



Enrolment Policy for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Class at Sandpit NS

The Board of Management of Sandpit NS has set out this policy in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act of 1998, the Education Welfare Act 2000, the Equal Status Act 2000 and the Disabilities Act 2002. The Board trusts that by so doing, parents will be assisted in relation to enrolment, and that furthermore, the Chairperson of the Board, and the Principal Teacher. Sandpit NS is a mixed school under the patronage of the Archbishop of Armagh.

Rationale for the Establishment of an ASD Class

Following consultation with parents, staff, Board of Management and people of the local community, a need for such a class was identified. Our ASD class aims to offer an autism specific learning environment within a mainstream setting. This setting facilitates optimum inclusion as part of the school community with access to mainstream activities as appropriate. The class is due to open in September 2019, for children from Junior infant to 2nd class age groups.

Aims and Objectives

We will endeavour to provide the highest quality of education to our children. We want the individual to grow to her full potential. Our aim is that this education will prepare each child for life to the best of her ability. We recognise and value the role of parents as the primary educator of their children. Together we can provide the skills for a loving approach to learning. We take an eclectic approach to teaching our pupils. We don't subscribe exclusively to any one approach to the education of children with Autism, but will draw from each according to the individual child's needs.

Enrolment:

The number of admissions depends on the number of places available, which may vary from year to year. In the event that the number of children seeking enrolment into the ASD class exceeds the number of places available, names will be placed on a waiting list and preference will be given to

1. Siblings of children enrolled in the school.
2. Children from the local area (as defined by the Parish Boundary of Termonfeckin).

3. Children in the surrounding parishes to Termonfeckin.
4. Children outside of these areas.
5. All necessary documentations/Professional Reports made available to the school (as required by the SENO).
6. Children appropriate in class age to children already enrolled.

Enrolment Criteria:

Before a child is enrolled to the ASD class, the parents/guardian along with the child are asked to visit the school, giving both parties (School, potential new entrant) a chance to observe the new environment. These visits do not confirm the child's enrolment in Sandpit NS. Once a child meets the criteria (as stated above) and the Board of Management confirms that the child is best suited to the ASD class, confirmation of enrolment will follow.

A child will be offered a place in accordance with our ASD Enrolment Policy when all of the following criteria have been met: 1. A fully completed application form for enrolment has been submitted to the school by the parents/guardian.

2. The child must have a multi-disciplinary report with a diagnosis of a qualifying ASD (DSM IV, V or ICD 10) and with a recommendation to attend an ASD class attached to mainstream school.
3. The diagnosis must be made using a professionally recognised clinical and psychological assessment procedure.
4. A recent recommendation (within two years of the proposed admission date) must be provided by the above professional indicating that a placement in an ASD class in a mainstream school is warranted. A needs analysis/recommendation in respect of each child will also be required in order to provide the best education possible for the children.
5. The child has access to, and will continue to have access to specified services as recommended; for example Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy.
6. The school have the necessary resources to meet the special needs of the child.

Class Size:

As this is our first ASD class, we are commencing with Junior classes, for ages 4 to 8. Children must be four years old before the 1st September on year of enrolment. The class will consist of a maximum of 6 pupils, one class teacher and two SNAs. The day will run from 9am to 1.40pm for the first three years in school and then extend to 2.40pm.

Integration and Reverse Integration

Curricular Integration:

Having adjusted on a social level, the child from the ASD class will be introduced to areas of the curriculum appropriate to ability level. The child will go to the various lessons

accompanied by an SNA and join his mainstream peers for as much as is appropriate for the child.

Reverse Integration

A policy of reverse integration will be introduced and extends to all classes. This involves:
The child from the ASD class being integrated for core curriculum subjects such as Maths and English initially through reverse integration whereby 2/3 children from the mainstream class are withdrawn to join the child in their own environment. It is hoped that this will in the long-term lead to conventional integration into the mainstream class.

The level of integration into a mainstream class for a core curriculum subject will be on an individual basis only and will differ from child to child. The school will retain discretion as to the particular children who should avail of core curriculum mainstream integration.

Discharge from the unit: _____ It is school policy to facilitate the discharge of pupils from the unit once they have reached the age of twelve. Pupils who reach the age of twelve after September 30th in any year will be permitted to complete that academic year. This means a June discharge in the following year. Discharge may also be recommended after the first year if the school, after consultation with the parents/guardian, feel that placement is not appropriate. Discharge from the unit may also happen if a pupil is fully integrated into the mainstream school.

July Provision

This will not be available in the school.

Staff Development

Staff will be encouraged to seek training on the various interventions available and recommended to the school by professional agencies such as the HSE and Enable Ireland. NEPS will also be used as a support service for teachers.

Ratification and Communication:

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on_____

It replaces the existing policy and is implemented forthwith.

Signed:Mr Bernard Lennon

(Chairperson, Board of Management)

Date: _____

Signed:Mrs. E. Victory(príomhoide)

Date:
