

Dominican College **Sion Hill**



Admissions Policy

March 2010

Admissions Policy

Section 1 - Introduction

- 1.1 General
- 1.2 Communication with Parents
- 1.3 Pastoral Care
- 1.4 Board Of Management
- 1.5 Parent Teacher Association
- 1.6 Student Council
- 1.7 Student Leadership

Section 2 - Aims, Values and Ethos of School

- 2.1 School Philosophy and Mission Statement
- 2.2 Aims
- 2.3 Scope:
- 2.4 Rationale:
- 2.5 Relationship to school's Mission/Vision/Aims:
- 2.6 Legal Framework:

Section 3 General Information about the School

- 3.1 Website
- 3.2 Curriculum
- 3.3 Teacher Resources
- 3.4 Evening Study:
- 3.5 Book Grants
- 3.6 Voluntary Contribution
- 3.7 School Calendar
- 3.8 Transition Year
- 3.9 Extra Curricular Activities

Section 4 - School Details

Section 5 - Application Procedure to First Year

- 5.1 General
- 5.2 Who do we admit
- 5.3 Notification
- 5.4. Application
- 5.5 Entrance Test
- 5.6 Information required
- 5.7 Information Evening
- 5.8. School Numbers
- 5.9 Acceptance of places
- 5.10 Refusal

Section 6 - Application Procedure to other than First Year

Section 7 - Decision Making Process:

- 7.1 General
- 7.2 Student Eligibility for Admission.
- 7.3 Selection Criteria

Section 8 - Appeals

Section 9 - Enrolment of Students with Special Educational Needs

Section 10 - Success Criteria

Section 11 - Review, Personnel and Timeframe

Appendix

Legal Framework:

1. Education Act 1998
2. The Education Welfare Act 2000
3. Equal Status Act
4. The Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 (EPSEN)

Section 1 - Introduction

1.1 General

Dominican College Sion Hill is a Voluntary, Catholic, all girls Secondary School under the trusteeship of the Dominican Order.

Pupils are prepared for the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate programmes. The College operates within the regulations as laid down by the Department of Education and Science with due regard to the rights of the Patron as set out in the Education Act 1998.

Within the context of these regulations, the rights of the Patron and the resources available, the College supports the principles of inclusiveness, equality of access and participation in the school, parental choice and respect for diversity of traditions, values, beliefs, languages and ways of life in society.

No applicant is discriminated against on the grounds of disability.

The school recognises that the primary responsibility for the education of children rests with their parents or guardians and seeks to co-operate closely with and to be as helpful as possible to them in the fulfilment of that responsibility.

While welcoming people from other faiths to attend the College, parents who decide to apply for a place for their child in the College, should be aware of our aims, values and ethos.

1.2 Communication with Parents

Each student has a homework journal, which should be used for two way communication between home and school (letters re absences, homework, appointments etc). Students keep a record of homework in their journal. Reports are issued at Mid-term, Christmas, Easter and Summer. A Parent Teacher Meeting is held once a year for each class. These meetings are brought to the attention of the parents/guardians by letter. Parents/guardians are strongly urged to attend. Parents may also make appointments to meet with relevant personnel as necessary.

1.3 Pastoral Care

The College has a comprehensive pastoral care system with

- Year-heads,
- Guidance Counsellor
- Class Tutors,
- Class Prefects

all of whom are available to assist pupils who may have difficulties.

1.4 Board of Management

A Board of Management under the Deed of Trust manages the school. The Board comprises of eight members – four nominees of the Dominican Order, two parent nominees and two teacher nominees. The names of the Board members are available on the school web site. The Principal of the college acts as secretary to the Board and while a member of the Board, does not have voting rights.

The term of office of the Board of Management is three years and the current Board was appointed from October 2008.

1.5 Parents Teacher Association

The school has a Parent Teacher Association and all parents are welcome to join. Any parent wishing to become involved should contact the Chairperson of the Parent Teacher Association.

E-mail: pta_sionhill@ireland.com

The Parent Teacher Association aims to promote the educational development of our students and to assist with the various school activities.

1.7 Student Council

A Student Council is actively in place and this is facilitated by a member of staff. The Council consists of students democratically elected from each class in the school and provides a forum through which the students of the school can play a full part in the development of a partnership approach to school life and issues. The Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl are automatically on the Student Council.

1.8 Student Leadership

The school has a Prefect system led by the Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl. Prefects have responsibility for junior classes and are also assigned to a particular area such as Drama, Sports, Cultural etc.

Section 2 - Aims, Values and Ethos of School

2.1 School Philosophy and Mission Statement

Dominican College, Sion Hill aims to help each student achieve her full potential, academically, spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially in a happy secure environment.

2.2 Aims

Within this broad objective we aim to:

- create an atmosphere of Christian care and concern
- be welcoming to all regardless of culture, religion or social background
- be inclusive in its intake
- give due priority to religious education
- provide the educational environment and facilities to enable students to reach their full potential
- enable students to develop a healthy self esteem
- provide a disciplined atmosphere, which encourages respect for others and enables the student to grow in freedom
- educate the whole person
- Provide a comprehensive curriculum

2.3 Scope:

This document sets out the policy of the school in respect of admissions to the school in the following circumstances:

- Students applying for a place in First Year
- Students from outside of the school applying for a place in any other year group or programme
- Students applying to transfer from another second-level school.

The policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- The school's **Mission Statement, Ethos & Educational Aims**
- The school's **Special Educational Needs Policy**
- The school's **Code of Behaviour**
- The school's **Attendance Strategy**

2.4 Rationale:

This policy aims to ensure that appropriate procedures are in place to enable the school to:

- make decisions on all applications in an open and transparent manner consistent with the Mission Statement of the School and legislative requirements
- make an accurate and appropriate assessment of the capacity of the school to cater for the needs of applicants in the light of the resources available to it;
- put in place a framework which will ensure effective and productive relations between students, parents and teachers where a student is admitted to the school

2.5 Relationship to school's Mission/Vision/Aims:

The community of the school works in a holistic manner to ensure that dependence is gradually replaced by responsibility for self, society and the world. The dignity of each student, staff member and parent is honoured and reflected in school policies and structures, including this policy. While educational excellence is promoted, it is the needs of the learner that direct the development of the school.

2.7 Legal Framework:

- Education Act 1998
- The Education Welfare Act, 2000
- The Equal Status Act, 2000
- The Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004

Section 3 - General Information about the School

3.1 Website

Information on the schools policies and procedures are being made available on the school website

www.sionhillcollege.ie

3.2 Curriculum

The College follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of education & Science (DES), which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act 1998.

We provide a six year curriculum consisting of a three year Junior Certificate Programme, a one year Transition Year Programme and a two year Leaving Certificate Programme. (Transition Year is compulsory for all pupils.)

Subjects offered depend on demand and on the resources that DES make available

It is essential that students take Science in the Junior Cycle if they wish to study any of the Science subjects in the Senior Cycle. (exemptions will only be made in exceptional circumstances)

Junior Cycle :- (3years).	Senior Cycle :- (2years)
Religion *	Religion *
Gaelic *	Gaelic *
English *	English *
Maths *	Maths *
French or German *	French or German *
History *	Biology
Geography *	Chemistry
Art	Physics
Business	Art
Music	Business
Home Economics	Music
Science	Home Economic
C.S.P.E. *	History
S.P.H.E. **	Geography
P.E. *	Computer Studies *
Computer Studies**	P.E. *

* Core Subjects

** Core Subjects (non examination)

3.3 Teacher Resources

Teacher allocation is sanctioned by DES on a year-to-year basis. In addition the school has a Principal, a Deputy Principal, a Guidance Counsellor and a Learning Support Teacher. There are also a number of Assistant Principals and Special Duties Teachers.

3.4 Evening Study:

Evening Study is provided for two hours after school, four days a week. A payment is required to cover the expenses involved. The provision of this is subject to demand.

3.5 Voluntary Contribution

The school requests a voluntary contribution from parents who can afford it. The amount requested €300 for one child and €400 for families with more than one child.

These funds are used to cover some of the costs of sports coaching, photocopying, transport to events outside school etc. and are subject to regular review.

3.6 School Calendar

This is produced each year by the Parent Teacher Association and is distributed at the start of the year.

3.7 Transition Year

The Transition Year (TY) is a one-year programme, which comes immediately after completion of the Junior Certificate. It is compulsory for all students. An information evening for parents/Guardians is held in April of each year. There is a Transition Year fee payable which is in addition to the Voluntary Contribution.

The aim of the TY programme is :-

To develop aspects of the curriculum which tend not to be catered for elsewhere in the school curriculum

To develop teamwork through task oriented-projects.

To develop links between the school and the wider community.

To encourage students to become self-motivated learners.

To provide an opportunity for students to develop an understanding of how learning occurs generally, and with particular reference to their own learning styles.

To introduce students to a wide range of cultural activities and sporting activities.

To prepare students to become responsible members of society.

To provide a good academic basis for beginning the senior-cycle course.

Subjects will be selected from the following list:

Compulsory	Non Compulsory
Irish	Art
English	Business Studies
Mathematics	Home Economics
French or German	Music
Computers/ECDL	History
Personal Development	Geography
P.E.	Science
Italian	Social Awareness
	Tourism

A student who wishes to study one of the Science subjects in the Leaving Certificate must take Science in Transition year.

The ECDL and the Tourism course are certified by external bodies.

In addition to these, various short modules are offered. These vary from year to year

Craft	Modern Dance
Psychology	Orienteering
Cookery	Personal Development
Debating	Self Defence
Drama	Prayer & Meditation
First Aid	Sailing
Health Education	Social Studies
Film Studies	Sign Language
Italian	Tourism Awareness
Linguistics	

Provision of these subjects and activities is subject to resources available and demand

See the Transition year programme for more details.

3.6 Extra Curricular Activities

Sion Hill College provides for a wide range of artistic, cultural, social and sporting activities as we believe strongly that these aid in the developing a student’s full potential and to provide her with the confidence to be involved in various activities in later life.

The college also places great emphasis on the development of team games for all its students.

The following activities are currently catered for:

Sports	Basketball
	Hockey
	Gaelic
	Athletics
	Tennis
	Karate
Cultural/Artistic	Debating
	Model United Nations
	Art Club
	Book Club
	Choir
	Orchestra
	Drama
	Musical
	Arts Week
	Music Lessons
Social	St Vincent de Paul
	ALIVE (Third World Group)
	Green Schools

Provision of these activities is subject to resources, including an annual review.

Section 4 – School Details

- School Name:** Dominican College Sion Hill
- Address:** Cross Avenue,
Blackrock,
Co. Dublin.
- Contact details:** **Telephone:** 01- 2886791
Fax: 01- 2780356
E-mail: admin@sionhillcollege.ie
Website: www.sionhillcollege.ie
- Principal:** Ms. Sheila Drum
- Deputy Principal:** Mr. Gerry Killion
- Guidance Counsellor:** Mr. Paul O'Brien
- Learning-Support
Teacher:** Ms. Wendy Stephens
- Year Heads:** Ms. Duffy
Ms. O'Dwyer
Ms. McCumiskey
- Transition Year Co-ordinator:** Ms Ciara Reid
- School Secretary:** Marion Kaye / Imelda Cronin
- Caretaker:** Jim Mongey
- Opening Times:** 8.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Fri.
8.00 p.m. – 3.40 p.m. Tues.

The school will open to receive pupils at 8.00am. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time.

At the end of the school day parents who wish to escort their children home should arrive not later than five minutes before end of school day. (i.e 2.55pm Mon., Wed., Thurs., and Fri. and 3.35pm on Tuesday) The school cannot accept responsibility for looking after children after those times.

The school will make all reasonable efforts to inform parents/guardians of any minor adjustments in the opening /closing times which may occur on occasions.

Section 5 - Application Procedures

5.1 General

Our admission procedure complies with all current legislation such as the Education Act 1998, Education Welfare Act 2000 and Equal Status Act 2000.

Students may transfer into the school at any time subject to:

- School Admission Policy

- The school being satisfied with the reasons for the transfer

- The school regarding the move to be in the best interests of the student

- Available space

- Consultation with the Educational Welfare Officer if appropriate

5.2 Whom do we admit?

We welcome all students for whom the school can provide an appropriate education having regard to the facilities, personnel, plant and resources.

The school aims to provide an integrated and an inclusive education.

We do not choose on the basis of an entrance test – our entrance test is to familiarise ourselves with the abilities of the student in order to ascertain how best to help her.

5.3 Notification

The College notifies parents/guardians considering sending their daughters to our school, and students through the following:

- Visits to local Primary schools to talk to students

- Open Night

- Parents' Enquiries

- Notices in the local press

Enquiries can also be made by ringing the school during school hours or by calling into the office.

It is possible to visit the school by making an appointment with the Principal.

5.4 Application

Application Forms are available on request from the school office and may also be printed from our website. The full Admissions Policy is available on request and is also published on the school website.

The closing date for receipt of forms shall be the 15th October two years prior to entry.(i.e. for entry in 2010 the closing date is 15th October 2008)

- Once an enquiry has been made by a parent or guardian an application Form will be sent out.

- Completed application forms, accompanied by the applicant's birth certificate and a non-refundable administration fee of €75 should be returned to the school on or before the closing date. (The Board reserves the right to waive or refund this fee in certain circumstances)

When the school receives an application form, properly completed, it will be marked with the date (and time if appropriate) on which it was received. Incomplete forms will be returned to parents.

Any applications received after the closing date will not be considered for a place until all the eligible entries have been dealt with.

As soon as is practicable, but not later than 21 days after the final date for receipt of completed application forms, the Board of Management shall make a decision in respect of the application concerned, and inform the parents in writing thereof. Education Welfare Act (Section 19, (3)).

In the case of students with special education needs, the Board, having received the relevant information, will make a decision and inform the parents in writing of this decision as per the terms outlined in the The Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004

Late applications will only be considered after all applications received on time have been processed.

5.5 Information required

- ✓ Name
- ✓ Address
- ✓ Date of Birth
- ✓ PPS number
- ✓ Telephone numbers including an emergency contact number
- ✓ Religion
- ✓ E-mail address
- ✓ Nationality
- ✓ Names of parents/guardians
- ✓ Occupations of parents/guardians
- ✓ Name of previous school
- ✓ Names of older sisters who are/were in the school
- ✓ Whether the mother/guardian is a past pupil of the school.

The form also asks parents to provide information regarding family situations, health or other matters that may affect the child's educational needs and suggests that a separate page be used for this.

Parents/guardians may be required to complete a further information form regarding their child's educational progress at a later date and/or to co-operate with the school's attempts to identify the educational or other relevant needs of the child.

The school may wish to meet with an applicant and her/his parent(s) or guardians to discuss the needs of the applicant, or the parent(s) or guardian may request a meeting. Parents/guardians may make an appointment to see the Principal by telephoning the school.

In either case the school will make all reasonable effort to accommodate such a meeting prior to making a decision on an application.

Failure to fully complete the application form, failure to supply any relevant documentation requested by the school or failure to make a reasonable arrangement

to meet with the school to discuss the application may result in a child being refused admission to the school.

5.6 Entrance Assessment

There will be an Assessment, which all incoming First Year students must sit. The purpose of the assessment is to allow for the formation of mixed-ability First Year classes.

5.7 Information Evening

The school will normally organise an Information Evening and prepare a School Information Pack, so that parents may inform themselves about the school. The Information Evening is open to parents of students who have been offered a place in the school.

5.8 School Numbers

The Board of Management will set a figure each year for the number of students to be accepted in First Year – that figure will depend on the overall number of students in the school and the overall capacity for which the school was designed, and the capacity of the school to fulfil its obligations under educational programmes currently in progress.

5.9 Offer of Places

See Section 7. par 7.1

5.10 Acceptance of places

Applicants who are being offered places should send confirmation of acceptance in writing together with a non-refundable fee of €125 within 14 days of the posting of the offer

(The Board reserves the right to waive or refund this fee in certain circumstances)

5.11 Refusal

Parents have the right to appeal a refusal by a school to enrol a student under Section 29 of the *Education Act (1998)*. The appeal must be made within 42 calendar days from the date the decision of the school was notified to the parents.

Section 6 - Application Procedure to other than First Year

Admissions at other age levels occur only when vacancies arise in the appropriate classes.

The same criteria which apply to First Year entry, will also apply to admission to other years.

Each applicant will be interviewed with Parent(s) or Guardian(s).

The Principal or Deputy Principal of transferring school will be contacted.

The school will make every reasonable effort to facilitate a student seeking a transfer to our school.

The Board of Management will decide on applications for admission to any other year other than First Year by applying the following criteria:

- § The admission is in agreement with the School's Admission Policy
- § The school is satisfied with the reasons for the transfer
- § The school regards the move as being in the best interests of the student
- § The admission is of educational benefit to the student.
- § Space is available.
- § The admission is in the best interest of the school.
- § Consultation with the Educational Welfare Officer if appropriate

All relevant information having been made available from the applicant's previous school, the Board will decide whether or not a transfer is suitable.

Where a student is considered for a place, the decision will be taken by the Board of Management, in consultation with the student's parents/guardians, her former school, the education welfare officer, whether such a place may be offered immediately, or whether it would be better to wait until the beginning of the next academic year.

Applicants who are being offered places should send confirmation of acceptance in writing together with a non-refundable fee of €200. (The Board reserves the right to waive or refund this fee in certain circumstances)

Section 7 - Decision Making Process

7.1 General

Decisions regarding admissions are a matter for the Board of Management. However, this task is normally delegated to the Principal who decides on such matters in accordance with the school's admission policy.

The Principal may refer any application to the Board for decision.

Parents/guardians will be advised of the outcome of their application within 21 days of the closing date (in accordance with the Education Welfare Act 2000) at the latest.

The Board of Management reserves the right to refuse an application in exceptional circumstances (See Section 29 Education Act 1998).

7.2 Student Eligibility for Admission.

In order to be eligible for admission, a student must

Attain the required age of twelve by 1 January in the calendar year following his/her entry into first-year;

Normally have completed sixth class in primary school;

in conjunction with her parents/guardians, recognise, that Dominican College Sion Hill is a Voluntary, Catholic, Secondary School under the trusteeship of the Dominican Order.

Be willing, with parents/guardians, to accept the school Code of Behaviour.

Confirmation, in writing, is required that parent/guardians and the student accept the Code of behaviour.

Be willing to take an assessment test

7.3 Selection Criteria

In the event of the school having more applications than places available, priority will be given to:

Students whose father or mother is a member of the staff in the school

Siblings preference (sisters of students already in school).

Students whose parents were past pupils.

Students from school's community and catchment area.

Section 8 - Appeals

The Board of Management of a recognised school shall not refuse to admit as a student in such school a child, in respect of whom an application to be so admitted has been made, except where such refusal is in accordance with the policy of the recognised school concerned published under section 15 (2) (d) of the Education Act 1998. Education (Welfare) Act 2000. (Section 19 (1).)

Should a student's application for admission to the school be refused, the parents/guardians have the right to appeal to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Science, (Education Act 1998, Section 29 (d).)

The parents/guardians must be informed in writing of the Board's decision, and the reasons why the student was not accepted should be clearly stated.

The parents/guardians right to appeal should be restated on the application form provided. (Circular M48/01).

The appeal must be made within 42 calendar days from the date the decision of the Board of Management was notified to the parents/guardians concerned. (Circular, M48/01).

An appeal may be made to: *The Secretary General of the Department of Education and Science, The Appeals Administration Unit, Department of Education and Science, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.*

Parents/guardians must be informed that an appeal should be made in writing on the Application Form supplied.

Parents/guardians must inform the school in writing of the decision to appeal.

Note: Having regard to the desirability of resolving grievances within the school where possible, the parties to an appeal under Section 29, i.e., the appellant and the school's Board of Management, will be asked to consider the matter in the first instance at local level to see if an accommodation can be reached. As a general rule, appeals will only be considered by an appeals committee under Section 29 where the parties are unable to resolve the issue at local level. (Circular M48/01).

Section 9 - Enrolment of Students with Special Educational Needs.

The Board of Management welcomes students with special educational needs in so far as the Department of Education & Science provides the necessary resources for the student.

In order to provide for these needs application forms will be examined by school management to identify students with special needs. This is in order to establish the educational and training needs of the student relevant to her disability or special needs and therefore to apply to the SENO for the resources to support the student.

The board of Management will therefore

Request that the School Principal meet the parents/guardians to discuss the student's needs and the school's capability to meet those needs.

Request a copy of the student's medical/psychological report/individual educational report if available

and/or

Request immediate assessment.

Request from the DES the necessary resources, prior to enrolment, for the needs of the student e.g. special needs assistant, specialised equipment or furniture, learning support, transport or other necessary resources.

Should it prove impossible to provide the necessary resources, as decided by the Principal based on the foregoing, to provide for the needs of the student the Board reserves the right to refuse an application for a place in the school.

The final decision with regard to enrolment of students in Dominican College Sion Hill and with regard to all matters covered in this admissions policy lies with the Board of Management.

The Board of Management will review this policy from time to time.

Section 10 - Success Criteria

The applications process is managed effectively each year. There is clarity and transparency about the process. Applicants are informed in good time about the status of their application and, where an application is refused in accordance with this policy, have reasonable opportunity to make alternative arrangements.

Section 11 - Review, Personnel and Timeframe

The policy will be reviewed regularly and by the full staff and Board of Management every five years. Any staff member, board member, parent, guardian or student who is unhappy with the content or the implementation of any school policy may request a review at any time and such a request will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

Section 1 – Appendix

Legal Framework: from

1. Education Act 1998

Section 9(i) specifies that “A recognised school shall subject to this Act and in particular Section 15 (2)(d), establish and maintain an admissions policy which provides for maximum accessibility to the school.”

Consultation with Patron

The Board of Management shall...

Section 15 (2)

(c) Consult with and keep the patron informed of decisions and proposals of the Board

Admissions and participation policies

(d) Publish,

in such manner as the Board with the agreement of the patron considers appropriate, the policy of the school concerning admission to and participation in the school, including the policy of the school relating to expulsion and suspension of students and admission to and participation by students with disabilities or who have other educational needs, and ensure that as regards policy principles of equality and the right of parents to send their children to a school of the parents’ choice are respected and such directions as may be made from time to time by the Minister, having regard to the characteristic spirit of the school and the constitutional rights of all persons concerned, are

complied with.

Parents' Association

Section 26

(2) A parents' association shall promote the interests of the students in a school in co-operation with the board, Principal, teachers and students of a school and for that purpose may –

(b) adopt a programme of activities which will promote the involvement of parents, in consultation with the Principal, in the operation of the school

Information to students

Section 27

(1) A board shall establish and maintain procedures for the purposes of informing students in a school of the activities of the school

(2) the procedures established and maintained under subsection (1) shall facilitate the involvement of the students in the operation of the school, having regard to the age and experience of the students, in association with their parents and teachers.

2. The Education Welfare Act 2000

Admission of a child to a recognised school

Refusal to enrol

Section 19

(1) the board of management of a recognised school shall not refuse to admit as a student in such school a child, in respect of whom an application to be so admitted has been made, except where such refusal is in accordance with the policy of the recognised school concerned published under section 15 (2) (d) of the Education Act 1998

Information from parents

(2) The parent of a child who has made an application referred in (1) shall provide the recognised school concerned with such information as may be prescribed by the Minister

Decision on admission

(3) As soon as is practicable, but not later than 21 days, after a parent has provided, [the information in (2)] the board of management of the school concerned shall make a decision in respect of the application concerned and inform the parent in writing thereof.

Statement of Strategy

Section 22

(1) The board of management of a recognised school shall, after consultation....prepare and submit to the (Education Welfare) Board, a statement of the strategies and measures it proposes to adopt for the purposes of fostering an appreciation of learning among students attending that school and encouraging regular attendance on the part of such students (..statement of strategy)

Code of Behaviour

Section 23

(1) The board of management of a recognised school shall, after consultation with (principal, teachers, parents, educational welfare officer) prepare a code of behaviour in respect of the students registered at the school.

(2) A code of behaviour shall specify –

- a. the standards of behaviour that shall be observed by each student attending the school*
- b. the measures that may be taken when a student fails or refuses to observe those standards*
- c. the procedures to be followed before a student may be suspended or expelled from the school concerned*
- d. the grounds for removing a suspension imposed in relation to a student; and*
- e. the procedures to be followed relating to notification of a child's absence from school*

Parents and the Code of Behaviour

(4) The principal of a recognised school shall, before registering a child as a student at that school ...provide the parents of such child with a copy of the code of behaviour in respect of the school and may, as a condition of so registering such child, require his or her parents to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour so provided is acceptable to them and that they shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the child.

3. Equal Status Act

Section 4

Specifically in relation to disability, there appears to be no obligation on a service provider to take action to accommodate a person if that results in more than nominal costs.

Grounds of Discrimination

Section 5

The prohibited grounds of discrimination are:
gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race, membership of the Travelling Community .

Section 7 (2)

Educational establishments

An educational establishment shall not discriminate in relation to:

Access

(a) the admission or the terms or conditions of admission of a person as a student to the establishment,

Participation

(b) the access of a student to any course, facility or benefit provided by the establishment,

(c) any other term or condition of participation in the establishment by a student

Expulsion

(d) the expulsion of a student from the establishment or any other sanction against the student.

Section 7 (3)

An educational establishment does not discriminate under subsection (2) by reason only that :

Single-sex Schools

(a) where the establishment (i.e. the school) admits students of one gender only, it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not of that gender.

Ethos

(c) where the establishment is a school providing primary or postprimary education to students and the objective of the school is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values, it admits persons of a particular religious denomination in preference to others or it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not of that denomination and, in the case of a refusal, it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school

4. The Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 (EPSEN)