

## **Scoil Bhríde Athgarvan** **Enrolment Policy**

Scoil Bhríde is one of 7 schools in the St. Conleth's Parish, Newbridge under the Patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Kildare and Leighlin. Primary education is also available in a multi-denominational school, a Gaelscoil and a Church of Ireland school all in the Newbridge area. Scoil Bhríde was developed to serve the educational need of Athgarvan village and surrounding areas.

### **RATIONALE:**

The school enrolment policy is informed by the following considerations.

1. Scoil Bhríde is essentially a local country school located on the Curragh Plains.
2. There is no prospect of the school being given extra land on which to build.
3. Traditionally the school has been unable to accommodate all the pupils for whom places have been sought.
4. The Board of Management wishes to have a fair and transparent enrolment policy.
5. The Board of Management wishes that its enrolment policy should reflect the aims and ethos of the school.
6. This policy was drawn up following consultation with the school community, the patron and the Department of Education & Science.

### **AIMS**

#### **Scoil Bhríde Athgarvan aims:**

1. to recognise the spiritual, intellectual, physical, emotional, social potential of each child who attends the school.
2. to equip each child with the abilities to deal with a changing world.
3. to nurture the potential of each child, to help each child to become a fully developed individual.
4. to help each child to recognise his/her self worth.
5. to help each child to recognise the rights and needs of others, to respect those rights and to be considerate.
6. to make Scoil Bhríde a school where children feel secure and empowered.
7. to challenge the academic abilities of the children.
8. to foster a love of learning.
9. to foster a love of excellence.
10. to make Scoil Bhríde a rewarding place to work, where the skills, effort and commitment of each teacher is recognised and valued.
11. to strengthen partnerships within the Athgarvan area.
12. to work in partnership with the parish team to develop and nurture the Catholic faith life of the children.

## **SCHOOL ETHOS**

The ethos of Scoil Bhríde is informed by its foundation as a Catholic School with Christian values. It draws from the faith and values of its teachers and from the homes of its children and its membership of St. Conleth's Parish. It is the policy of Scoil Bhríde to support and nurture family life and to work in partnership with the parents of the children.

The community life of the school is based on:

- Tolerance
- Forgiveness
- Justice
- Courtesy
- Good manners
- Willingness to embrace change
- The love of excellence
- Belief in the value of effort
- Honesty
- Belief in the beauty of the human spirit
- Belief in the value of the arts.

Scoil Bhríde as a community believes it has an important role in exploring, understanding, conserving, respecting and celebrating the environment.

## **ENROLMENT**

### **APPLICATIONS PROCEDURE:**

**Enrolment is the jurisdiction of the school's Board of Management only and all decisions to offer or refuse a place rests solely with the Board of Management.**

Applications are lodged in the Parish Office, Station Road, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. A Central Applications Committee (CAC) will distribute the application forms to the relevant schools according to parental choice. In doing so the CAC merely acts as a conduit to distribute the application forms thus saving parents/guardians the need to visit individual schools seeking a school placement. This procedure applies to all junior infant applications and applications for all other classes.

Parents wishing to enrol children are directed to the Parish Centre, Newbridge for an application form.

Only completed application forms received by the Parish closing date will be considered.

Parents of children who cannot be accommodated will be informed in writing and will be told of their right to appeal the Board's decision under Section 29 of the Education Act.

### **(a) Enrolment Policy for Junior Infants:**

Each year the Board of Management determines the maximum number of children to be enrolled in Junior Infants. The **maximum** number of children to be enrolled in Junior Infants for the 2016/2017 school year is 34.

- Except in exceptional circumstances, children are enrolled on September 1<sup>st</sup> each year.
- The school will enrol children in accordance with the following criteria:
  - Children from Athgarvan area
  - Children with siblings attending Scoil Bhríde
  - Children of staff members

Equal weighting applies to the three criteria. Where there are more applicants than available places, preference will be given to the **oldest** children in any of the three categories.

Remaining places, if any, are allocated to Catholic children living nearest to the school and within Newbridge Parish.

These places will be allocated with reference to the age of the pupil.

**(b) Enrolment Policy for classes other than Junior Infants:**

Applications for enrolment in classes other than Junior Infants are lodged in the Parish Office, Newbridge, Co. Kildare. The Central Applications Committee will distribute the application forms according to parental choice indicated on the application form.

The principal teacher will contact the Principal of a school from which it is requested to transfer a pupil to Scoil Bhríde. Parents wishing to transfer pupils will be informed of this policy and of the Principal's intention to discuss all aspects of the pupil's behaviour and abilities.

The Board of Management of the school of choice will meet and consider the application and will offer or refuse the place.

**(c) School Size:**

It is the stated policy of the school community of Scoil Bhríde that the school be maintained at its present enrolment level.

**(d) Pupil Accommodation:**

It is the school policy that the Staff Room, General Purpose Room and Reading Support Room will not be used in a permanent capacity to accommodate a class.

**(e) Review:**

It is the policy of Scoil Bhríde that the stated Enrolment Policy is reviewed annually by the Board of Management in consultation with the principal, the staff and parents.