

Scoil Chiaráin

Enrolment Policy

Scoil Chiaráin

Friendship and Learning

Board of Management

Scoil Chiaráin

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Admission Policy of Scoil Chiaráin

St. Canice's Road,

Glasnevin,

Dublin 11

D11 VK634

Roll number: 19325J

School Patron: Catholic Archbishop of Dublin

1. Introduction

This Admission Policy complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1998, the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Equal Status Act 2000. In drafting this policy, the board of management of the school has consulted with school staff, the school patron and with parents of children attending the school.

The policy was approved by the school patron on 22nd January 2024. It is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request, to any person who requests it.

The relevant dates and timelines for Scoil Chiaráin's admission process are set out in the school's annual admission notice which is published annually on the school's website at least one week before the commencement of the admission process for the school year concerned.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the annual admission notice for the school year concerned.

Applicants should note that the school is heavily over-subscribed each year and priority is given to applicants from within the catchment area. It is only in extremely rare cases that there will be sufficient places for an applicant outside the catchment area to be offered a place. Applicants from outside the catchment area will almost certainly be waitlisted.

In the admissions process, consideration will be given to ensure that a healthy and safe environment for all students and staff prevails and applications for children who might threaten the safety of the children already enrolled, many of whom are vulnerable by nature of their disability are likely to be refused.

The school is in the course of constructing a new building so that we can replace our current building and accommodate more students. During the construction work on the school site, parents will not be able to access the school by car and we will have less physical outdoor space available to us to assist students who require time outside for self-regulation purposes. During the period of construction, for health and safety reasons, the school will therefore only be able to cater for smaller numbers of students than usual and our Admissions Notice will reflect this. When the construction has concluded and the school moves to the new premises, we hope to be in a position to provide a larger number of classes.

Parents should also note that the Scoil Chiaráin's caters exclusively for children with a mild General Learning Disability and is unable to accept applications for children whose needs do not fall into that category.

The school does not currently have an autism specific classroom. As such, while applications in respect of children with autism will be considered (providing they also have a diagnosis of mild GLD), if an offer of a place is made, it will be an offer of a place in a general classroom. Parents should note regardless of any

recommendation they may have received in any professional report or otherwise for a child to avail of an autism specific classroom, we do not have one and therefore cannot provide such a place. All places are offered in the same type of classroom.

The application form for admission is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy on request to any person who requests it.

The Board of Management is setting out its policy in that by doing so parents and professionals will be assisted in relation to enrolment matters.

The Chairperson, Con Sweeney, and/or the Principal, Kathleen Dodd will be happy to clarify any further matters arising from the policy.

2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

Scoil Chiaráin is a specialist school under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. In operation since 1970, the school is recognised by the Department of Education and Skills as a school which offers specialist education to boys and girls at both primary and post primary level.

The Irish Special School system is category specific. Within this system Scoil Chiaráin is designated as a co-educational school for students with Mild General Learning Disability, aged five to eighteen years of age, who, on psychological testing, have a Mild General Learning Disability. This is not a school that caters for students with emotional and behavioural difficulties. Applications for children with a primary diagnosis of Emotional and/or behavioural disorders will be refused. The school welcomes applications for admission of any child who, in addition to a diagnosed mild general learning difficult has one or more diagnosed additional disabilities (for example, autism, ADHD, dysphasia, etc.).

Our aim is to help children to develop socially and educationally to the maximum of their potential in a stimulating and caring environment. The school aims to provide the widest range of appropriate learning experiences at every stage of development.

Our purpose is to provide a suitable education programme to meet individual and group needs of our students to enable them to gain as high a level of independence as possible.

The school is staffed by 16 experienced class teachers, 20 special needs assistants, 5 part-time subject specialist teachers and 22 bus escorts. Many of these staff members hold additional qualifications for this specialist work.

The Health Service Executive (HSE) employs a Speech & Language therapist three days a week and an Occupational therapist two days per week to work with students within the school. The National Educational Psychological Service NEP's provide a limited service. An Art Therapist is also employed by the Board of Management on a part-time basis.

Our Mission statement states:

Scoil Chiaráin provides a specialist curriculum. It strives to maximize the learning skills, social skills, self worth and sense of independence of its pupils.

There is a caring, co-operative, sharing and learning culture which is positively endorsed by the whole school community and fully supported by school management.

Scoil Chiaráin seeks to forge links with the wider community through its contact with mainstream and other specialist schools, community services and with the centres of teacher education.

Scoil Chiaráin is a school whose ethos is Christian in the Catholic tradition, open and welcoming to those of other religions. The principles of equality, participation and respect for difference ensure that in Scoil Chiaráin all members of the community are valued and have a role in its development.

“Catholic Ethos” in the context of a Catholic primary school means the ethos and characteristic spirit of the Roman Catholic Church, which aims at promoting:

- the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects; and
- a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and
- the formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith,

and which school provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, and/or such ethos and/or characteristic spirit as may be determined or interpreted from time to time by the Irish Episcopal Conference.

In accordance with S.15 (2) (b) of the Education Act, 1998 the Board of Management of Scoil Chiaráin shall uphold, and be accountable to the patron for so upholding, the characteristic spirit of the school as determined by the cultural, educational, moral, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values and traditions which inform and are characteristic of the objectives and conduct of the school

3. Admission Statement

This enrolment policy outlines the procedure to be followed involving the parents and guardians of the referred pupil, the referral agency, the school from which the child is transferring and the Principal and designated staff of Scoil Chiaráin, in accordance with legislative requirements.

Scoil Chiaráin will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

- the gender ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- the civil status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- the family status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- the sexual orientation ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- the religion ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- the disability ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned, other than to confirm that the student or applicant meets the criteria for admission to the school,
- the ground of race of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- the Traveller community ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned, or
- the ground that the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned has special educational needs, other than to confirm that the student or applicant meets the criteria for admission to the school,

As per section 61 (3) of the Education Act 1998, 'civil status ground', 'disability ground', 'discriminate', 'family status ground', 'gender ground', 'ground of race', 'religion ground', 'sexual orientation ground' and 'Traveller community ground' shall be construed in accordance with section 3 of the Equal Status Act 2000.

Scoil Chiaráin is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

Scoil Chiaráin is a school which, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, provides an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister and does not discriminate in relation to the admission of a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

Scoil Chiaráin will cooperate with the NCSE in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 in relation 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.

Scoil Chiaráin will comply with any direction served on the board or the patron under section 37A and 67(4)(b).

4. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in Scoil Chiaráin

Scoil Chiaráin is a specialist school under the patronage of the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. In operation since 1970, the school is recognised by the Department of Education and Skills as a school which offers a specialist education to pupils at both primary and post-primary level.

The school caters for girls and boys, aged from five to eighteen who have been diagnosed by a qualified psychologist with a mild general learning disability and for whom a specialist education is recommended.

5. Admission of Students

To meet the needs of students, the number of students per class is limited (7 – 13 pupils) and a wide variety of teaching methodologies and educational equipment is employed in the teaching and learning process. Training in the basic skills of social competence forms an integral part of the school programme at all levels. Children are divided into classes according to age and at present (2025/2026) we have four classes in primary and eight in the post-primary section. As noted elsewhere in this policy, class size may vary depending on the additional needs of any child in the class.

Please note that as Scoil Chiaráin is a special school, it does not have a particular intake group as many mainstream schools do. In our school, we accept applications from children aged at least 5 years of age on the 1st September of the year of entry and who have not/will not have reached 18 years of age on the 1st September of the year of entry. Applications are treated as applications for particular classes. At an early stage of the application process, a child is assigned to a particular Destination Class based on the child's age, physical needs, cognitive and adaptive abilities, educational experience and any special educational needs of relevance. In order to assess which Destination Class is appropriate for which student, we ask for parents to provide all appropriate reports to give us full information about their child's needs. This allows us to assess in which class a student would be best catered for.

Class groupings vary from year to year as students leave the school or move to other schools.

Parents should note that just because a child is assigned to a particular Destination Class, this does not mean that there is a vacancy in that class, merely that the destination class is suitable for the child in light of the child's age, cognitive and adaptive abilities and any other special educational needs of relevance.

Offers for places in Scoil Chiaráin will only be made where a child meets all of the following criteria:

1. The child is in the cognitive range for students with mild general learning disabilities i.e. has an IQ of 50 and 69 (as confirmed by the psychologist, psychiatrist or multi-disciplinary team report included in the child's application) and therefore has the ability to benefit from the education and skills programmes offered in the school;
2. The child is in the adaptive range for a child with mild general learning disabilities (as confirmed by the psychologist, psychiatrist or multi-disciplinary team report included in the child's application) and therefore has the ability to benefit from the education and skills programmes offered in the school;
3. The report from the psychologist, psychiatrist or multi-disciplinary team demonstrates an understanding of the complexity of the child's overall need (as required by Circular 39/2025).
4. The application form is fully completed and includes all enclosures appropriate to the application (including two proofs of address).
5. The child is at least 5 years old on the 1st September of the year of entry and has not reached/will not reach their 18th birthday on the 1st of September of the year of entry;
6. The documentation enclosed with the Application includes a recommendation from the psychologist, psychiatrist or multi-disciplinary team that the child should be admitted to a Special School for children with mild general learning disabilities and a rationale for this recommendation (as required by Circular 39/2025).
7. Letter from NCSE (for the relevant year of entry to the school) confirming that the child is known to them and that the child has the required diagnosis and recommendation (as required by Circular 39/2025).
8. The application has been received after the 1st October of the year before admission.
9. The destination class is not oversubscribed.
10. The parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, confirms in writing that the Code of Behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student

Applications which do not enclose a report which fulfils these requirements will not be accepted and will be refused. In particular, parents should note

that applications will be refused where the primary diagnosis is not of a mild general learning disability but is of some other special need or condition.

In order to facilitate the best preparation for admission of your child, we would ask that parents include up to date reports from the child's present school/pre-school (from within the last 12 months) with the details of the learning and social development of the child and any behaviour issues of relevance, together with any other professional reports available from the last 36 months such as:

- Psychiatric Assessment,
- Speech & Language Assessment,
- Occupational Therapy Report,
- Social Work Report
- Doctors/consultants reports outlining medical needs specific to the child
- Support Plan/Individual Education Plan from previous school
- Behaviour Support Plan from previous school
- Any formal testing results from previous school

If a destination class is full or has more applicants than places available, then applications for that class will be dealt with in accordance with Section 6 below.

Scoil Chiaráin is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit a person who is not of the Catholic faith where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

6. How applications will be dealt in cases of oversubscription

Where the destination class to which the application is assigned is oversubscribed, places will be offered (or applicants will be waitlisted) to applicants who meet the criteria in section 5 based on a marking of their application on the following Assessment Criteria.

Where the documentation provided is not adequate or is not in accordance with the requirements of this policy, this may result in an applicant receiving a nil score in a particular category.

Assessment Criteria:

1. The child is ordinarily resident (i.e. is ordinarily resident with at least one parent/guardian) within the catchment area (i.e. is ordinarily resident in north county Dublin or North Dublin city) and has provided two proofs of address of this residence. (rated out of 100)
2. The extent to which the child would benefit from a place in the school, given the child's primary needs, age and educational history, taking into account any other needs the child may have, for example, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, Fragile X, ADD/ADHD, emotional behavioural disorder, physical and sensory disabilities, and medical conditions (rated out of 20)

3. The availability of expertise within the school to deal with any other needs the child may have, for example, Autism Spectrum Disorder, Down Syndrome, Fragile X, ADD/ADHD, emotional behavioural disorder, physical and sensory disabilities, and medical conditions (rated out of 10).
4. Siblings of children who are already currently enrolled within the school (based on number of such siblings and whether they are currently enrolled in the school) (rated out of 10)

Applications will be ranked based on the score they receive in respect of the above Assessment Criteria. Available places will be offered the top ranked applications. Unsuccessful applications will be waitlisted for the relevant academic year only.

In the event that there are two or more students tied for a place or places in any of the selection criteria categories above the following arrangements will apply:

- where applications exceed the maximum number of places available, priority consideration will be given to
 - i) students with no educational provision,
 - ii) those who cannot benefit further within mainstream schools, and
 - iii) those with the greatest need for immediate support

Applications where all of the above apply will be placed in a lottery with an independent party present and will be offered a place or waitlisted depending on the order they are chosen at random.

- The Board of Management sets the total number of places each year in accordance with the DES standard teacher-student ratios, physical capacity constraints and health and safety considerations. As noted in the introduction, during the period of construction of the new school building, the school will only be able to cater for a certain number of students. The Board of Management has set this level at 137 students for the 2026/2027 academic year.
- For operational reasons, the number of primary classes will not be less than four. Class size may vary depending on the additional needs of children in that class.
- The Board of Management may reduce the numbers in a particular class where the needs of the individual children in that classroom so require.

7. What will not be considered or taken into account

In accordance with section 62(7) (e) of the Education Act, the school will not consider or take into account any of the following in deciding on applications for admission or when placing a student on a waiting list for admission to Scoil Chiaráin:

- a student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí,
- the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school;
- the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents;
- a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
- a student's connection to the school by virtue of a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school;(other than a sibling of the student concerned attending or having attended the school);
- the date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school (This is subject to the application being received at any time during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned.

8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Scoil Chiaráin will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy
- The school's annual admission notice
- The information and documentation provided by the applicant in their application including the Psychological Report, (other relevant professional reports such as those from a Psychiatrist, Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist).

(Please see section 14 below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and section 15 below in relation to applications for places in years other than the intake group.)

Applications to the NCSE will be made by the school for resources and school transport for students who are eligible to apply for a place in school Chiaráin.

Selection criteria that are not included in our school admission policy will not be used to make a decision on an application for a place in our school.

9. Notifying applicants of decisions

Applicants will be informed in writing as to the decision of the school, within the timeline outlined in the Annual Admissions Notice.

If a student is not offered a place in our school, the reasons why they were not offered a place will be communicated in writing to the applicant, including, where applicable, details of the student's ranking against the selection criteria and details of the student's place on the waiting list for the school year concerned.

Applicants will be informed of the right to seek a review/right of appeal of the school's decision (see [section 18](#) below for further details).

10. Acceptance of an offer of a place by an applicant

In accepting an offer of admission from Scoil Chiaráin, you must indicate—

(i) whether or not you have accepted an offer of admission for another school or schools. If you have accepted such an offer, you must also provide details of the offer or offers concerned and

(ii) whether or not you have applied for and awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school or schools, and if so, you must provide details of the other school or schools concerned.

Successful applications are submitted to the Board of Management for ratification.

11. Circumstances in which offers may not be made or may be withdrawn

An offer of admission may not be made or may be withdrawn by Scoil Chiaráin where:

- it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- an 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.
- the parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student; or
- an applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of 'acceptance of an offer' as set out in [section 10](#) above.

12. Sharing of Data with other schools

Applicants should be aware that section 66(6) of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 allows for the sharing of certain information between schools in order to facilitate the efficient admission of students.

Section 66(6) allows a school to provide a patron or another board of management with a list of the students in relation to whom:

- (i) an application for admission to the school has been received,
- (ii) an offer of admission to the school has been made, or
- (iii) an offer of admission to the school has been accepted.

The list may include any or all of the following:

- (i) the date on which an application for admission was received by the school;
- (ii) the date on which an offer of admission was made by the school;
- (iii) the date on which an offer of admission was accepted by an applicant;
- (iv) a student's personal details including his or her name, address, date of birth and personal public service number (within the meaning of section 262 of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005).

13. Waiting list in the event of oversubscription

In the event of there being more applications to the school year concerned than places available, a waiting list of students whose applications for admission to Scoil Chiaráin were unsuccessful due to the school being oversubscribed will be compiled and will remain valid for the school year in which admission is being sought. A separate waiting list will operate for each destination class.

Placement on the relevant waiting list is in the order of priority assigned to the students' applications after the school has applied the Assessment criteria in Section 6 above.

Applicants whose applications are received after the closing date, outlined in the Annual Admission Notice will only be processed should a suitable place become available and where an offer cannot be made to an applicant on the waiting list (e.g. an age appropriate class placement).

Late applications which are processed and meet the criteria set out in Section 5 above will be placed at the end of the relevant waiting list in order of the date of receipt of the application.

Offers of any subsequent places that become available for and during the school year in relation to which admission is being sought will be made to those students on the waiting list for the relevant destination class, in accordance with the order of priority in relation to which the students have been placed on the list.

The waiting lists for each class operate only during the academic years in question and parents/guardians must reapply for any subsequent school year.

14. Late Eligible Applications

All applications for admission received after the closing date as outlined in the annual admission notice will be considered and decided upon in accordance with our school's admissions policy, the Education Act 1998 and any regulations made under that Act.

Late eligible applicants will be notified of the decision in respect of their application no later than three weeks after the date on which the school received the application. Late applicants will be offered a place if there is a place available. In the event that there is no place available, the name of the applicant will be added to the waiting list as set out in Section 13.

15. Procedures for admission of students to other years and during the school year

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students, who are not already admitted to the school, after the commencement of the school year in which admission is sought, are as follows:

The application procedures referred to above will apply.

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school to classes or years other than the school's intake group are as follows:

The application procedures referred to above apply.

16. Declaration in relation to the non-charging of fees

The board of Scoil Chiaráin or any persons acting on its behalf will not charge fees for or seek payment or contributions (howsoever described) as a condition of-

- an application for admission of a student to the school, or
- the admission or continued enrolment of a student in the school.

17. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

This section must be completed by schools that provide religious instruction to students.

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parents or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, who has requested that the student attend the school without attending religious instruction in the school. These arrangements will not result in a reduction in the school day of such students:

A written request should be made to the Principal of the school. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s) or the student, as the case may be, to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

18. Reviews/appeals

Review of decisions by the Board of Management

The parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may request the board to review a decision to refuse admission. Such requests must be made in accordance with Section 29C of the Education Act 1998.

The timeline within which such a review must be requested and the other requirements applicable to such reviews are set out in the procedures determined by the Minister under section 29B of the Education Act 1998 which are published on the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

The board will conduct such reviews in accordance with the requirements of the procedures determined under Section 29B and with section 29C of the Education Act 1998.

Note: Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **must request a review** of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to a reason other than the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **may request a review** of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

Right of appeal

Under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, the parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may appeal a decision of this school to refuse admission.

An appeal may be made under Section 29 (1) (c) (i) of the Education Act 1998 where the refusal to admit was due to the school being oversubscribed.

An appeal may be made under Section 29 (1) (c) (ii) of the Education Act 1998 where the refusal to admit was due a reason other than the school being oversubscribed.

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **must request a review** of that decision by the board of management **prior to making an appeal** under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management)

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to a reason other than the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **may request a review** of that decision

by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management)

Appeals under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 will be considered and determined by an independent appeals committee appointed by the Minister for Education and Skills.

The timeline within which such an appeal must be made and the other requirements applicable to such appeals are set out in the procedures determined by the Minister under section 29B of the Education Act 1998 which are published on the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

19. Progression at the school and continued participation in Scoil Chiaráin

While it is envisaged that most students will remain in Scoil Chiaráin until they complete their education at 18 years of age, some students may require further assessment to assist with planning for their future support or to determine if Scoil Chiaráin is the most appropriate setting to meet their educational needs.

Assessment may be carried out by the school's NEPS psychologist or a student may be referred to another appropriate agency. Parents/Guardians' permission will always be sought before such a referral is made.

If the recommendation is made that the child transfer to another specialist facility, the school will make every effort to support families to make the transition.

If a student is found to be functioning within the high moderate range of learning disability, parents and professionals will discuss the most appropriate placement for the student – this could be to remain in Scoil Chiaráin if the student is benefitting from the programme or the decision could be made to transfer to a specialist moderate GLD facility. The needs of each child will be considered separately.

20. Curriculum

Our mission statement states:

Scoil Chiaráin provides a specialist curriculum. It strives to maximise the learning skills, social skills, self-worth and sense of independence of its pupils.

At primary level, the Revised Primary Curriculum is modified to cater for individual needs in so far as possible. Group and individual teaching is used to develop perceptual and cognitive abilities. Special emphasis is placed on sensory training and the acquisition of basic skills in communication, speech and language, reading, writing and number. The level and pace of learning is designed to meet individual learning needs. The Stay Safe Programme is covered at appropriate levels for each class throughout the year.

At post-primary level there is a practical bias to programmes. The Stay Safe Programme is also covered throughout the year in an age appropriate manner. Home Economics is taught to all post-primary students in blocks of classes. In

addition to the continued development of oracy, literacy and numeracy, special emphasis on prevocational guidance directs senior cycle students to ensure a greater sense of awareness and responsibility to work, leisure and post-school life. A wide variety of subject options reflects the range available in post-primary schools and these are conducted at a suitable level for students.

The school has an active sports and social education programme which encourages pupil participation in inter-school competitions in football, basketball, swimming and athletics. Senior students may go on an annual holiday to an Adventure Centre to participate in additional water and land based sports when appropriate.

The Curriculum in Scoil Chiaráin is wide and expansive and is organised under the following headings:

- Development of Motor Skills – PE, Games, Athletics, Swimming and Cycling
- Communication and Language – including ICT
- Mathematics
- Social Person & Health Education (SPHE) – including Relationship & Sexuality Education, Substance Misuse and Stay Safe Programmes and some students participate in a work experience programme for school leavers.
- Social, Environmental and Scientific Education (SESE) – including environmental Studies, science & technology, history, geography, horticulture and CPSE (Civic, Social and Political Education)
- Creative Arts – including woodwork, art, drama, music and dance
- Religious Formation – including preparation for sacraments

While the programme offered reflects the provision in mainstream post-primary schools, our students do not participate in Junior or Leaving Certificate exams. This would not be a fair measure of their achievements. Our school currently provides for Junior Cycle Level 2 and QQI Awards in a wide range of subjects according to each student's ability and interest. Work is continually assessed and built up into a portfolio of work which is examined by an external examiner on completion of the course. A National Certificate is awarded detailing each student's achievements and is presented at our Annual Awards Ceremony.

The educational provision within the school depends on the grants and staffing resources provided by the Department of Education and Science and we operate within the regulations laid down, from time to time by the Department. The school is classified as a primary school and so adheres to the annual calendar for primary schools.



Kathleen Dodd, Principal



Con Sweeney, Chairperson

1st March, 2026

