



Scoil Chaitríona Junior

INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN WITH A DISABILITY AND / OR SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS POLICY

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the school's enrolment policy

Enrolment of children with a disability and/or special education need

Application for all children, including children with a disability and/or other special education needs, is governed at all times by the school's current Enrolment Policy. However, the attention of parents of children with a disability and/or other special education needs is also drawn to the following points.

- Scoil Chaitríona Junior is an 'ordinary' mainstream school, and has higher pupil/teacher ratios such as those that apply in 'special' schools
- In general, the teachers in our school are trained and qualified to teach in mainstream education. They do not, in general, have any Special Education Needs Teacher Training, experience or qualifications, such as teachers in special schools have
- While pupils with special needs can be integrated into mainstream class, and may be supported by a Special Needs Assistant and Special Education teaching, as allowed by the DES, this is not the same as the intensive one to one teaching she/he would enjoy in a special school
- An ordinary mainstream school does not have ancillary services enjoyed by special schools, such as speech therapy, occupational therapy, physiotherapy
- The school currently has some facilities specially adapted for pupils with physical disability, although the school is fully committed to the provision of further facilities, should any pupil need same, and subject to funding by the DES
- A child with special needs integrated into an ordinary mainstream class will through such integration experience the normal day to day happenings, determined by the reality of school life, and the existing customs and practices. Every child in the school, including those with a disability and/or special educational need is bound by school policies both in existence and those developed from time to time by the Staff and Board of Management. The school cannot offer any additional tuition, support and supervision beyond that which is offered to any other pupil in the school, at times other than when the school is in operation during the normal school year. The Class Teacher, Special Education Teacher (if any) and the Special Needs Assistant (if any) will periodically be required to participate at Staff Development and Curriculum Training Courses from time to time. Some professional development training may take place within the existing school year, and all the children, including pupils with a disability and/or special

educational needs are in the care of their parents at these times. Such extraordinary closures will be notified to parents of all pupils through regular notes / texts from the school.

- A child with a disability and/or special educational needs integrated into an ordinary mainstream class will not have any separate or additional provisions put in place for him/her in the event of staff illness, absences or whole school events such as school visits, parish liturgy etc.
- From year to year the allocation of teachers to classes is focused on the needs of the whole school, and consequently the school cannot guarantee long term continuity or predictability in personnel.

Notwithstanding the above points, the school is committed to providing the best possible educational service to pupils with a disability/special educational needs. To ensure this, we require:

- A close level of co-operation between parents, the Class Teacher, and any other school personnel assigned to support the child.
- To enable us to provide the best services for the pupil, and to access any additional support/s that may be available, we require parents to supply the school with copies of the most recent psychological and medical or other reports prior to enrolment. These will be treated in the utmost confidence at all times
- Copies of all relevant assessments and reports should be supplied to the school as these become available, on an ongoing basis
- An assurance from parents that they understand that our responsibility as a school is primarily to ALL the children in our care, and that therefore if it becomes apparent to either/both the teachers and parents that the integration of an individual child with a disability and/or special educational need is having an ongoing detrimental effect on the education of the other children in the class or school, the Board of Management reserves the right to review the enrolment of the individual child.

Evaluation and Review

The Board of Management will monitor the implementation of this policy and it will be reviewed in line with the school enrolment policy in order to maintain effective management of the admissions process.

Communication and Ratification

This policy was reviewed in and ratified by the Board of Management in September 2017.

It is communicated to parents via the school website, www.renmorejuniorschool.com.

Copies are available for viewing in the Principal's office.

Signature of Principal: _____ **Date:** _____

Signature of Chairperson: _____ **Date:** _____