

Patrician Academy

Enrolment Policy for Moderate General Learning Disability Class

Scope

- This document sets out the admissions policy of the school which is a Catholic Voluntary Secondary School for boys only.
- The policy reflects the school's ethos and mission statement, which is committed to the pursuit of excellence, encouraging students to develop their full academic and intellectual potential and to enhancing each student's sense of dignity and self-worth.
- The policy covers all matters pertaining to admission to the Moderate General Learning Disability Class.

Rationale

This policy is necessary to:

1. Provide a reference point for parents/guardians, students and teachers
2. Provide transparency and accountability.
3. Clarify procedures.
4. Comply with relevant legislation.

Goals / Objectives

This policy aims to state:

- Criteria for admission to the Moderate General Learning Disability Class.
- Procedures for enrolment.

Admission of First Years

1. Applicants may be from the locality or elsewhere.
2. The class is intended to meet the needs of students with complex educational needs arising from their diagnosis of Moderate General Learning Disability.
Applicants will be accepted for admission to the Moderate General Learning Disability Class when all of the following criteria have been met:
 - a) The student has a diagnosis of moderate general learning disability (this diagnosis ideally being made by a professionally recognised multi-disciplinary team).
 - b) The class is expected to cater for students who have a general learning disability that falls within the moderate/low mild range (this diagnosis must also be made from a professionally recognised clinical and psychological assessment procedure).
 - c) A recommendation in the professions (Psychologist/Psychiatrist) report that a Special Class is the appropriate placement.
3. Applications will initially be reviewed by a Steering Committee (Appendix 1) to determine their suitability for the Moderate General Learning Disability class.
4. Following the selection of possible candidates the Principal and MGLD teachers will carry out the enrolment procedures as set out below.

5. Following the finalisation of these procedures, the candidate(s) will be brought to the Steering Committee for the selection and approval of the most suitable student(s) to enrol in the MGLD class.
6. The maximum number enrolled in the programme will be in accordance with national guidelines (currently 8 students).

Enrolment other than to First Year

Applications from students other than to First Year will initially be assessed by the Steering Committee and referred to the Board of Management.

Enrolment Procedures

The following are the procedures for admission to the MGLD class (Naomh Pádraig)

1. The school must be informed about:
 - Any behavioural issues (i.e. emotional behaviour outbursts / physical aggression) which could impact on the student's ability to participate in the class.
 - Any medication that the student may be in receipt of either at home or in the course of the school day.
 - Any additional medical conditions and/or dietary restrictions/toileting issues / requirements that the student may have.
2. The Principal, Special Educational Needs Coordinator and a member of the MGLD team will interview the parents/guardians of the students.
3. The Special Educational Needs Coordinator and a member of the MGLD team will interview the Principal of the feeder school and any other school personnel (i.e. Special Needs Assistants) who are deemed to have played a significant role in the applicant's education to that point.
4. The parents/guardians of the student and the Principal of the feeder school will be required to agree to facilitate members of the MGLD team in conducting as many observations as appropriate of the student in his current educational placement.
5. Once a student has been offered a place in the class, he will be invited to participate in a transition programme to the school. The participation of the student in the transition programme is essential in ensuring his smooth transfer to post-primary school as well as facilitating MGLD staff in making any necessary academic/ other reasonable accommodations for the student. The transition programme involves:
 - Visits by a member / members of the MGLD team to the student in his general classroom in his primary school over the course of the remaining academic year.
 - A number of arranged visits by the enrolled student to Rang Naomh Pádraig. The student may participate in group activities with the students who are currently in the class.

Procedures to be followed if a student is found not to be benefiting from his participation in the MGLD Class

- If following enrolment a student, is encountering serious difficulties and, in the professional opinion of the MGLD team, is not benefiting from the MGLD programme, the Principal will arrange for an assessment of the student to be carried out.
- In cases (following further assessment) where it is the professional opinion of the MGLD team that the pupil poses a serious health and safety risk to himself and / or to other students or staff in the school, the case will be referred to the Board of Management to assess suitability for the programme.

Enrolment other than to First Year

Applications from students other than to First Year will initially be assessed by the steering committee and referred to the Board of Management.

Inclusion

The school will make arrangements for the appropriate inclusion of students in Naomh Padraig in school activities and programmes according to their level of need and attainments.

Appeal

- Decisions of the steering committee may be appealed to the Board of Management.
- Decisions of the Board of Management may be appealed to the Secretary, Department of Education & Skills

Success Criteria

1. Parents and prospective students understand the admissions criteria and enrolment procedures.
2. Parents have the necessary relevant information prior to enrolling their son in the school.
3. Procedures enable the school to identify students who are suitable for the MGLD programme.
4. Students are facilitated in making a smooth transition from Primary School to Secondary School.

Review Procedures

1. The policy will be reviewed every year.
2. The review group will consist of the Principal, Deputy Principal, Special Educational Needs Coordinator and a member of the MGLD team.

Appendix 1

Steering Committee

The following are the members of the steering Committee:

- The Principal
- Special Educational Needs Coordinator
- MGLD Coordinator