

**Coláiste Éamonn Rís**

**Secondary School Wexford**

**Thomas Street**

**Wexford**

**Roll Number: 63640R**

**Admissions Policy**



**Loch Garman**

**School Patron: The Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST)**

## 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 school patron approved the policy on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020. 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 Coláiste Éamonn Rís admission process are set out in the school's annual admission notice that 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.

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.

## 2. SCHOOL ETHOS & CHARACTERISTIC SPIRIT

Coláiste Éamonn Rís is a Voluntary Catholic Secondary School with a Catholic ethos for boys only. It operates under the Trusteeship of the Edmund Rice Schools Trust (ERST).

'Catholic Ethos' in the context of a Catholic voluntary secondary school means the ethos and characteristic spirit of the Roman Catholic Church, which aims at promoting:

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

and which school provides religious education 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 Coláiste Éamonn Rís 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."

The school's Admissions Policy is informed by the ERST Charter. The characteristic spirit of our school is based on the holistic vision and values of the ERST Charter and in particular on the five key elements of the Charter namely:

- Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values;
- Promoting partnership;
- Excelling in teaching and learning;
- Creating a caring school community;

- Inspiring transformational leadership.

Nurturing faith, Christian spirituality and Gospel-based values means that in Coláiste Éamonn Rís we live our Catholic Faith, experience God, respect the beliefs and values of each member of the school community and work for social and ecological justice.

Promoting partnership means that in Coláiste Éamonn Rís we make everyone feel welcome, build a Christian community with a shared vision and mission, recognise the voice of students, parents and staff, and are involved in our parish.

Excellence in teaching and learning means that in Coláiste Éamonn Rís we have high expectations of our teachers and students, nurture the development of all aspects of our lives, respond to a changing world, use technology responsibly and creatively to enhance our learning and promote learning as a life-long enterprise.

Creating a caring school community means that in Coláiste Éamonn Rís we show care and compassion as exemplified in the life of Jesus, respect and celebrate the dignity of each person, seek to help those who are disadvantaged or in need in society and speak up for those whose voice is not heard.

Inspiring transformational leadership means that in Coláiste Éamonn Rís we motivate people to work towards the vision of Blessed Edmund, inspire the minds and hearts of our students to have courage and confidence to stand up for what we believe in, lead by giving good example and take responsibility for our actions.

In Coláiste Éamonn Rís, the ERST Charter values are underpinned by a philosophy of education that has at its centre the unique dignity of the human person as a child of God. We see the interaction of people from different backgrounds—spiritual, ethnic, language, special needs—as a gift that will enrich the community of the school and promote the growth and learning of all. We value each student and his family. We welcome and are sensitive to each one, seeking to respond to their individual needs through:

**The Curriculum:** We provide a broad range of subject areas, encouraging students to take increasing responsibility for their own learning and decision-making.

**Pastoral Care:** We support and challenge our students to make the most of their time in school, providing programmes of language support, help with study, and personal counselling where necessary and developing links with family, working in partnership with parents and guardians.

**Faith Development:** We have a special commitment to development of the spiritual dimension of the lives of our members. Faith formation and the Religious Education programme play a key role.

- Students follow the State programme in Religious Education which is suitable for students of all faiths and those of no faith

- The school celebrates the major Christian feasts, and the major feasts of other faiths are acknowledged and celebrated in an appropriate way.

We hope that the gospel values inherent in the culture of the school will be internalised in the values, attitudes and behaviours of all members of the school community, and will find expression in their respect and care for one another. The school is open to and welcomes all who share this vision and wish to benefit from it.

In practical terms, the ERST charter values are reflected in the daily life of the school. The school engages with Bride Street Parish through our school chaplain. The school community comes together each September to celebrate our school Mass at the beginning of the new academic year. A Graduation Mass is celebrated in May, marking the end of our Sixth Years' secondary school life in Coláiste Éamonn Rís. Much work is done in school supporting various charities through no uniform days and through the work of the Cumann Éamonn Rís, the school's peace and justice group, inspired by the vision of Edmund Rice. Students participate as helpers on the Ferns Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes each year. The school also regularly participates in the Edmund Rice Immersion Project to Zambia. The school's vision and commitment to providing a caring inclusive education is evidenced in the decision to set up an ASD Unit in the school.

For further information on the Edmund Rice Schools Trust and Charter, see [www.EdmundRiceSchoolsTrust.ie](http://www.EdmundRiceSchoolsTrust.ie)

### **Extra-curricular Activities**

In addition to academic learning, the school places a strong emphasis on extra-curricular activities as part of the holistic development of students.

#### **Sporting Activities**

Participation in sporting activities provides opportunity for skills development and teamwork as well as contributing to the promotion of fitness, health and good discipline. The range of sporting activities in which students may participate and/or represent the school includes; Gaelic Football and Hurling; Soccer; Rugby; Golf; Table Tennis; Basketball and Athletics.

#### **Artistic Activities**

The school recognises that the development of artistic skills and talents is equally important and, apart from optional subjects such as Art and Music, students have the opportunity to participate in talent shows and joint staging of musicals with other schools from time to time.

#### **Charitable Activities**

The school participates in the ERST Immersion Project on a periodic basis. The Immersion Project aims to be transformative in the lives of those students taking part. The Project involves travelling to a third world country to participate in education and/or health related activities for a week to ten days at a time. The school/students also support local charities through fundraising activities from time to time.

### **3. Admission Statement**

Coláiste Éamonn Rís will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following grounds:

- (a) the gender ground\* of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (b) the civil status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (c) the family status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (d) the sexual orientation ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (e) the religion ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (f) the disability ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (g) the ground of race of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned,
- (h) the Traveller community ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned, or
- (i) the ground that the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned has special educational needs

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.

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

Coláiste Éamonn Rís is an all-boys school and will not discriminate where it refuses to enroll a girl applying for admission to the school.

Coláiste Éamonn Rís is a school which has established a class, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, which provides an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

### **4. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school/special class**

Coláiste Éamonn Rís, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established a class to provide an education exclusively for students with an ASD diagnosis who are in possession of a psychological report that

explicitly states that they require the support of such a special class. Admission to this class is subject also to the sanction of the NCSE.

## 5. Admission of Students

Coláiste Éamonn Rís shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (please see [section 6](#) below for further details)
- b) a 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
- c) Coláiste Éamonn Rís provides education exclusively for boys and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the gender provided for by this school
- d) Coláiste Éamonn Rís is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student 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.
- e) The special class attached to Coláiste Éamonn Rís provides an education exclusively for students with an Aspergers Syndrome Diagnosis and the school may refuse admission to this class, where the student concerned does not have the specified category of special educational needs provided for in this class.

The number of first year places available will be communicated to parents at a Pre-Enrolment Information Night for parents of potential first year students. The Pre-Enrolment Information Night is held in October (where possible). Attendance at the Pre-Enrolment Information Night is strongly encouraged but is not taken into account when processing admissions.

### Expression of Interest in Enrolment Forms

Expression of Interest in Enrolment Forms are available from the school office during school hours (9.00am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday) or may be downloaded from the school's website [www.wexfordcbs.ie](http://www.wexfordcbs.ie). Completed Expression of Interest in Enrolment Forms may be submitted electronically to [admin@wexfordcbs.ie](mailto:admin@wexfordcbs.ie). or, alternatively, by post/hand to: The Principal, Coláiste Éamonn Rís, Thomas Street, Wexford Town, Postcode Y35 XV 02.

**Submission of an Expression of Interest in Enrolment Form does not guarantee a place in the school. Actual enrolment is subject to the criteria set out in the Admissions Procedures as amended from time to time.**

## Admissions Criteria

**Parents and guardians: Please read the criteria below very carefully and make sure you have full accurate details on your son's enrolment form. The offer of a place will be based solely on the information you put on the enrolment form.**

Enrolment forms cannot be accepted prior to 1<sup>st</sup> October of the year preceding the year for which enrolment is applied.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) who wish their son(s) to be considered for enrolment in first year in the school are required to complete and submit an Enrolment Form. Enrolment Forms will be available at the Pre-Enrolment Information Night meeting (see paragraph above titled Enrolment Numbers) or may be downloaded from the school's website [www.wexfordcbs.ie](http://www.wexfordcbs.ie). or may be collected by calling to, or telephoning, the school office **after** the Pre-Enrolment Information Night.

## **Eligibility for Admission to First Year**

The eligibility criteria for admission to First Year is as follows:

- Boys:
  - whose parents/guardians have completed & submitted an Enrolment form;
  - who have completed sixth class in Primary School;
  - who will have reached the required age (12) on the 1<sup>st</sup> January in the calendar year immediately following entry into first year;
  - who are willing in conjunction with their parents to respect the school ethos;
  - who are willing, with parents/guardians to accept and adhere to the school Code of Behaviour and all other school policies
  - who are willing to take an assessment test that is used only to assess achievement levels in order to best facilitate students according to their needs.

**Admission to the school is subject also to the conditions set out in the following paragraphs.**

## **6. Oversubscription:**

In the event that the school is oversubscribed, the school will, when deciding on applications for admission, apply the following selection criteria in the order listed below to those applications that are received within the timeline for receipt of applications as set out in the school's annual admission notice

Applicants who fall into the following categories:

- 1- Brothers of current or past pupils of Coláiste Éamonn Rís;
- 2 - Sons of staff members of Coláiste Éamonn Rís;
- 3- Sons of past pupils of Coláiste Éamonn Rís (up to a maximum of 25% of total number of places available as set out in the annual Admissions Notice);

4- All other applications received on or before the closing date for receipt of Enrolment Forms.

Coláiste Éamonn Rís reserves the right to seek documentary evidence from parents/guardians that applicants satisfy the criteria set out above.

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 number of applicants exceeds the number of remaining places), the following arrangements will apply:

Where there are fewer places available than there are applicants in a given category, a lottery will apply in allocating places within that category. When a lottery is required, all applicants within the category will have their names entered for the lottery and names will be drawn until all available places in that category have been allocated. The remaining names of applicants in the category will continue to be drawn by lottery to establish the order of applicants on a waiting list for places.

Based on past experience of application numbers, it is possible that lotteries will be required for both category 3 and category 4 applicants. In such circumstances, the category 3 lottery will take place first and applicants who do not secure a place in that lottery will have their names entered for the category 4 lottery also.

N.B. In the event of applications from brothers (twins, triplets etc.) being included in a lottery and one or more of the brothers being offered a place/s by lottery, the school will make a place/s available for the remaining brother/s.

Lotteries will be supervised by at least two of the following:

- A solicitor
- The Principal
- A nominee of the Parents' Council

If, for any reason, a place becomes available, it will be offered to the next highest placed applicant on the relevant waiting list.

## **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 the school:

- (a) a student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí,
- (b) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school;
- (c) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude; other than in relation to admission to a special class



insofar as it is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not the student meets the criteria for admission to the special class.

- (c) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents;
- (d) a requirement that a student, or his parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
- (e) 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:
  - (1) Siblings of a student attending or having attended the school and;
  - (2) Parents of a student having attended the school subject to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's annual admission notice being allocated to this category of applicant.
- (f) 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 Coláiste Eamonn Rís will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy
- The school's annual admission notice (where applicable)
- The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in our annual admission notice for receiving applications
  - Timely receipt by Coláiste Éamonn Rís of an enrolment form - Applications for enrolment received after the closing date/time for receipt of completed Enrolment Forms will be held on file but will be considered only if waiting lists has been exhausted/terminated and further places become available.

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.

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

## **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 Coláiste Éamonn Rís, 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.

## **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 Coláiste Éamonn Rís where—

- (i) it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- (ii) 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.
- (iii) 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
- (iv) 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.

## **13. Waiting Lists in 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 Coláiste Éamonn Rís 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.

Placement on the waiting list of Coláiste Éamonn Rís is in the order of priority assigned to the students' applications after the school has applied the selection criteria in accordance with this admission policy.

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, in accordance with the order of priority in relation to which the students have been placed on the list.

#### **14. Late 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 Admissions to School Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act.

#### **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 to classes or years other than the school's intake group are as follows:

A student who wishes to apply to transfer into Coláiste Eamonn Rís from another school must complete and submit a Student Transfer Application Form (see page 23) for consideration by the Board of Management. Transfers will normally take effect from the beginning of a school year.

While the school will seek to accommodate transfer requests, any application to transfer in from another school must satisfy the following conditions:

- Receipt of an acceptable student report (work-rate/behaviour/attendance) from the current/previous school attended;
- Adequate capacity being available in the school and/or the requested year group;
- Sufficient compatibility between subjects available in the school and those being studied by the applicant.

In considering a transfer application, the school may:

- Consult, where it considers it appropriate, with the parents/guardians of the student and, if necessary, with the Education Welfare Officer;
- Consult with the current or previous school(s) of the student;
- Seek the views of staff;
- Require the student to undertake an assessment test.

In reaching a decision on a transfer application, the Principal, on behalf of the Board of Management must be satisfied that the transfer would be of educational benefit to the student and, that the transfer would be in the interests of both the student and the school.

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:

During the school year, boys will be considered for transfer into the school only if

- a) they are moving into the Wexford region, **or**,
- b) there is mutual agreement on the transfer between both schools involved.

Where the Principal, on behalf of the Board of Management, decides to accept a student on transfer a place may be offered immediately, or from the beginning of the following academic year.

An application to transfer/join the school in respect of a student who has been excluded from another school will be considered by the the Principal, on behalf of the Board of Management, only when all appeal avenues have been exhausted on the student's behalf in respect of his exclusion from his previous school.

Further information on admission procedures for the ASD Unit, Transition Year and Repeat Leaving Certificate is contained in Appendix 1 attached.

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

The board of Coláiste Éamonn Rís, 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**

The following are the school's arrangements for parents of students and students (over 18) who have 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.

Parents of students and students (over 18) who wish to opt out of RE class should make a written request to the principal. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent or the student, as the case may be, to discuss their options. Throughout this process, the constitutional right of the parent/ student (over 18 years) will be respected by the school.

The 1998 Education Act states that schools are required to promote the moral, spiritual, social and personal development of students (Section 9 (d)). At Coláiste Éamonn Rís, the allocated time on the timetable for Religious Education responds to this. Students who opt out of RE class are required to use this time to study material relating to their own religious tradition or belief, for example sacred texts. Students of no religious faith, who opt out of RE class, are required to study relevant literature or philosophical texts. A list of suggested texts can be provided by the school. In line with the Edmund Rice Schools Trust Charter, Coláiste Éamonn Rís places great importance on the religious or spiritual formation of all its students. Each student has his own personal journey that will be encouraged and respected. Students who opt out of RE class will not be offered extra tuition or study periods.

## **18. Reviews/Appeals against decisions to refuse admission**

### **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 and must be received by the board not later than 21 days after the applicant has been informed in writing as to the decision of the school in accordance with Section 9 of this policy.

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. This request must be received by the board not later than 21 days after the applicant has been informed in writing as to the decision of the school in accordance with Section 9 of this policy.

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. This request must be received by the board not later than 21 days after the applicant has been informed in writing as to the decision of the school in accordance with Section 9 of this policy.

## 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). This request must be received by the board not later than 21 days after the applicant has been informed in writing as to the decision of the school in accordance with Section 9 of this policy.

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). This request must be received by the board not later than 21 days after the applicant has been informed in writing as to the decision of the school in accordance with Section 9 of this policy.

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.

# Appendix 1

## ASD Unit

The school currently has a special Education Unit that provides special needs support for students with Aspergers Syndrome. The Unit has limited capacity and resources with places available for a maximum of twelve students. Admission to the Unit is governed by procedures additional to the normal Admissions Policy and is set out below. In the event that there are more applicants than places available in the Unit, places will be allocated as per criteria 1-3 of the general admissions criteria i.e.

1. Brothers of current or past pupils of Coláiste Éamonn Rís;
2. Sons of staff members of Coláiste Éamonn Rís;
3. Sons of past pupils of Coláiste Éamonn Rís (up to a maximum of 25% of the total number of places available as set out in the annual Admissions Notice) ;

In the event of the number of applicants in any given category exceeding the number of places available in the Unit, a lottery will be used to decide the allocation of places.

In the event of a place or places being still available after this process, a lottery will be held to decide the matter.

### Admissions Procedures for ASD Unit

The boy must be an existing student or apply for admission to the school in the normal manner as set out in the School's Admissions Policy.

Parents/guardians must;

- make a written application seeking a place in the Unit for their son and this must be submitted with the standard Enrolment Form;
- provide the reports/assessments/documentation necessary (see below) to the school to allow an informed decision to be made on the application.

### **Criteria for Admission to the Unit**

The boy applying for a place in the facility must have a psychological/psychiatric report that clearly specifies a diagnosis of Aspergers Syndrome [without significant intellectual disability]. Diagnosis must be determined by the DSM 1V, ICD 10 criteria, or other recognised diagnostic tool acceptable to the Admissions Advisory Panel.

The following documents (all should be recent i.e. less than two years old) will be required also in respect of applicants seeking a place in the unit.

- i) A cognitive assessment that includes an estimation of global cognitive function.
- ii) A current psychological report stating the suitability of a second level environment in meeting the boy's needs.

Evidence available must suggest that applicants must have the adaptive skills and cognitive functioning that would enable them to learn consistently in a mainstream environment.

**Additional Reports:** Reports from other professionals as appropriate should be included. These reports should include reports from the applicant's primary school and from any other agency or professional involved in the education of the applicant.

The Admissions Advisory Panel may ask for further reports or information which may impact on the applicants educational planning.

### **Admissions Advisory Panel**

All applications for admission to the ASD Unit will be reviewed by an Admissions Advisory Panel that will consist of:

- the Deputy Principal
- a Resource teacher and/or Guidance Counsellor
- a Learning support Teacher in the ASD Unit.

The function of the Admissions Advisory Panel will be to:

- review all information and documentation relevant to an applicant for a place in the Unit;
- verify the facility's suitability in meeting the needs of the applicant;
- make recommendations based on these findings to the Principal on behalf of the Board of Management.

### **Role of the Principal on behalf of the Board of Management**

The Principal, on behalf of the Board of Management, makes the final decision on applications for admission to the Unit. In making a decision, the Principal will have regard to the recommendations of the Admissions Advisory Panel.

The Principal reserves the right to appoint other or substitute members to the Admissions Advisory Panel as deemed necessary and to seek external expert advice if required.

### **Review Process**

All placements in the Unit are subject to review at the request of the parent or the school. Such a review will be carried out by school staff with parents and student involvement where appropriate.

The outcome of any review will be examined by the Admissions Advisory Panel and by the Principal on behalf of the Board of Management. In the event that a placement is inappropriate, the school will liaise with the appropriate agencies in an effort to obtain a placement more suitable to the needs of the student.

## **Transition Year**

**The Transition Year Programme in Coláiste Éamonn Rís is a one-year non-compulsory programme that comes immediately after completion of the Junior Cycle.** The aim of the programme is:



- Live the values of the ERST Charter and in particular on the five key elements of the Charter and in particular:
  - work for social and ecological justice through teamwork and task oriented projects.
  - nurture the development of all aspects of our lives through a wide range of cultural and sporting activities,
  - seek to help those who are disadvantaged or in need in society and speak up for those whose voice is not heard through links between school and the wider community.
  - inspire the minds and hearts of our students to have courage and confidence to stand up for what we believe in and prepare students to become responsible members of society.
- ◆ To provide a good academic basis for beginning the Senior Cycle (Leaving Certificate) Course.
- ◆ To develop aspects of the curriculum which tend not to be catered for in other courses.

**The core subjects in Transition Year are:**

English	Irish	Mathematics	Religion	Science	P.E.	Enterprise
Environmental Studies	Drama	History	Computer Studies	Road Safety	Cultural	
Studies (Chinese Language and Culture)	Career Guidance					

There is also a Work Experience module where students spend one/two weeks in a real work environment. Note that subjects and activities for Transition Year students may change from year to year.

The maximum number of places available on the TY programme will be dependent upon staffing, facilities and resources and will be determined annually by the Board of Management.

Acceptance on to the Transition Year Programme is contingent on the school being of the opinion that a student is capable of benefiting from participation in Transition Year and, equally, that his participation will not prevent any other participating student(s) from benefiting from the programme. Decisions in this regard will be taken by the Transition Year Admissions Committee, following consultation with the student and his teachers.

**[Transition Year Application Procedures](#)**

**1. T.Y. Application Procedures**

1.1 Early in third year, the TY Programme Co-ordinator will visit all third year classes. He/she will make it clear to all prospective applicants that knowledge of, research into and preparation for Transition Year, as evidenced in the completed application form, will be critical factors in gaining entry to the programme. Similarly, attendance, application, attitude to work and behaviour will be important factors.

1.2 A formal evening presentation will be delivered to parents/guardians of third year students interested in applying for a place on the programme.

1.3 Students apply for a place on a formal application form, witnessed by their parent(s)/guardian(s). This application form will outline some research into the Transition Year Programme and state clearly the reasons why they are applying for a place. It will also outline the commitment that they will give if they are offered and accept a place. It will be impressed upon applicants that this is a critical factor in the application process.

**1.4 Applications will be deemed valid only if they are fully completed and submitted to the School Secretary within the specified deadline. Applications will be date-stamped only when considered valid.**

1.5 Any application received subsequent to the stated deadline (3.30pm on the second Friday in March) will be considered **only** after students whose applications were submitted on time have been processed.

## **2. The Transition Year Admissions Committee:**

2.1 The Transition Year Admissions Committee will be responsible for assessing applications and offering places. The committee will comprise of the Programme Coordinator, Transition Year Coordinator, Deputy-Principal and Year Head of the current third year students, or a nominee of the Principal to replace one of the above who may be unavailable for any reason.

2.2 Members of the teaching staff will be advised of the list of applicants, and will be invited to offer professional advice and judgements in writing to the T.Y. Admissions Committee within a time schedule specified by the Programme Coordinator.

2.3 The criteria outlined in 1.1(above), the Application Form and the professional advice and judgements of the teaching staff will be critical factors in determining a student's application for admission on to the Transition Year Programme.

2.4 The Transition Year Admissions Committee reserves the right to interview students in relation to their applications and their suitability for participation.

## **3. Offer & Acceptance of Places**

3.1 Places will be offered in writing to successful applicants within 10 school days of completion of the application process. Unsuccessful applicants will be informed in writing within the same time frame and will be advised of their right to appeal the decision initially to the Principal and subsequently to the Board of Management, if unhappy with the result of the initial appeal (See Section 6, below).

3.2 Students accepting a place must complete and return the Acceptance Form within the date specified, along with the first moiety of the Transition Year fee, currently €250. This form must be signed by the applicant and witnessed by a parent/guardian. Failure to return the acceptance form to the school administration office within the specified time-frame will result in the place being forfeited.

3.3 Students accepting a place must comply with the school's Code of Behaviour and specifically pay regard to the terms of the Code as it applies to TY students.

#### **4. External Applications:**

Any application to transfer to Coláiste Éamonn Rís from another school will be considered strictly under the terms of the school's Admissions Policy in relation to such transfers. Should places in Transition Year become available, applications from external candidates will be considered by the Transition Year Admissions Committee following completion of the 'Offer and Acceptance of Places' process for internal candidates.

#### **5. T.Y. Programme Fee:**

The Programme Fee for Transition Year is set annually by the Board of Management and is intended to assist in defraying costs associated with the various activities and courses fundamental to the programme. This is currently €450 and is payable in two moieties, half payable on acceptance of the placement and the remainder payable on the first day back in August. In addition, students will be required to pay separately for participation in some specific activities/trips undertaken during the course of the year.

#### **6. Appeals:**

In any case where a student is not offered a place by the T.Y. Admissions Committee, an appeal on his behalf may be made in writing to the Principal within 10 school days of notification that a place is not being offered. The appeal will be heard and determined within 10 school days of receipt of the appeal. In the case of such an appeal being rejected by the by the Principal, a further and final appeal may be made in writing to the Board of Management within 10 school days of the date on which the Principal issues his written decision rejecting the first appeal. The final appeal will be heard by the Board of Management at its next scheduled meeting.

### **Repeat 6<sup>th</sup> Year (Leaving Certificate) Applications**

Coláiste Éamonn Rís may allow its graduates to repeat Sixth Year to enable them to re-sit the Leaving Certificate. The facility to repeat Sixth Year is generally reserved for past pupils of the school and the following Guidelines apply:

#### **APPLICATIONS:**

1. Application Forms will be available in the school from the day on which the Leaving Cert results are issued.
2. Completed Application Form must be submitted before the beginning of the following School Year and must be accompanied by the relevant fees (see below)

#### **PROCESS:**

1. Applications will be assessed for feasibility/compatibility with current Option Blocks/Class spaces.
2. Applicant's Academic, Disciplinary and Extra-Curricular records will be assessed.
3. Viable candidates will be called for interview at the earliest possible date.
4. Principal, Deputy Principal and Staff will consider all viable applications.
5. The Principal will make decisions on behalf of the Board of Management based on assessments under 1-4 above.
6. Successful applicants will be offered places in order of date/time of receipt of Application Forms until all available places have been filled.
7. The number of repeat Sixth Year places available will vary from year to year. In the event of more applications being received than there are places available, a Waiting List will be established based on date and time of receipt by the school of the applications.
8. Any applicant offered a place is required to inform the school of his intention to accept/reject the offer at the earliest possible time and in any event not later than one week from the date of the offer-failure to do so will be deemed a refusal of the offer of a place. In such circumstances, the offer will stand withdrawn without further notice and the place will be offered to the next highest placed applicant on the waiting list.

Unsuccessful Candidates have the right to appeal the decision to the Board of Management. Appeals must be made in writing to the Secretary to the Board of Management not later than one week from the date of notification of the decision not to offer a place and should state clearly the grounds for the appeal. The appeal will be heard by the Board of Management at its next scheduled meeting.

### **SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS**

- Will attend school from the date specified by the Principal.
- Will have a full timetable and will attend all classes for the entire school year.
- Will only be allowed to continue with the Repeat Year following a successful October Assessment (*assessment of progress/productivity for each student*)
- Will adhere to the school's Code of Behaviour.
- Will undertake to work to the best of their ability.
- Will be a positive influence for the student population.

*The following fees (which are subject to change) apply to students repeating in Coláiste Éamonn Rís.*

<i>School Fee</i>	<i>€130</i>	<i>Payable to school</i>	<i>in August with application (payable by all)</i>
<i>D.E.S. Fee</i>	<i>€126.97</i>	<i>Payable to school</i>	<i>in August with application (waived for Medical Card holders)</i>
<i>S.E.C. Fee</i>	<i>€301</i>	<i>Payable to S.E.C.</i>	<i>in February through bank (waived for Medical Card holder)</i>
<i>Mocks Fee</i>	<i>€110</i>	<i>Payable to school</i>	<i>in February (payable by all)</i>

