

Enrolment Policy **Barnacogue NS**

The Board of Management of Scoil Naomh Sheamais, Barnacogue sets out below its policy of Enrolment, in accordance with the provision of the Education Act 1998.

Barnacogue NS is a co-educational primary school under the Catholic patronage of the Bishop Brendan Kelly of Achonry.

Aims

The school aims to promote the full and harmonious development of all pupils in their cognitive, intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and other people and promotes a Christian philosophy of life.

Staff

There are two full time classroom teachers - Carmel Sherlock and Lorraine Bullard and a shared learning support teacher - Marie Burke.

The school caters for the full range of classes from Junior Infants to Sixth Class.

Scoil Naomh Sheamais operates under the Rules for National Schools and Departmental Circulars and is funded by grants and teachers resourced by the Department of Education and Science. The school is subject to The Education Act (1998), The Education Welfare Act (2000), The Education for Persons with Special Education Needs Act (2004) and all relevant equality legislation. Barnacogue NS follows the curricular programmes laid down by the Department of Education and Science.

Within the context and parameters of Department regulations and programmes, the rights of patron as set out in the Education Act (1998) and the funding and resources available, the school supports the principles of inclusiveness, equality of access and participation in school, parental choice in relation to enrolment and respect for diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life in society.

Admission Day

Junior Infant pupils are encouraged to attend school from the first day of the new school year. Children who are four after the 30th September will be admitted to the Junior Infant class the following school year. Admission to the Junior Infant class takes place once a year – at the beginning of the school year, except when a child is transferring from another school.

1. Parents seeking to enrol their child(ren) in Barnacogue NS are requested to return the completed Enrolment Application Form (available in the school) in June each year.
2. No child is refused admission for ethnic or religious reasons, family or social circumstances, or special education needs.
3. While recognising the right of parents to enrol their child in the school of their choice, the Board of Management of St. James' N S is also responsible to protect the rights of the existing school community, and in particular, the children already enrolled. This requires balanced judgements, which are guided by the principals of natural judgements acting in the best interest of all children. The Board of Management reserves the right to determine the maximum number of children in each separate classroom bearing in mind:
 - (a) Educational needs of children of a particular age
 - (b) Multi-grade classes
4. In the unlikely event of the number of children seeking enrolment in any given class exceeding the number of places available, the following criteria will be used to prioritise:
 - (a) Brothers and sisters (including step-siblings resident at same address) of children already enrolled – priority to oldest
 - (b) Children living within the parish – priority to the oldest
 - (c) Children whose home address is closest to the school (as measured by a straight line on an OS map) if the child is normally resident outside the parish / catchment area

In the event of being unable to enrol a child or children from categories a, b or c in a given class at the beginning of the year, or mid-year, such children will receive priority (in order of a, b, c) for the subsequent school year, over other children on the class waiting list.
5. Notification of Enrolment arrangements will be placed in the Parish newsletter each year.
6. Other pupils are enrolled during the school year (if newly resident in the area).
7. Pupils wishing to transfer from another school are enrolled subject to the rules governing National Schools, together with our own school's enrolment policy and consultation with the school from which they wish to transfer.
8. There is an Information meeting for prospective parents held in June each year.

9. New Junior Infants spend one informal period at school at the end of June to familiarize themselves with their new environment and allay any fears they may have surrounding their entry to Primary School.
10. Children with special needs will be resourced in accordance with the level of resources provided by the Department of Education & Science to the Board of Management.
11. Should a parent be dissatisfied with the level of special educational provision in our school we advise consideration of a special school which is designed and resourced to specifically cater for the needs of children with special educational needs.
12. Parents will be made aware of the Child Protection Policy and protocols in our school.
13. Children enrolled in our school are required to co-operate with and support the School /Board of Management's Code of Behaviour as well as other policies on curriculum, organisation & management. The Board of Management places Parents/guardians responsible for ensuring that their child(ren) co-operate with said policies in an age-appropriate way. These policies may be added to and/or revised from time to time.

This policy was reviewed in September 2011.