

Rationale

The decision to provide a special class for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) in Christ the King Boys' School was taken by the Board of Management of the school in conjunction with the Principal and Staff in 2014. This decision was made with a view to providing an appropriate education within a mainstream setting for children resident in the parish of Cabra who have a diagnosis of ASD and who meet the enrolment criteria. The Board of Management notes that any primary school may set up such a class and therefore does not see itself as providing a service for the entire Dublin 7 area.

Mission Statement

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

Our Aim

Our school currently has one special class for children with ASD. This class aims to offer an autism specific learning environment within a mainstream vertical national school. This setting facilitates optimum inclusion as part of the school community with access to mainstream activities as appropriate. The class will have one teacher and one or two SNAs. Additional SNA support may be sought to aid the integration of children in mainstream classes. After a period of time observing, interacting with and assessing the child, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be drawn up in consultation with the parents and relevant professionals. This will highlight priority learning needs and will be reviewed termly.

Criteria for Enrolment in The Special Class for Children with ASD

The criteria for enrolment in the special class, incorporating the Dept. of Education and the HSE's policies is as follows:

1. An Enrolment form provided by the school should be completed by the parents/guardians on behalf of the child. This form should be accompanied by an original birth certificate.
2. A recent psychological assessment or a report from a multi-disciplinary team should be provided. A multi-disciplinary team may consist of a Clinical Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Speech & Language Therapist, Social Worker and a Physiotherapist. Please note that all reports in operation on a child should be provided to the school for assessment by the Admission Team. The child must have a diagnosis of Autism/ASD in accordance with the DSM-IV or ICD 10 by the psychologist or multi-disciplinary team. The overall IQ score/level of ability as measured in an educational assessment must fall within the Average or Mild General Learning Disability Range.
3. Children must be aged between 4-9 years of age to qualify for enrolment.

Support From Outside Agencies

Admissions Team

Each application will be considered by the Admissions Team.

The team will include:

The School Principal, Deputy Principal and Special Educational Needs (SEN) Team.

A recommendation will be made in relation to each application to the Board of Management (BOM) of the school. The BOM has the right to endorse or overrule any decision made by the Admission's Team.

Allocation of Places

The class has places for 6 children. Places will be allocated as follows:

1. Children who fulfil the criteria and are already enrolled in the school.
2. Children who fulfil the criteria and are resident in Cabra.
3. Children who fulfil the criteria and have siblings already enrolled in the school.

Applications from Outside the Cabra area

Applications from outside the parish will be considered as follows:

In considering applications from outside the Cabra area, places will only be granted where the enrolment will not interfere with a child from the parish getting a place the following year. Therefore account must always be taken of the waiting list from within the parish for the following school year.

Procedure for Enrolment

Once a parent/guardian has made an application to the school for a place in the Unit for their child, the Principal will undertake to communicate the decision of the Admission Team and the BOM to them within two calendar months of the application. This is to facilitate the consideration of the application by the BOM which meets once a month. The communication shall be by letter.

The parents of a child being offered a place in the class will be invited to visit the class to meet with the teacher and /or the SEN team and / the HSCL Teacher and The Principal. Any information requested by the parents will be provided at this meeting. The parents may be asked by the school to consent to a visit by a member of staff to a child's pre-school to observe the child or to speak to the pre-school teacher. The parents/guardians will be invited to come with their child to the class to meet with members of staff and to see the classroom. The child will be allocated a mainstream class for integration purposes. Where possible this will be at the class level of the child, however, in exceptional circumstances this may not be the most appropriate setting and due consideration will be given to the needs of the child in these cases.

Behaviour

It is accepted that children with Autism/ASD may display challenging, defiant or oppositional behaviour. All efforts will be made by the school to manage such behaviour using a variety of strategies. Parents are expected to co-operate with this. 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 BOM of the school, the school reserves the right to advise the parents that a more suitable setting should be found for their child.

Parents/Guardians whose child(ren) have been refused enrolment may appeal the decision under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, by accessing the website of the Department of Education and Science.

This Enrolment Policy will be reviewed annually

Ratified by the Board of Management Christ the King BNS on 12 / 06 / 2014

Máire Ní Éaluithe

Chairperson