



Policy for Admission to Errigal College Letterkenny

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 Errigal College is responsible for the implementation of this Admission Policy.

Proposer:	JOANNE DONAGHY
Seconder:	GINA GRANT
Chairperson of the Board of Management:	<i>Ronald Coyne</i>
Principal:	<i>Danny Mc Redd</i>
Date of Approval:	25/09/2024 .



Introduction to Errigal College

Errigal College is a long-established Vocational School under the auspices of Donegal Education and Training Board and was previously situated at Ard O'Donnell in Letterkenny. The College transferred to a new building at Windyhall in 1987. Since then there have been significant developments at the site, including a high quality playing field provided in conjunction with the Windyhall Community Group; school canteen (2003) and two ASD classrooms (2013). A Board of Management (BOM), representative of all the school partners, governs the school. The board meets on a regular basis and is comprised of four representatives of the Trustees (ETB), two parent nominees and two teacher nominees. Errigal College is a DEIS school and the day-to-day management of the school is carried out by the school Principal and the Deputy Principal. A Year Head takes responsibility for each Year Group and liaises with staff, students and parents.

Errigal College offers all DES approved courses including FET QQI level 5 and 6 PLC courses. The College is unique in Letterkenny as it is the sole provider of co-education through the medium of English. The College can cater for up to 500 students and recently has been approved by the DES to be extended to cater for 750. The student body reflects the diverse nature of modern Ireland with many countries represented in the student cohort.

We aim to offer the highest quality educational experience for our students and do so in the knowledge that each student has different needs and learning styles.

This Admissions Policy has been drawn up in consultation with the Board of Management, staff, parents and students of Errigal College. It was approved and ratified by the Board of Management on **September 25th 2024**. The policy applies to those who wish to enrol as students in:

- Junior Cycle
- Transition Year (TY)
- Senior Cycle – Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP) or Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCA)

In devising this policy, Errigal College aspires to establish and promote a positive teaching and learning environment within all our curricular and extra-curricular activities. Errigal College aims to protect the well-being of its students and staff by providing a safe and nurturing environment at all times. Our Mission Statement affirms this:

"We enable each student to achieve his/her educational potential in partnership with parents, based on the principles of caring, dignity, mutual respect and equality".

Errigal College is a multi-denominational, co-educational school that operates under the trusteeship of Donegal ETB and is grant-aided and publicly funded. The College structures includes a Parents Association and a Student Council which are elected on an annual basis.

Members of Board of Management

- Cllr Donal Coyle, Chairperson - Donegal ETB Nominee
- Cllr Jimmy Kavanagh - Donegal ETB Nominee
- Ms Joanne Donaghy - Donegal ETB Nominee
- Ms Regina Grant - Donegal ETB Nominee
- Ms Tatiana Ciubuc - Parent Nominee
- Mr Dave Cunningham - Parent Nominee
- Ms Leanne Wray - Teacher Nominee
- Mr Éamonn Collum - Teacher Nominee
- Mr Danny McFadden - Secretary to the Board/Principal

The following programmes are offered at Junior Cycle:

- Junior Cycle
- Junior Certificate School Programme (JCSP)
- Level Two Learning Programmes (L2LP)

The following programmes are offered at Senior Cycle:

- Transition Year
- Leaving Certificate Programme
- Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme (LCVP)
- Leaving Certificate Applied Programme (LCA)

Post Leaving Certificate courses include a number of QQI Level 5 and Level 6 programmes in a variety of specialised fields.

The Code of Positive Behaviour applies to all students while they are in the care of or representing Errigal College in locations other than the school, such as at curricular or extra-curricular activities, field trips, tours and so on.

These activities complement the formal curriculum in contributing to the holistic development of students. Activities offered in the school include: drama/music, Gaisce, John Paul II Award, lunchtime club, GAA, soccer, basketball, athletics, swimming, coding, strength and conditioning, and educational tours.

Participation in extra-curricular activities is promoted through intra- and inter-school activities, such as the lunchtime soccer league. All students are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Errigal College looks to establish a positive behavioural procedure so as to ensure that the values of mutual respect, self-discipline and social responsibility permeate the life of the Errigal College community. The college recognises the need to *protect the rights of students* and to ensure the creation and maintenance of an atmosphere where effective teaching, learning, assessment and feedback can take place.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Part A - General Information for All Applicants

1. Glossary of Terms
2. Admission Statement
3. Legal Framework
4. General Admission Provisions

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 Class(es)

Part A

General Information for All Applicants

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

1. Glossary of Terms

“Feeder Primary Schools” refers to the primary schools of preference for application to Errigal College. The 23 feeder primary schools for Errigal College are:

School Name	Address	Address
Scoil Colmcille	Letterkenny	Co. Donegal
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smal	Letterkenny	Co. Donegal
Woodlands NS	Letterkenny	Co. Donegal
Ballyraine NS	Letterkenny	Co. Donegal
Illistrin NS	Letterkenny	Co. Donegal
Gaelscoil Adhamháin	Letterkenny	Co. Donegal
Educate Together NS	Letterkenny	Co. Donegal
Lurgybrack NS	Letterkenny	Co. Donegal
Magherabeg NS	Manorcunningham	Co. Donegal
Drumoghill NS	Manorcunningham	Co. Donegal
Castleshaghan NS	Letterkenny	Co. Donegal
Kilmacrennan NS	Kilmacrennan	Co. Donegal
Termon NS	Termon	Co. Donegal
Creelough NS	Creelough	Co. Donegal
Creelough No 2 NS	Creelough	Co. Donegal
Drumman NS	Drumman, Ramelton	Co. Donegal
Scoil Cholmcille NS	Newtowncunningham	Co. Donegal
Glenswilly NS	Glenswilly	Co. Donegal
Gartan NS	Gartan	Co. Donegal
Trentagh NS	Trentagh	Co. Donegal
Rathdonald NS	Trentagh	Co. Donegal
Dromore NS	Glendowan	Co. Donegal
St Patrick’s N.S.	Drumkeen	Co. Donegal

“Catchment Area” refers to the designated residential area for application to all classes in Errigal College in respect of the person on whose behalf the application is being made. The catchment area for Errigal College is defined as an area that includes all of the primary schools listed in the above table.

“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 Errigal College.

“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 an application or acceptance of offer

makes him/her a student of Errigal College; a person is only regarded as a student of Errigal College once s/he is enrolled on his/her first day of attendance. It does not include a person who was formerly enrolled in the school and was permanently excluded from the school or who left the school after being recommended for expulsion by the Board of Management.

“Enrolled” means attending the school as a registered student, in line with section 20(2) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.

“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.

“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.

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. Errigal College has three Special Classes, established to cater for special educational needs of students with Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

“Relevant Report”, as advised by the Department of Education and the National Council for Special Education (NCSE), means a written report based on an assessment by a relevant professional, which:

- (a) provides detailed evidence of the Student’s needs,
- (b) confirms that those needs constitute complex/severe educational needs which arise from a named diagnosis relating to the Student, and
- (c) makes a recommendation for a Special Class placement for the Student on the basis of his/her complex/severe educational needs arising from said diagnosis.

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.

“First Year” means the intake group of Students for the most junior class or year in a school.

2. Admission Statement

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

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



As the state provider of education, the 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, Errigal College 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).

Errigal College shall not charge fees or payments or seek contributions as a condition of admission or continued enrolment of a Student.

3. Legal Framework

Donegal 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 Errigal College 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 admit a Student. 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.

Errigal College 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 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 legal requirement to advise of the option to opt-out of religious instruction 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', Errigal College 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* of any particular religion or belief.



Errigal College will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 relating to the provision of education to children with special educational needs, including in particular by the provision and operation of a special class or classes when requested to do so by the Council.

Errigal College will comply with any direction served on the patron or the board, as the case may be, under section 37A and any direction served on the board under section 67(4B) of the Education Act.

4. General Admission Provisions

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

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

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

In processing an application Errigal College **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;
- 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.

Errigal College **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 Errigal College 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

- 1. Application to the First Year Group*
- 2. Application to All Year Groups other than First Year*
- 3. Application to the Special Class*

5. Application to the First Year Group

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 Appeals

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

5.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (FIRST YEAR GROUP)

Where Errigal College 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 Admissions 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 for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Errigal College 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, subject to the provisions of Section 7.1.1 regarding the Special Class.

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 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

Errigal College will apply the following criteria for admission to the First Year Group:

- 5.1.2.1 If the Student resides in the catchment area;
- 5.1.2.2 If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school
- 5.1.2.3. If a parent/guardian is a member of staff of the school
- 5.1.2.4 Whether the Student, at the time of application, is attending one of the Feeder Primary Schools;

Note: See section 7 for selection criteria applicable to admission to the Special Classes.

5.1.3 Selection process

Errigal College 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 against all selection criteria until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Errigal College 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.¹

5.1.4 Late applications

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

Where Errigal College 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, irrespective of any selection criteria which may have been applied to applications received before the closing dates 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 section(s) 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9. For the avoidance of doubt, selection criteria are not relevant to, and will not be applied to, late applications.

Where Errigal College is not oversubscribed i.e. there is no waiting list and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Errigal College, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8. and the same process as applies to Applicants whose

¹ 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 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 Errigal College 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 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.

5.1.7 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 Errigal College.
- 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 out 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:

- 5.1.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 5.1.7.6. The Applicant fails to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission on or before the date set out in the annual Admission Notice of the school for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or
- 5.1.7.7. An Applicant has not indicated:
 - (i) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);and
 - (ii) whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place (and shall not be placed on a waiting list). If the Applicant still desires a place for that academic year, a new application must be made for the same academic year on behalf of that Student and 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 Errigal College regarding admission to the First Year Group, see section 5.2.

5.2 APPEALS

5.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must first request a review by the board of management in writing, via a 'BOMR1 form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Errigal College. Such a review must be sought by the applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing errigalcollege@donegaletb.ie.

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. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration



Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's 'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29', such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the board of management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal and may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

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

An Applicant who was refused admission to Errigal College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the board of management via a 'BOMR1 form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Errigal College. Such a review must be sought by the applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing errigalcollege@donegaletb.ie. (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the board of management in writing to that effect.)

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. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's 'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29', such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, that 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, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

5.2.3 Basis for review by Board of Management

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the board of management to review a decision of the school to refuse admission 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 review the decision.

6. Application to all Year Groups (Other than First Year)

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 Appeals

- 6.2.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 6.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 6.2.3. Basis for a review by the board of management.

6.1 APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS (OTHER THAN FIRST YEAR)

Where Errigal College 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 Classes should see section 7 of this Admissions 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 for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Errigal College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during the 2024/2025 school year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list, subject to the provisions of Section 7.1.1 regarding the Special Class.

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 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 Errigal College is/are oversubscribed, a Student applying for admission to such programm(es) 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 programm(es).

6.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority

Errigal College 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;
- 6.1.2.2. If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school.
- 6.1.2.3. If a parent/guardian of the Student is a member of the staff of the school

Note: 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

Errigal College 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 against all selection criteria until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Errigal College 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 reduced².

6.1.4 Late applications

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

² 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 Errigal College 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, irrespective of any selection criteria which may have been applied to applications received before the closing dates 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 section(s) 4.7 and 4.8. For the avoidance of doubt, selection criteria are not relevant to, and will not be applied to, late applications.

Where Errigal College is not oversubscribed i.e. there is no waiting list and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Errigal College, 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 Errigal College 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.

6.1.6 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 Errigal College.
- 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 (and shall not be placed on a waiting list). If the Applicant still desires a place for that academic year, a new application must be made for the same academic year on behalf of that Student and 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 Errigal College regarding admission to a year-group other than First Year, see section 6.2.

6.2 APPEALS

6.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must first request a review by the board of management in writing, via a 'BOMR1 form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Errigal College. Such a review must be sought by the applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing errigalcollege@donegaletb.ie.

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. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's 'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29', such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the board of management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal and may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

6.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription

An Applicant who was refused admission to Errigal College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the board of management via a 'BOMR1 form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Errigal College. Such a review must be sought by the applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing errigalcollege@donegaletb.ie. (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the board of management in writing to that effect.)

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. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained

directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's 'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29', such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, that 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, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

6.2.3 Basis for a review by the board of management:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the board of management to review a decision of the school to refuse admission 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 review the decision.

7. Application to the Special Classes

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

- 5.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 5.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 5.2.3 Basis for review by the board of management

7.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS FOR THE SPECIAL CLASS(ES)

Errigal College has three Special Classes, established to provide education to Students with severe/complex educational needs arising from Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

Only applications in respect of Students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Classes will be considered. In this respect, the school requires that such severe/complex educational needs and the related diagnosis of the Student be evidenced and verified in a Relevant Report, the mandatory elements of which are set out in the Glossary of Terms section, which has been prepared within the 24 months immediately preceding the Student's application to the Special Class.

Where the Special Classes in Errigal College are not oversubscribed, all Students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Classes, as confirmed by the NCSE, will be offered a place in the Special Classes, 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 for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Errigal College 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 subject to there being a place in the relevant mainstream year group.

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 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 the 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.

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 resides in the catchment area.
- 7.1.2.2. If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school.
- 7.1.2.3. If a parent/guardian of the Student is a member of staff of the school.
- 7.1.2.4. The greatest level of need, as determined by the Principal in consultation with the SEN team in the school, having considered the Relevant Report in respect of the Child

7.1.3 Selection process

Errigal College 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 against all selection criteria out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Errigal College 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.³

³ 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."

7.1.4 Late applications

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

Where Errigal College 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, irrespective of any selection criteria which may have been applied to applications received 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 Errigal College is not oversubscribed i.e. there is no waiting list and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Errigal College, 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 Errigal College 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 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 Errigal College;
- 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:

- 7.1.7.5 The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 7.1.7.6 The Applicant fails to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission on or before the date set out in the annual Admission Notice of the school for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or
- 7.1.7.7 An Applicant has not indicated:
 - (i) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
and
 - (ii) whether or not 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 (and shall not be placed on a waiting list). If the Applicant still desires a place for that academic year, a new application must be made for the same academic year on behalf of that Student and shall be treated as a late application in line with section 7.1.4 above.

7.2 APPEALS

7.2.1 *Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription*

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must first request a review by the board of management in writing, via a 'BOMR1 form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Errigal College. Such a review must be sought by the applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing errigalcollege@donegaletb.ie.

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. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's 'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29', such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the board of management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal and may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

7.2.1 *Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription*

An Applicant who was refused admission to Errigal College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the board of management via a 'BOMR1 form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Errigal College. Such a review must be sought by the applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing errigalcollege@donegaletb.ie. (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the board of management in writing to that effect.)

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. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education.

Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's 'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29', such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, that 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, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

7.2.2 Basis for a review by the board of management

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the board of management to review a decision of the school to refuse admission 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 review the decision.