



Admission's Policy

St. Saviour's NS Extra Resource Class "The Hub"

St Saviour's NS, Rathdrum, operates under the patronage of the Church of Ireland Bishop Glendalough. Our philosophy at St. Saviour's is that each child is nurtured and loved as an individual in an atmosphere of fairness, tolerance and respect.

The Hub is the name given to our dedicated resource class for children with autism.

The Hub has a maximum capacity of six pupils in one class. In setting up the class, the BoM is committed to developing an educational setting which is focused on the needs of the pupils and enables learning to take place in a safe environment while facilitating integration into mainstream classes.

Parental involvement in the pupils' learning is encouraged and valued. It ensures consistency between the pupils' various learning environments.

The teaching methodologies employed in the class will be those that are deemed most appropriate by the school, to the individual pupil's learning needs.

We aim to:

- Provide a safe and caring environment which is supportive and inclusive of a child with Autism.
- Create a stimulating learning environment in which all children will enjoy a wide range of experiences to develop their full potential through a structured programme based on educational targets and strategies for intervention. With a team of dedicated teachers & SNA's, the class will provide an educational plan catering for each child's needs.
- Working in partnership with families and available external agencies to develop good links with parents and other support agencies.
- Developing our knowledge and understanding of Autism through continuous CPD to help meet the needs of children.

Criteria for Admission:

The total number of places in the Unit is six.

- If it is oversubscribed, priority will be given in the first instance to children already enrolled in the school and then to siblings of children already enrolled in the school who reach the criteria below. After that places will be allocated on a first come first served basis to those who meet the criteria below.
- If the applicant fulfils all of the enrolment criteria but is not offered a place due to lack of an available place, the parents may opt to place the pupil's name on a waiting list in order of the date and time of the school receiving a fully completed eligible application.
- The waiting list will be maintained for the duration of the academic year only, for which the application was initially made. The applicant will not be informed of their place on the list. Once the academic year concludes, the parents will be contacted on the list to verify if they wish to remain on the list for the new academic year.

Children are considered for admission only when the applicant meets all of the following criteria:

- An applicant will not be enrolled in the class unless s/he is four years of age on or before the 1st September of the academic year for which the application is made
- No student can be older than thirteen years of age during his/her last year in the class
- A fully completed, signed and dated application form for enrolment has been submitted to the school by the Parents
- The applicant must have a primary diagnosis of a qualifying autism spectrum disorder and the applicant must submit a professional report which
 - o confirms a diagnosis of a qualifying Autism Spectrum Disorder (DSM IV/V or ICD 10) **and**
 - o contains a recommendation to attend an ASD class **attached to a mainstream school**. Such a recommendation cannot be dated more than two years prior to the proposed admission date **and**
 - o confirms that the diagnosis of a qualifying Autism Spectrum Disorder was made using a professionally recognised clinical and psychological assessment procedure.
- If the application form is not fully completed, and/or all the required reports have not been furnished, the application will be deemed incomplete. The parents will be notified that the application will not be considered until a complete application is submitted
- When a complete application is submitted, the date and time of receipt are noted on the application form and an acknowledgement is sent indicating that the application has been placed on the waiting list.

- The parents and the applicant are invited to a meeting with the class coordinator and are encouraged to bring reports from the applicant's present educational setting to this meeting
- The application will be assessed by the ASD Admissions Advisory board, who will advise the BoM on the application
- The BoM will decide on the acceptance or otherwise of the application
- If offered a place, the parents must confirm in writing within 7 calendar days that the place is being accepted. If this confirmation is not received within that time, the school will take it that the place is not being accepted and the place will be reallocated

Placement and Continuing Placement of a Pupil in the Class

- The individual needs of each pupil are constantly reviewed to ensure that the Unit is the appropriate setting to meet the pupil's needs. A review of each pupil's progress and his/her school support plus plan will be carried out in consultation with Parents and other professionals where necessary
- The school reserves the right to review the pupil's progress at the end of each academic year to determine whether the class continues to be an appropriate placement for him/her.

ASD Class Admissions Advisory Board

- The Advisory Board consists of the school Principal, a member of the BoM and a teacher from the class. The Advisory Board will advise the BoM on the applications for places in the class.
- The decision as to the placement of an applicant in the class lies with the BoM
- Places are allocated in the class on condition that the appropriate resources are provided and continue to be provided, by the National Council for Special Education ('NCSE') and the DES.

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