



Junior School Admissions Policy

St Andrew's College was founded in 1894 by the Presbyterian Community of Dublin. Today, it is a flourishing, inter-denominational, co-educational school whose philosophy and objectives are based upon the liberal, inclusive and principled christian ethos inherited from its founders. Admission to the College is subject to criteria which reflect this philosophy and maintain the distinctive character of the school.

Our admissions policy endeavours to support a broadly-based, co-educational environment, undertakes, in so far as is practicable, to educate boys and girls from the same family together, strives to preserve an inter-denominational and international mix in its student body, recognises the valuable contribution made by past pupils, and reserves the right to decide upon special cases which may arise from time to time.

To meet its obligations effectively the College has evolved a system of admissions which gives priority to those children for whom the school was established. To this end, the College recognises a number of groups of children as coming within this framework. Consideration will be given to applicants in the following order:

- Presbyterian children
- Children from the mainstream Protestant denominations, or Reformed Traditions of Christianity
- Siblings of students who are attending or have attended St Andrew's College
- Children of permanent staff members at St Andrew's College
- Children of past pupils of St Andrew's College
- Grandchildren of past pupils of St Andrew's College
- Children whose parents are relocating to Ireland from another country. The relocation to Ireland must have taken place within 3 months of the application or be due to take place at the time of application.
- Others

All children should have attained their 4th birthday by 30th May in the year of admission. Please note that for all classes except K1, current School Reports must be forwarded along with application forms. Where a student has been granted an Irish Exemption by a National School, the official DES Exemption is also required.

APPLICANTS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

The College welcomes applications from parents/guardians of candidates with additional learning needs, unless the nature and degree of those needs is such that to enrol the student would be inconsistent with the effective provision of education for the student concerned and/or the other students with whom he/she is to be educated. Parents must furnish all written educational reports at the time of Application.

A number of factors will be considered when reviewing whether a child's needs can be met, including: the breadth of the applicant's needs; the number of children already receiving additional support in any given classroom; the perceived level of potential support offered by the parent/s; and a willingness and commitment to additional outside tutoring or even a one-on-one support teacher (at additional cost to the parent) if this is deemed the best course of action.

APPLICANTS WITH ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE (EAL)

As per the DES circular 0052/2019, pupils with no understanding of English are no longer entitled to an Irish Exemption. The school offers an optional English as an Additional Language (EAL) program at additional cost.

RIGHT TO REFUSE ENROLMENT

The College reserves the right, in exceptional circumstances, to refuse to enrol an applicant who has accepted an offer of a place in the school. Such an exceptional case could arise where either:

- the candidate has special needs such that with limited additional resources available from the College, the school cannot meet the candidate's particular needs or provide him/her with an appropriate education.
- or*
- in the opinion of the Board of Management, the candidate would pose an unacceptable risk to other students, to the school staff or to school property.

THE OFFERING & ACCEPTING OF A PLACE

K1 and P3 are our biggest years of Admissions. Places for our K1 class are offered in the month of March and 18 months prior to commencement. Places for our P3 class are offered in the month of December and 8 months prior to commencement. Places for other classes will be offered if and when they become available.

To accept a place, we require:

- A signed and completed Confirmation of Acceptance Form
- A copy of the applicant's birth certificate
- A copy of the current Junior School Parent Handbook (enclosed with the Offer Letter), signed by his/her parents/guardians indicating acceptance of the Junior School's Policies and other matters.
- A €2,000 **non-refundable** deposit which will be deducted from the first term's fees.

NOTICE PERIOD

A full terms notice is required in writing before the removal of a pupil from school or the next terms fees will be charged.

ADMISSION TO SENIOR SCHOOL

It is important to note that places for student applicants from the Junior School for 1st Year are now part of *Category 3, Section 10 - Oversubscription* of the **Senior School Admissions Policy** which indicates that a place in the Senior School will only become available when Categories 1(a), 1(b), 2(a) and 2(b) have been filled. Further information on that process can be found here -

<https://www.sac.ie/site/data/files/documents/B4092DDAF08A6C1DA1D9CC0D16A2E9D0.pdf>

Additionally, students who are enrolled in the Junior School but withdraw from P6 to complete the academic year elsewhere will not be afforded priority status into 1st Year.

St Andrew's College
September 2020