

**Scoil Mhuire Lourdes**  
**ANNUAL ADMISSION NOTICE**  
in respect of admissions to the 2023/2024 school year



**ADMISSION POLICY AND APPLICATION FORM**

A copy of the school's **Admission Policy** and the **Application Form for Admission** for the 2023 – 2024 academic year are available as follows:

*To download at:* [www.smltullow.ie](http://www.smltullow.ie)- Scoil Mhuire Lourdes Enrolment

*On request:* By emailing [info@smltullow.ie](mailto:info@smltullow.ie), writing to Ms. Coen, Scoil Mhuire Lourdes, Mill Street, Tullow, Co. Carlow or calling to the school to collect a form.

**PART 1 - ADMISSIONS TO THE 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

**Application and Decision Dates for admission to 2023/2024 school year**

The following are the dates applicable for admission to Junior Infants

The school will commence accepting applications for admission on	<b>5.01.2023</b>
The school shall cease accepting applications for admission on	<b>26.01.2023</b>
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application is	<b>16.02.2023</b>
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	<b>9.03.2023</b>

**Note: the school will consider and issue decisions on late applications in accordance** with the school's Admission Policy.

**NUMBER OF PLACES BEING MADE AVAILABLE IN 2023/2024**

The number of places being made available in Junior Infants	<b>33</b>
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**SCHOOL ADMISSION POLICY**  
**DIOCESE OF KILDARE & LEIGHLIN**



**NAME OF SCHOOL:**  
SCOIL MHUIRE LOURDES

**ADDRESS:**  
MILL STREET, TULLOW, CO. CARLOW  
R93Y960

**ROLL NUMBER:**  
13507I  
**CHARITY NUMBER**  
20109158

**PATRON:**  
Most Reverend Denis Nulty, Bishop of  
Kildare & Leighlin

## 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 policy was approved by the school patron on 15 September 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 Scoil Mhuire Lourdes admission process are set out in the school's annual admission notice which 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. CHARACTERISTIC SPIRIT AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF THE SCHOOL

Scoil Mhuire Lourdes is a Catholic all girls primary school with a Catholic ethos. The Bishop of Kildare & Leighlin is the Patron of this school.

'Catholic schools are communities which are open, welcoming and inclusive. Therefore, Catholic schools may include children who adhere to other religions or other stances for living. While mindful of their duty to educate in the distinctive beliefs, values, and practices of the Catholic community, teachers will bear witness to an attitude of respect for and appreciation of all' ( *The Catholic Preschool & Primary Religious Education Curriculum p15* ).

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

- the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects; and
- a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and the formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith,
- and which school provides religious education for the pupils 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 Scoil Mhuire Lourdes 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.

### ***2.1 Ethos of Scoil Mhuire Lourdes***

The ‘ethos’ of Scoil Mhuire Lourdes encompasses collective attitudes, beliefs, core values, traditions, aspirations and goals. These are reflected in the actual practices which are carried out in the school on a daily, weekly and yearly basis. While it is impossible to outline all aspects of the school ‘ethos’, the following characteristics are experienced and promoted as essential elements in the establishment of a supportive and positive ‘ethos’.

- In Scoil Mhuire Lourdes, where the ethos is that of a Catholic school, religious instruction, in accordance with the doctrine and tradition of the Catholic Church is part of the education given to children who belong to that Church.
- The pupils are prepared for the reception of the sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, in accordance with arrangements in the diocese.
- Prayer is a feature of the school day.
- The school aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil, including her relationship with God, with other people and with the environment.
- The Principal and teaching staff aim at maintaining high professional standards and creating a safe and happy environment.
- A spirit of mutual respect is promoted within the school community. Pupils are drawn by example and teaching to appreciate and respect people of different religious affiliations and of different nationalities.
- Close contact is maintained between school and home. Parents / guardians and teachers support one another and collaborate with one another in leading the children to the fullness of their potential at the different stages.
- Ancillary staff in the school are highly esteemed and respected. It is recognised that their work makes a valued contribution to the process of education.

### ***2.2 Vision***

“Catholic schools seek to reflect a distinctive vision of life and a corresponding philosophy of education.” (Vision 08 – A Vision for Catholic Education in Ireland – Irish Catholic Bishops’ Conference). The main objective of Scoil Mhuire Lourdes is to provide primary education for children from Junior Infants to Sixth Class. The school is also committed to the professional and personal development of its pupils in a community environment. It aims at promoting the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the pupil: intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual, including a living relationship with God and with other people. The school models and promotes a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

### ***2.3 Our Values and Root Beliefs***

1. We are equal, we belong, we are safe. **INCLUSION**
2. Loving relationships help us to learn. **GROWTH**
3. We celebrate each other. **REJOICE**

4. Creativity is nurtured. **INSPIRE**

5. The Spirit is our strength. **FAITH**

### **3. ADMISSION STATEMENT**

Scoil Mhuire Lourdes will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

- (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.

Scoil Mhuire Lourdes will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 relating to the provision of education to children with special educational needs, including in particular by the provision and operation of a special class or classes when requested to do so by the Council.

Scoil Mhuire Lourdes will comply with any direction served on the patron or the board, as the case may be, under section 37A and any direction served on the board under section 67(4B) of the Education Act.

#### **Single Gender Schools**

Scoil Mhuire is an all-girls school and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit a boy applying for admission to this school.

#### **All denominational schools**

Scoil Mhuire Lourdes is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit as

a student a person who is not a Catholic, and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

#### **4. CATEGORIES OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS CATERED FOR IN THE SCHOOL/SPECIAL CLASS**

Scoil Mhuire Lourdes is not a Special School or a mainstream school with a special class attached.

#### **5. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS**

This school 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

*Additional information must be included (as applicable) in this section.*

##### **A school that admits students of one gender only**

Scoil Mhuire Lourdes provides education exclusively for girls and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the gender provided for by this school.

##### **All denominational schools**

Scoil Mhuire Lourdes is a Catholic school, and may refuse to admit as a student a person where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

#### **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:

1. Age
2. Proximity to school using the current Tullow Parish Boundary
3. Siblings/step siblings living at the same address (of a student attending or having attended the school)

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:

1. Age (the oldest child)
2. Proximity to school using the current Tullow Parish Boundary

### **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;
- (d) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents;
- (e) a requirement that a student, or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
- (f) 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 in the case of siblings attending or having attended the school as outlined in Section 6 above
- (g) 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 Scoil Mhuire Lourdes will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy
- The school's annual admission notice
- 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

*(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.)*

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.

### **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 Scoil Mhuire Lourdes, 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 Scoil Mhuire Lourdes 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.

Section 66(6) allows a school to provide a patron or another board of management with a list of the students in relation to whom—

- (i) an application for admission to the school has been received,

- (ii) an offer of admission to the school has been made, or
- (iii) an offer of admission to the school has been accepted.

The list may include any or all of the following:

- (i) the date on which an application for admission was received by the school;
- (ii) the date on which an offer of admission was made by the school;
- (iii) the date on which an offer of admission was accepted by an applicant;
- (v) a student's personal details including his or her name, address, date of birth and personal public service number (within the meaning of section 262 of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005).

### **13 WAITING LIST IN THE 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 Scoil Mhuire Lourdes 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 Scoil Mhuire Lourdes 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. Applicants whose applications are received after the closing date, outlined in the Annual Admission Notice, will be placed at the end of the waiting list in order of the date of receipt of the application.

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.

Late applicants will be notified of the decision in respect of their application no later than three weeks after the date on which the school received the application. Late applicants will be offered a place if there is place available. In the event that there is no place available, the name of the applicant will be added to the waiting list as set out in Section 13.

## **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:

- Parents may apply for admission to another year group/class for an upcoming school year at any time within the school year prior to requested admission
- Contact the school to arrange for receipt of application for admission form.
- Principal, on behalf of the Board, will outline procedure with parents/guardians and will forward this Admission's Policy and the application form to parents.
- Parents must complete application form stating year group/class request.
- Application will be reviewed and decided upon in accordance with our school's Admission Policy, the Education Admissions to School Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act.
- Applicants will be notified, in writing, within three weeks of receipt of application (as per Section 9) and will receive relevant documents including, Enrolment Acceptance Form, Code of Behaviour Policy and Acceptance of Code Form, Consent Policy and Form.
- Parents will be requested to complete above forms and return to the school within three weeks of receipt of documents.
- An offer of admission may not be made or may be withdrawn by *Scoil Mhuire Lourdes* as per Section 11 above.

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:

- Principal, on behalf of the Board, will outline procedure with parents/guardians and will issue this Admission's Policy and the application form to parents.
- Parents will complete application form stating year group/class request.
- Applications for a place in Junior Infants (for a child not already enrolled in any school), after the commencement of the school year will only be considered if the child has reached the age of four prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of September of the particular school year.
- Application will be reviewed and decided upon in accordance with our school's admission policy, the Education Admissions to School Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act.
- Applicants will be notified, in writing, within one week of receipt of application (as per Section 9) and will receive relevant documents including, Enrolment Acceptance Form, Code of Behaviour Policy and Acceptance of Code Form, Consent Policy and Form.
- Parents will be requested to complete above forms and return to the school within one week of receipt of documents.
- An offer of admission may not be made or may be withdrawn by *Name of School* as per Section 11 above.

## **16 DECLARATION IN RELATION TO THE NON-CHARGING OF FEES.**

The Board of Management in Scoil Mhuire Lourdes or any persons acting on its behalf, will not charge fees for or seek payment or contributions (howsoever described) as a condition of-

- (a) an application for admission of a student to the school, or
- (b) the admission or continued enrolment of a student in the school.

## **17 ARRANGEMENTS REGARDING STUDENTS NOT ATTENDING RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION**

A written request should be made to the principal of the school. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s) to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

## **18 REVIEWS/APPEALS**

### **Review of decisions by the Board of Management**

The parent of 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.

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. 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.

### **Right of appeal**

Under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, the parent of 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)

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)

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

**This Admission Policy was approved by the Patron; Bishop Denis Nulty on**

**This Admission Policy was ratified by the Board of Management of Scoil Mhuire Lourdes on**

**30.11.2022**

**Gerard Connolly**

**(Chairperson)**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Angela Connolly', is written over a light grey rectangular background.

**(Principal)**