious education* that caters for all students regardless of their religious or non-religious beliefs and therefore does not provide *religious instruction* in one particular religion or belief.

However, as per Section 30(2)(e) of the Education Act (1998), Coláiste na Sceilge recognises the right of parents, or students over the age of 18, attending publicly-funded schools to withdraw from any subject contrary to their conscience, including *religious education*.

Parents or students over the age of 18 who wish to opt-out of *religious education* must make a written submission to the principal in the first instance. The submission should outline reasons why the opt-out is being requested. The principal will then arrange to meet with the parent(s) or student over the age of 18 to discuss the request. If after that meeting the parent or student over the age of 18 still wishes to opt out of religious education, the school will facilitate this in the following way:

The student shall remain in the classroom during the lesson under the supervision of the Religion teacher however they will continue to work on another subject.

Or

In the case where a student is entitled to resource hours, then access to a resource class may be facilitated at that time.

## 4 GENERAL ADMISSION PROVISIONS

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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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020, Coláiste na Sceilge had confirmed, in writing, that an Applicant had been placed on a list relating to the allocation of school places for entrance before the 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025, then this confirmation is still valid and the Applicant will be offered that place.

In processing an application Coláiste na Sceilge **shall not consider:**

- 4.1 The payment of fees or contributions to the school;
- 4.2 A Student's academic ability, skills or aptitude; unless:
  - it is necessary to ascertain whether or not the Student has the category of special educational needs concerned for admission to a school approved by the Minister of Education providing education exclusively to Students with a specified category of special educational needs or a special class;
  - evidence of same is furnished by the Applicant as evidence of the Student's level of fluency in the Irish language and the school is oversubscribed;
- 4.3 The occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a Student's Parent(s);
- 4.4 A requirement that a Student or his or her Parent(s), attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;

- 4.5 A Student'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 Student concerned attending, or having attended the school.
- 4.6 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 Admission Notice for that academic year.

Coláiste na Sceilge **will consider** the offer of a place to every Student seeking admission to the school, **unless one of the following applies**:

- 4.7 The Parent fails to confirm in writing that s/he accepts the Student Code of Behaviour and he/she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the Student;
- 4.8 The Student seeking admission to a Special Class in the school does not have the category of special educational needs specified by the Minister of Education in respect of that class.

Where Coláiste na Sceilge considers an application, each Student 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 First-Year Group.

Section 6 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for all year groups other than First-Year.

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



# **PART B**

## ***Information for Specific Categories of Applicants***

- 5. Application to the First-Year Group***
- 6. Application to All Year Groups Other Than First-Year***
- 7. Application to the Special Classes***



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# SECTION 5

## APPLICATION TO THE FIRST-YEAR GROUP

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### **5 APPLICATION TO THE FIRST-YEAR GROUP**

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#### **5.1 Admission Provisions (First-Year 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
- 5.1.9. Appeals

#### **5.2 Admission Provisions to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge (First-Year Group)**

- 5.2.1. Oversubscription
- 5.2.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 5.2.3. Selection process
- 5.2.4. Late Applications
- 5.2.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 5.2.6. Acceptance of a place
- 5.2.7. Refusal
- 5.2.8. Withdrawal of an offer
- 5.2.9. Appeals

#### **5.3 Appeals**

- 5.3.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 5.3.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 5.3.3. Basis for appeal

## **5.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (FIRST YEAR GROUP)**

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Where Coláiste na Sceilge is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to sections 4.7, and 4.8.

A Student applying for the First Year Group but seeking admission to the Special Class should see section 7 of this Admission Policy. If the Student is also applying for a place in the mainstream First-Year Group in the event of an unsuccessful application to the Special Class, this section 5 is also applicable.

### **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 Coláiste na Sceilge 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 Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student 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 year group 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 to all year groups other than First-Year.

Where an application is made on behalf of a Student for both the Special Class and a mainstream year group, 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.

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 Student is admitted to the school.

### **5.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority**

Coláiste na Sceilge will apply the following criteria for admission to the First-Year Group:

5.1.2.1 If the student attends one of the feeder Primary Schools;

Note: See section 5.2.2 for selection criteria applicable to admission to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge. See section 7 for selection criteria applicable to admission to the Special Class.

### **5.1.3 Selection process**

Coláiste na Sceilge 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, Coláiste na Sceilge will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

N.B. The number of places available in a year group is subject to reduction in the event that a placement(s) in the Special Class is/are given to Student(s) from that year group, *i.e.* the selection process for the Special Class will be completed before the selection process for the mainstream year group and the number of Students who are offered a place in the Special Class will be the number by which the places in the relevant mainstream year group(s) are reduced<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> This approach is based on section 2 of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004, which requires that: “*A child with special educational needs shall be educated in an inclusive environment with children who do not have such needs unless the nature or degree of those needs of the child is such that to do so would be inconsistent with the best interests of the child as determined in accordance with any assessment carried out .... or the effective provision of education for children with whom the child is to be educated.*”

#### **5.1.4 Late applications**

An application received by Coláiste na Sceilge 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 Coláiste na Sceilge 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, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

Where Coláiste na Sceilge is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within the school, subject to sections 4.7 and 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 Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Coláiste na Sceilge but does not accept the offer, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student 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 Student 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 withdrawal of an offer as set out below.

#### **5.1.7 Refusal**

Where a Student 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 Student was not offered a place in Coláiste na Sceilge;
- 5.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
- 5.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
- 5.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set at 4.7 and 4.8 an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 5.1.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

#### **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 or 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 Student 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 Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 5.1.4 above.

#### **5.1.9 Appeals**

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Coláiste na Sceilge regarding admission to the First-Year Group, see section 5.3.

## **5.2. ADMISSION TO THE AONAD LÁN GAEILGE**

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Coláiste na Sceilge operates an Aonad Lán Gaeilge, which caters for Students who wish to be educated in an Irish-medium post primary setting. Applications made *only* for the Aonad Gaeilge will be considered solely for that purpose. Applications made for the Aonad Lán Gaeilge **and** the English-medium stream will be considered for the Aonad Lán Gaeilge in the first instance and subsequently the English-medium stream.

Where the Aonad Lán Gaeilge for the First Year Group in Coláiste na Sceilge is not oversubscribed, all Students who seek admission therein will be offered a place, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

A Student applying for the First-Year Aonad Lán Gaeilge but seeking admission to the Special Class, should see section 7 of this Admission Policy. If the Student is also applying for a place in the mainstream First-Year Aonad Lán Gaeilge in the event of an unsuccessful application to the Special Class, this section 5 is also applicable

### **5.2.1 Oversubscription:**

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 5.2.2 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 Coláiste na Sceilge 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 Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student 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 year group 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 made to all years other than the First-Year Group.

Where an application is made on behalf of a Student for both the Special Class and a mainstream year group, 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.

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 Student is admitted to the school.

**5.2.2 Selection criteria in order of priority:**

Applications to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge will only be considered where the Aonad Lán Gaeilge was indicated on the application form provided to Coláiste na Sceilge by the Applicant.

Coláiste na Sceilge will apply the following criteria for admission to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge where the Aonad Lán Gaeilge is oversubscribed:

- 5.2.2.1. The Student has attained a level of fluency in the Irish language and said fluency would be likely to regress were s/he not admitted to the Aonad. Applicants are required to provide such evidence as they consider appropriate to demonstrate the Student's level of fluency in the Irish language and how same would regress if the student were not admitted to the school;
- 5.2.2.2. Whether the Student attended an Aonad feeder primary school. (This is in line with the school's right to provide for the inclusion of students that have attended a primary school that provides education through the medium of Irish.);
  - 1.2. Scoil Náisiúnta An Ghleanna, Baile An Sceilge, Co. Ciarraí.
  - 1.3. Scoil Náisiúnta, Cillin Laith, Cill Arney, Co. Ciarraí.
  - 1.4. Scoil Náisiúnta Naomh Mhichill, Ballinskelligs, Cahersiveen, Co Ciarraí.



5.2.2.3. Whether the student attended one of the English medium feeder primary schools.

- 1.5. Aghatubrid National School, Direen, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.
- 1.6. Scoil Bhreanainn, Portmagee Co. Kerry.
- 1.7. Coars National School, Mastergeehy, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.
- 1.8. Scoil Crochán Naofa, Killarney, Co. Kerry.
- 1.9. Scoil Náisiúnta Dar Earca, Valentia, Co Kerry.
- 1.10. Foilmore National School, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.
- 1.11. St Finian's National School, Waterville, Co. Kerry.
- 1.12. Scoil Saidhbhín National School, Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry.

### **5.2.3 Selection process:**

Coláiste na Sceilge will apply the selection process as follows:

Having met the criteria for admission to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge, 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 against 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, Coláiste na Sceilge will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

N.B. The number of places available in the Aonad Lán Gaeilge for a given year group is subject to reduction in the event that a placement(s) in the Special Class is/are given to Student(s) from that Aonad Lán Gaeilge year group, *i.e.* the selection process for the Special Class will be completed before the selection process for the Aonad Lán Gaeilge in a given year group and the number of Students who are offered a place in the Special Class

will be the number by which the places in the relevant Aonad Lán Gaeilge year group(s) are reduced<sup>2</sup>.

#### **5.2.4 Late applications:**

An application received by Coláiste na Sceilge after the closing date published by Coláiste na Sceilge, and set out in the Admission Notice, will be considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Coláiste na Sceilge 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, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

Where Coláiste na Sceilge is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Coláiste na Sceilge, subject to sections 4.7 and 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.

#### **5.2.5 Second/third-round offers of a place:**

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Coláiste na Sceilge but does not accept the offer, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student 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.

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<sup>2</sup> This approach is based on section 2 of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004, which requires that: “*A child with special educational needs shall be educated in an inclusive environment with children who do not have such needs unless the nature or degree of those needs of the child is such that to do so would be inconsistent with the best interests of the child as determined in accordance with any assessment carried out .... or the effective provision of education for children with whom the child is to be educated.*”

### **5.2.6 Acceptance of a place:**

If the Student 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 withdrawal of an offer as set out below.

### **5.2.7 Refusal:**

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

- 5.2.7.1 The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Coláiste na Sceilge.
- 5.2.7.2 Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the applicant is applying is oversubscribed,
- 5.2.7.3 Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable, and
- 5.2.7.4 Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7 and 4.8, an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 5.2.7.5 The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

### **5.2.8 Withdrawal of an offer**

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 5.2.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 5.2.8.2. 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
- 5.2.8.3. 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 Student 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 Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 5.2.4 above.

### **5.2.9 Appeals:**

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Coláiste na Sceilge regarding admission to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge in the First-Year Group, see section 5.3.

## **5.3. APPEALS**

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### **5.3.1. 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 Coláiste na Sceilge at Valentia Rd, Cahersiveen, Co Kerry. V23 Y003, Email [info@colaistenasceilge.ie](mailto:info@colaistenasceilge.ie). 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 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 under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

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

An Applicant who was refused admission to Coláiste na Sceilge 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 Coláiste na Sceilge. 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 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 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 under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

**5.3.3. 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.

# SECTION 6

## APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR

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### **6 APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR**

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#### **6.1 Admission Provisions (other than First-Year)**

- 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
- 6.1.9. Appeals

#### **6.2 Admission Provisions to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge (other than First-Year)**

- 6.2.1. Oversubscription
- 6.2.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 6.2.3. Selection process
- 6.2.4. Late Applications
- 6.2.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 6.2.6. Acceptance of a place
- 6.2.7. Refusal
- 6.2.8. Withdrawal of an offer
- 6.2.9. Appeals

#### **6.3 Appeals**

- 6.3.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 6.3.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 6.3.3. Basis for appeal

## **6.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR)**

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Where Coláiste na Sceilge is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to sections 4.7, and 4.8.

A Student applying for admission to a year-group other than First-Year but seeking admission to the Special Class should see section 7 of this Admission Policy. If the Student is also applying for a place in the mainstream year group other than First-Year in the event of an unsuccessful application to the Special Class, this section 6 is also applicable.

### **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 Coláiste na Sceilge 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 Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student 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 year group 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 to all years other than the First Year Group.

Where an application is made on behalf of a Student for both the Special Class and a mainstream year group, 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.

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 Student is admitted to the school.



Where the Transition Year Programme and/or Leaving Certificate Applied Programme in Coláiste na Sceilge is/are oversubscribed, a Student applying for admission to such programmes in the relevant year group, will, subject to this policy, be placed on the appropriate waiting list already compiled (annually) by the school, which list will contain the names of students enrolled in the school who have been placed on an internal waiting list for this/these programmes.

### **6.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority**

Coláiste na Sceilge will apply the following criteria for admission to a year-group other than First-Year:

6.1.2.1 If the Student resides in the catchment area;

Note: See section 6.2.2 for selection criteria applicable to admission to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge. See section 7 for selection criteria applicable to admission to the Special Class.

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**

Coláiste na Sceilge 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, Coláiste na Sceilge will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

N.B. The number of places available in a year group is subject to reduction in the event that a placement(s) in the Special Class is/are given to Student(s) from that year group, *i.e.* the selection process for the Special Class will be completed before the selection process for the mainstream year group and the number of Students who are offered a place in the Special Class will be the number by which the places in the relevant mainstream year group(s) are reduced<sup>3</sup>.

#### **6.1.4 Late applications:**

An application received by Coláiste na Sceilge after the closing date published by Coláiste na Sceilge, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Coláiste na Sceilge 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, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

Where Coláiste na Sceilge is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Coláiste na Sceilge, subject to sections 4.7, and 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 Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Coláiste na Sceilge but does not accept the offer, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-

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<sup>3</sup> This approach is based on section 2 of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004, which requires that: “A child with special educational needs shall be educated in an inclusive environment with children who do not have such needs unless the nature or degree of those needs of the child is such that to do so would be inconsistent with the best interests of the child as determined in accordance with any assessment carried out .... or the effective provision of education for children with whom the child is to be educated.”

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 Student 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 withdrawal of an offer as set out below.

#### **6.1.7 Refusal:**

Where a Student 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 Student was not offered a place in Coláiste na Sceilge,
- 6.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed,
- 6.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable, and
- 6.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7 and 4.8, an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 6.1.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

### **6.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer**

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 6.1.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 6.1.8.2. 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
- 6.1.8.3. 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 Student 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 Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 6.1.4 above.

### **6.1.9 Appeals:**

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Coláiste na Sceilge regarding admission to a year-group other than First-Year, see section 6.3.

## **6.2 ADMISSION PROVISIONS FOR THE AONAD LÁN GAEILGE (OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR)**

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Aonad Lán Gaeilge offers partial instruction through Irish in a designated number of subjects to a cohort of Students within the school. Applications made ONLY for the Aonad Lán Gaeilge will be considered solely for that option. Applications made for the Aonad Lán Gaeilge **and** the English-medium stream will be considered for the Aonad Lán Gaeilge in the first instance and subsequently the English-medium stream.

Where the Aonad Lán Gaeilge for a given year group in Coláiste na Sceilge is not oversubscribed, all Students who seek admission therein will be offered a place, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

A Student applying for the Aonad Lán Gaeilge (other than First-Year) but seeking admission to the Special Class, should see section 7 of this Admission Policy. If the Student is also applying for a place in the mainstream Aonad Lán Gaeilge (other than First-Year) in the event of an unsuccessful application to the Special Class, this section 6 is also applicable.

### **6.2.1 Oversubscription:**

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 6.2.2 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 Coláiste na Sceilge 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 Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student 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 year group 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 made to all years other than the First-Year Group.

Where an application is made on behalf of a Student for both the Special Class and a mainstream year group, 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.

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 Student is admitted to the school.

Where the Transition Year Programme and/or Leaving Certificate Applied Programme in Coláiste na Sceilge is/are oversubscribed, a Student applying for admission to such programmes in the relevant year group, will, subject to this policy, be placed on the appropriate waiting list already compiled (annually) by the school, which list will contain the names of students enrolled in the school who have been placed on an internal waiting list for these programmes.

### **6.2.2 Selection criteria in order of priority:**

Applications to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge will only be considered where the Aonad Lán Gaeilge was indicated on the application form provided to Coláiste na Sceilge by the Applicant.

Coláiste na Sceilge will apply the following criteria for admission to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge where the Aonad Lán Gaeilge is oversubscribed:

- 6.2.2.1 The Student has attained a level of fluency in the Irish language and said fluency would be likely to regress were s/he not admitted to the Aonad. Applicants are required to provide such evidence as they consider appropriate to demonstrate the Student's level of fluency in the Irish language and how same would regress if the student were not admitted to the school.

### **6.2.3 Selection process:**

Coláiste na Sceilge will apply the selection process as follows:

Having met the criteria for admission to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge, 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 against 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, Coláiste na Sceilge will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

N.B. The number of places available in the Aonad Lán Gaeilge for a given year group is subject to reduction in the event that a placement(s) in the Special Class is/are given to Student(s) from that Aonad Lán Gaeilge year group, *i.e.* the selection process for the Special Class will be completed before the selection process for the Aonad Lán Gaeilge in a given year group and the number of Students who are offered a place in the Special Class will be the number by which the places in the relevant Aonad Lán Gaeilge year group(s) are reduced.<sup>4</sup>

### **6.2.4 Late Applications**

An application received by Coláiste na Sceilge after the closing date published by Coláiste na Sceilge, and set out in the Admission Notice, will be considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

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<sup>4</sup> This approach is based on section 2 of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004, which requires that: “A *child with special educational needs shall be educated in an inclusive environment with children who do not have such needs unless the nature or degree of those needs of the child is such that to do so would be inconsistent with the best interests of the child as determined in accordance with any assessment carried out .... or the effective provision of education for children with whom the child is to be educated.*”

Where Coláiste na Sceilge 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, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

Where Coláiste na Sceilge is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Coláiste na Sceilge, subject to sections 4.7 and 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.

#### **6.2.5 Second/third-round offers of a place**

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Coláiste na Sceilge but does not accept the offer, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student 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.

#### **6.2.6 Acceptance of a place:**

If the Student 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 withdrawal of an offer as set out below.



### **6.2.7 Refusal**

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

- 6.2.7.1. The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Coláiste na Sceilge;
- 6.2.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
- 6.2.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
- 6.2.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7 and 4.8, an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 6.2.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

### **6.2.8 Withdrawal of an offer**

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 6.2.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 6.2.8.2. 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
- 6.2.8.3. 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 Student 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 Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 6.2.4 above.

### **6.2.9 Appeals**

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Coláiste na Sceilge regarding admission to the Aonad Lán Gaeilge in all years other than the First-Year Group, see section 6.3.

## **6.3 APPEALS**

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### **6.3.1. 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 Coláiste na Sceilge at Valentia Rd., Cahersiveen, Co. Kerry, V23 Y003. Email: [info@colaistenasceilge.ie](mailto:info@colaistenasceilge.ie). 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 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 under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

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

An Applicant who was refused admission to Coláiste na Sceilge 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 Coláiste na Sceilge. 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 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 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 under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

**6.3.3. 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.

# SECTION 7

## APPLICATION TO THE SPECIAL CLASSES

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### **7 APPLICATION TO THE SPECIAL CLASSES**

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#### **7.1 Admission Provisions for the Special Classes**

- 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 appeal

## **7.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS FOR THE SPECIAL CLASSES**

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Coláiste na Sceilge has a Special Classes, established to cater for the special educational needs of Students with Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Moderate General Learning Disability and Mild General Learning Disability.

Only applications in respect of Students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Classes will be considered. In this respect, the school requires that such needs of the Student be verified in a Relevant Report which has been prepared within the 12 months immediately preceding the Student's application to the Special Class.

Where the Special Classes in Coláiste na Sceilge 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 and 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 7.1.2 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 Coláiste na Sceilge is in a position to 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 year group, 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 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 or not a Student is admitted to the school.

#### **7.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority:**

Applications to the Special Class will only be considered if the Student's needs fall within the specified category of special educational needs provided for by this class. Subject to this requirement, in the event of oversubscription, the following criteria for admission to the Special Class will apply:

- 7.1.2.1** If the Student comes from one of the feeder primary schools;
- 7.1.2.2** The greatest level of educational need, as determined by the Principal in consultation with the NCSE and/or NEPS, having considered the Relevant Report in respect of the Child;

### **7.1.3 Selection process:**

Coláiste na Sceilge will apply the selection process as follows:

Having met the criteria for admission to the Special Class, 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 against the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the Special Class. 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, Coláiste na Sceile will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the Special Class, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

N.B. The number of places available in a year group is subject to reduction in the event that a placement(s) in the Special Class is/are given to Student(s) from that year group, i.e. the selection process for the Special Class will be completed before the selection process for the mainstream year group and the number of Students who are offered a place in the Special Class will be the number by which the places in the relevant mainstream year group(s) are reduced.<sup>5</sup>

### **7.1.4 Late applications:**

An application received by Coláiste na Sceilge after the closing date published by Coláiste na Sceilge, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Coláiste na Sceilge 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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<sup>5</sup> This approach is based on section 2 of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs (EPSEN) Act 2004, which requires that: “A child with special educational needs shall be educated in an inclusive environment with children who do not have such needs unless the nature or degree of those needs of the child is such that to do so would be inconsistent with the best interests of the child as determined in accordance with any assessment carried out .... or the effective provision of education for children with whom the child is to be educated.”



applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

Where Coláiste na Sceilge is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Coláiste na Sceilge, subject to sections 4.7 and 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.

#### **7.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place**

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Coláiste na Sceilge but does not accept the offer, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student 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 Special Class have been filled.

#### **7.1.6 Acceptance of a place:**

If the Student 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'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 withdrawal of an offer, as set out below.

#### **7.1.7 Refusal:**

Where a Student 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 Student was not offered a place in Coláiste na Sceilge;
- 7.1.7.2 Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
- 7.1.7.3 Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
- 7.1.7.4 Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7 and 4.8, an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 7.1.7.5 The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

#### **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:
  - (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 or 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 Student 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 Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 7.1.4 above.

## **7.2 APPEALS**

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### **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 Coláiste na Sceilge at Valentia Rd., Cahersiveen, Co Kerry, V23 Y003. Email [info@colaistenasceilge.ie](mailto:info@colaistenasceilge.ie). 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 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 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 Coláiste na Sceilge 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 Coláiste na Sceilge. 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 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 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 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.