

SCOIL MUIRE NA TRÓCAIRE



BUTTEVANT

CO. CORK

ASD CLASS

Information Leaflet

Class for Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD)

The decision to provide a special class for children with a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder in Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire was taken by the Board of Management of the school in conjunction with the Principal and Staff.

Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire is a mainstream co-educational primary school with one class group at each class level and with an enrolment of approximately 200 pupils. Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire has a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Cloyne

The ASD class “Seoidín” at Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire is a class for children with ASD who have been recommended for placement in an ASD class in a mainstream primary school and who have the potential to integrate into a mainstream, age appropriate class. All placements will be reviewed annually in order to ensure that the placement continues to be appropriate for each child. The maximum class size is 6 pupils. Access to speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy etc. will be dependent on local H.S.E. services, local ASD service provided by St. Josephs Foundation.

Our Aims

We aim to offer a positive meaningful educational experience, which allows the child to develop to his/her full learning potential in an environment that offers clarity, predictability and calm.

Our ASD class (Seoidín) offers an autism specific learning environment within a mainstream co-educational primary school. This setting facilitates optimum inclusion in mainstream education as part of the school community as appropriate, with regard to levels of general learning ability, resources and suitability for such inclusion.

We wish to provide a broad curriculum which focuses on the abilities and strengths of each child while supporting their areas of need.

The Enrolment Application must be accompanied by all of the following supporting documentation supplied by parents:

- The child must have a diagnosis of Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorder made using the **DSM/V** or ICD 10
- Original birth certificate
- A written report from a multi-disciplinary team must be provided. This team may consist of a Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Speech & Language Therapist, Social Worker and a Physiotherapist. Please note all reports relevant to a child should be provided to the school for assessment by the Admissions Team.
- There must be a recommendation by the relevant professionals in the report that a special class placement in a mainstream school is both necessary and suitable for the child. The child’s ability will be taken into account so that his/her potential to integrate into mainstream classes where appropriate can be maximised to the full.

All applications received by the closing date will be considered by the Admissions Team for the ASD class. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered. The team will include the School Principal, Special Needs Coordinator and The Special Class Teacher. The Admissions Team may seek the advice of the school's allocated NEPS Psychologist.

The function of the Admissions Team is to:

- Ascertain how many places are to be filled in the ASD Class. The maximum number of pupils in the class will be 6 pupils
- Review all applications and all documentation relevant to a child applying for a place in the ASD class
- Verify the class's suitability in meeting the needs of the child
- Verify that there is a recommendation from a multi-disciplinary team for placement in a special class in a mainstream school
- Verify the suitability of the child for potential meaningful integration in an age appropriate mainstream class
- Verify that the child is at least 4 years old on or before September 1st of the year of enrolment
- Identify qualifying applicants with reference to these criteria
- Prioritise each qualifying applicant with reference to selection criteria (See Admissions Policy)
- To make a recommendation based on these findings to the Board of Management

The Board of Management is responsible for and must respect the rights of the existing school community and in particular the children already enrolled. The Board of Management reserves the right to refuse enrolment if they believe the school cannot meet the needs of a particular child.

Pupils Transferring

Pupils may transfer to the ASD class during the school year subject to availability of places and fulfilling the criteria. Pupils transferring must enter the same class level that they are leaving, and have the necessary diagnosis and recommendations as outlined above.

Placement

1. After placement in the class a relevant School Support Plus Plan will be provided for the child. This plan will have an input from all parties involved with the education of the child. This is a working document and will be updated regularly
2. Each child in the ASD class will be assigned to an age appropriate mainstream class for integration purposes provided that this is in the best interest of the child, while having due regard to the educational benefit of all pupils enrolled in our school. Every opportunity will be used to promote inclusion in mainstream classes provided the child is ready for this step and has a necessary support in place.
3. A review will take place at the end of the child's first year to assess whether the child's placement is appropriate.
 - The review will be carried out by school staff with parental involvement
 - The outcome of the review will be examined by the Board of Management

- If in the event that a placement is inappropriate, the school will liaise with appropriate agencies in an effort to obtain a more suitable placement e.g. SENO

Behaviour

It is accepted that children with special educational needs may display difficult, defiant or oppositional behaviours. All efforts will be made by the school to manage such behaviour using various strategies and through the implementation of the child's School Support Plus Plan. Where a child's behaviour impacts in a negative way on the other children in the class to the extent that their constitutional right to an education is being interfered with as judged by the Board of Management of the School, the school reserves the right to advise parents that a more suitable setting should be found for their child.

Discharge

It is school policy to facilitate the discharge of pupils from the classroom once they have completed the 8 year school cycle. It will be deemed compulsory that the year that the student turns 13 will be their last year. Pupils who reach the age of thirteen after September 30th in any year will be permitted to complete that academic year. This means a June discharge in the following year. The onus will be on the parents to negotiate the placement with a suitable secondary school. Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire will facilitate all transfer of records/reports as well as assist with any information required with regards to the student and Scoil Mhuire na Trócaire will be deemed to have authority to forward all relevant reports and assessments to the Secondary school unless specifically instructed in writing not to do so.

Discharge from the ASD class may happen if a pupil becomes successfully integrated into a mainstream class