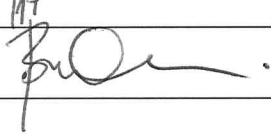
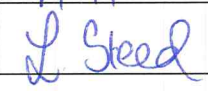




BLESSINGTON EDUCATE TOGETHER NATIONAL SCHOOL

ENROLMENT POLICY

Ratified by Board of Management on:			
Date:	4/4/17	Date:	4/4/17
Signed:		Signed:	
Chairperson, Board of Management		Principal LYNN STEED.	

CONTENTS

1.0	RATIONALE	3
2.0	SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY AND ETHOS	3
3.0	GENERAL INFORMATION	4
4.0	ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	4
5.0	ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES	4
6.0	ENROLMENT OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS INTO MAINSTREAM CLASSES:	6
7.0	CODE OF BEHAVIOUR:	6
8.0	FAILURE TO SECURE A PLACE:	7
9.0	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:	7
10.0	DATA PROTECTION	7
11.0	RATIFICATION AND REVIEW	7

1.0 RATIONALE

The Board of Management of Blessington Educate Together National School wishes to inform all parents and guardians that this policy has been set out in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1998, the Welfare Education Act 2000 and the Equal Status Act for Persons with special Needs 2004 and provides for equality of access and participation in the school for all children in our society whatever their social, religious, cultural and racial background and whether or not they have a disability or special educational needs, within the schools ability to provide a safe and secure environment for all children and staff.

Blessington Educate Together National School is under the patronage of Educate Together. Parents/Guardians are advised to familiarise themselves with the Educate Together ethos prior to enrolling their child in the school.

The school caters for children from Junior Infants to sixth class. It is co-educational and multi-denominational. Blessington Educate Together is a national school and as such operates in accordance within the Rules for National Schools and is dependent on such grants and teachers' resources as are provided by the DES. All school policies must have regard to the resources and funding provided.

Blessington Educate Together National School follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills, which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998).

The chairperson of the Board of Management or the Principal will be happy to clarify any further matters arising from this policy.

2.0 SCHOOL PHILOSOPHY AND ETHOS

Central to Blessington Educate Together National School is the fostering of a respectful atmosphere that informs all school policies as well as everyday school life. This offers a framework within which positive techniques of motivation and encouragement are utilised by all partners in the children's education.

Our school operates under the direct patronage of Educate Together. The four underlying principles of our ethos are:

- Equality Based
- Co-Educational
- Child-centred
- Democratically run

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

Blessington Educate Together National School, under the patronage of Educate Together, is located at Red Lane, Blessington, Co. Wicklow. Blessington Educate Together National School was founded in September 2006. The teaching staff currently comprises of two teachers including the Principal, and two part-time resource/learning support teachers. At present classes range from Junior Infants to Sixth Class and all classes are co-ed.

The school day begins at 9.00 a.m. Infant classes go home at 1.40 p.m., Senior classes at 2.40 p.m. The school follows the curricular programme prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills, which may be amended from time to time in accordance with sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act, 1998. Blessington Educate Together National School also implements the Ethical Education Programme as prescribed by its patron, Educate Together.

Within the context and parameters of Department of Education and Skills regulations and programmes, the rights of the Patron as set out in the Education Act and the funding and resources available, Blessington Educate Together National School supports the principles of:

- Equality of access and participation in the school
- Respect for the diversity of values, beliefs, traditions, languages and ways of life in society
- Parental choice in relation to enrolment
- Inclusiveness, particularly with reference to the enrolment of children with a disability or other special educational need.

4.0 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Under the Education Act 1998, a child may not be allowed to attend or be enrolled in a primary school before the 4th anniversary of his/her birth. In Blessington Educate Together National School children must be 4 years old on or before 1st August of the year of admission into Junior Infant classes.

Siblings of children currently enrolled in the school are given priority over those on the pre-enrolment list subject to the conditions outlined below in the Enrolment Criteria. All remaining places are offered on a first come, first served basis. Parents who feel that their child's adoption or foster placement may have delayed their pre-enrolment date should clearly indicate this on the pre-enrolment form as well as provide all documentation requested to this effect.

In determining admissions the Principal / Board of Management shall take account of Department of Education and Skills regulations in relation to staffing, class size and class average. The Principal / Board of Management shall also have regard to issues such as physical space, multi-grade classes, and the presence of children with special educational and/or behavioural needs.

5.0 ADMISSIONS PROCEDURES

Parents/Guardians wishing to apply for a place for their child must complete and return a pre-enrolment form. This form can be obtained by contacting the school office or may be downloaded from our website, www.betns.ie. Parents (including parents of children currently in the school) are advised to put their children's names on the pre-enrolment list as soon as possible after the child is born (or placed in your

care). Enrolment is by way of written application only, using the school's pre-enrolment application form. Each form received by the school will be acknowledged in writing.

On receipt of a completed pre-enrolment form a pre-enrolment number will be allocated to each applicant. If more than one application form is received on a particular day then these numbers are awarded in the order of post-date on the envelope. If the post date on the envelopes is the same then children will be put on the admissions list one after the other in alphabetical order of surnames.

Each child will be placed on the list according to the pre-enrolment number. If parents have twins, triplets, etc. then the children will be put on the list one after the other in alphabetical order of the child's first name.

Two separate lists will be kept for each year, a Junior Infant and a non-Junior Infant list. Children will be listed in order of pre-enrolment number.

No guarantees of places will be given or implied by pre-enrolment.

Children will, as a rule, only be admitted into Junior Infant classes during the month of September. Children may be admitted to a Junior Infant class during the school year provided they are transferring from another school.

Siblings of children currently attending the school shall be offered places subject to availability and provided that their applications are received within six months of their dates of birth/adoption. All remaining places will be offered by order of pre-enrolment number on the pre-enrolment list.

Fostered or adopted children will be placed on the pre-enrolment list in accordance with their birth date. Their place on the pre-enrolment list will depend on the time elapsed between placement of the child with the family and the enrolment date. For example, a child placed with the family at age two but placed on the enrolment list at age three will be treated as a child enrolled at age one. Confirmation from the relevant agency of the date of placement of a child with the family will be needed to be provided with the enrolment form. A pre-enrolment number will be provided which is relevant to the child's place on the list. It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school of this at pre-enrolment (not when offers are being made).

Letters of offer will be sent out in November of the year prior to that for which the child is pre-enrolled. Parents/Guardians must reply in writing to confirm an offered place within 14 days. Failure to respond within 14 days will result in the place being forfeited.

On acceptance of a place the child's birth certificate should be provided to the school, a copy will be taken, and the original sent back.

Parents/Guardians of Junior Infants may defer the child's place for one year, providing the child is under 6 by the first of September of the year in which he/she starts school. This means that the child will be placed on the list for the following year according to the original pre-enrolment number. Deferral does not guarantee a place the following year. Parents/Guardians of children for classes other than Junior Infants cannot defer a place.

If a place is not offered during the school year for which a place is sought and parents wish their child's name to be put on the waiting list for the following year (either for Junior Infants or for another class) they must inform the school by the 30th September of the year for which the place is sought. By doing this the child will be placed on the list for the following year according to their original pre-enrolment number. It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to make such a request in writing; otherwise the application will be removed from the school's pre-enrolment list.

It is the sole responsibility of the parent to inform the school promptly of any change of address, telephone number or other relevant circumstances.

6.0 ENROLMENT OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS INTO MAINSTREAM CLASSES:

Where it is apparent that a child has a disability or other special educational needs, the school may require that these needs be assessed prior to admission in order to enable the school to make suitable advance preparations for the admission of the student and, if necessary, to seek additional resources.

The school will use the funding provided to it by the Department of Education and Skills to make reasonable provision and accommodation for students with a disability or other special educational needs, including, where necessary, alteration of buildings and provision of appropriate equipment.

Blessington Educate Together National School endeavours at all times to practice the school policy of inclusion and welcomes applications from children with special educational needs. Such applications are subject to the enrolment principles outlined above. In order to assist the school in establishing the educational and physical needs of the child relevant to his/her ability or special needs, and to profile the support services required, the school requests that the parent/guardian of the child:

- Informs the school of any special needs as early as possible in the pre- enrolment /enrolment process.
- Ensures that copies of the child's medical and /or psychological report(s) are provided to Blessington Educate Together National School.

Where such a report is not available, a request should be made that the child would be assessed immediately. Following receipt of the report the Principal / Board of Management will assess how the school can meet the needs specified therein. Where the Principal / Board deems that further resources are required, it will, prior to enrolment, request the DES and/or the HSE provide the resources required to meet the needs of the child as outlined in the psychological and/or medical report.

The Principal may, in conjunction with the Special Educational Needs Organiser (SENO) or DES inspector, meet with the parents/guardians of the child to discuss the child's needs and the school's suitability or capability in meeting those needs.

Applications for admission in respect of a child with a disability or other special educational needs will be refused where the nature of the child's needs are such that they would make impossible, or have a seriously detrimental effect on, the provision of education by the school to other children.

7.0 CODE OF BEHAVIOUR:

Children enrolled in Blessington Educate Together National School are required to co-operate with the school's Code of Behaviour and other policies on curriculum, organisation and management.

Parents/Guardians are responsible for ensuring that their children co-operate with these policies in an age appropriate way.

8.0 FAILURE TO SECURE A PLACE:

Parents may appeal a refusal of admission to the school to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills.

For further information, contact:

Section 29 Appeals Unit
Department of Education and Skills
Friars Mill Road
Mullingar
Co. Westmeath
T | (044) 9337008
E | www.education.ie

Parent who are experiencing difficulty in securing a place for their child should contact the National Educational Welfare Board to seek the assistance of their local Educational Welfare Officer:
www.newb.ie | info@newb.ie | 01 873 8700

9.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Blessington Educate Together National School endeavours to provide the highest standards of care for its pupils. In order to achieve this objective successfully, it is vital that the school be informed of any relevant situation regarding health, bereavement, domestic circumstances etc. Any such information should be passed by the school principal and shall be treated in strictest confidence.

10.0 DATA PROTECTION

The school acknowledges its obligations as a data controller under the Data Protection Acts 1988 and 2003. Information obtained for the purposes of allocating places in the school to applicant children will only be used and disclosed in a manner which is compatible with this purpose. Only such personal data as are relevant and necessary for the performance of this function will be retained. The school undertakes to ensure that such information is processed fairly, that it is kept safe, secure, accurate, complete, and up-to-date. Individuals have the right to have any inaccurate information rectified or erased. A copy of all personal data obtained and kept as part of the admissions process will be made available to the subject of such data on receipt of a written request to the Chairperson of the Board of Management.

11.0 RATIFICATION AND REVIEW

This policy was ratified by the Board of Management on the _____ day of _____. It is scheduled for review on the _____ day of _____. Educate Together, as patron, approved the manner of this policy's publication on the _____ day of _____.

The Board of Management reserves the right to alter this policy, subject to its statutory obligations, including its obligations to Educate Together as patron. Should the policy be altered, applicant parents will be advised in writing, and will be supplied with an amended policy. All alterations will come into effect 30 days after the date of notification.