



# Powerstown Educate Together National School

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Powerstown Educate Together National School

# Admission Policy

Patron: Educate Together

*This policy has been formulated by Powerstown ETNS to assist parents in making an informed decision in relation to child enrolment and to comply with legislation and Department of Education circulars and patron guidelines.*

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## 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 (BOM) of Powerstown Educate Together has consulted with school staff, the school patron and with parents/guardians of children attending the school.

The policy was approved by the school patron in January 2023. It is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request.

The relevant dates and timelines for Powerstown Educate Together National School's admission process are set out in the school's annual admission notice which is published annually on the school's website to allow for 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 school releases **3 Admission Notices annually:**

1. Mainstream Classes
2. Autism Classes
3. Birch Class (for children with DLD)

The application form for admission is published on the school's website, can be emailed to parents/guardians and will be made available in soft/hardcopy on request.

## 2. CHARACTERISTIC, SPIRIT AND GENERAL OBJECTIVES OF PETNS

Powerstown Educate Together National School is under the patronage of Educate Together and we are committed to the values laid down in Educate Together's Charter.

Powerstown Educate Together National School is learner-centred, equality-based, co-educational and democratically-run. This means that all members of the school community, whatever their social, cultural or belief background, work together in an atmosphere of dignity and respect.

Students follow an Ethical Education curriculum, learning about morality and spirituality; equality and justice; belief systems and an ethical approach to the environment. It teaches students about different belief systems as well as atheism, agnosticism and humanism, without promoting any one worldview over another.

Our equality-based ethos informs all policies and practices in the daily life of Powerstown ETNS. In exercising these policy-making and decision-making responsibilities, Powerstown ETNS Board of Management upholds the characteristic spirit of the school.

Educate Together schools provide for equality of access in line with the Educate Together Charter and offers places to siblings enrolled in the school at the same time in the first instance. The definition of a sibling in this policy includes step siblings and foster siblings who are enrolled in the school at the same time.

### 3. ADMISSION STATEMENT

Powerstown ETNS will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

- (a) the sex or 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 additional (“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.

Powerstown Educate Together National School has established specialised classes, with the approval of the Minister for Education, which provides an education exclusively for students with **autism**;  
As specified by the Minister, Powerstown ETNS may refuse to admit to the classes a student who does not have the category of need specified.

Powerstown Educate Together National School has established a specialised class, with the approval of the Minister for Education, which provides an education exclusively for students with;

**Developmental Language Disorder (DLD).**

As specified by the Minister, Powerstown ETNS may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of need specified.

Powerstown ETNS will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 in relation to the provision of education to children with additional (“special”) educational

needs, including in particular by the provision and operation of a specialised class or classes when requested to do so by the Council.

Powerstown ETNS will comply with any direction served on the board or the patron under section 37A and 67(4)(b).

## 4. CATEGORY OF SPECIALISED CLASSES

### (4A) AUTISM CLASS

Powerstown Educate Together National School, with the approval of the Minister for Education, has established two classes to provide an education exclusively for students with autism; These classes are called Holly, Hawthorn, Maple and Elm.

Criteria below must be met by the applicant, and the application process must be adhered to.

1. A recent psychological assessment or a report from a member of a multi-disciplinary team should be provided. A multi-disciplinary team may consist of a Clinical Psychologist, Occupational Therapist, Speech & Language Therapist, Social Worker and a Physiotherapist. ("Multi-Disciplinary Team"). Please note all reports in operation on a child should be provided to the school for assessment by the Admissions Team. The withholding of reports from the school Admissions Team may invalidate an Enrolment Application at any time.
2. The child must have a primary diagnosis of Autism made using the DSM-V or ICD 10 by the psychologist or a member of the Multi-Disciplinary Team.
3. There must be a recommendation by a member of the Multi-Disciplinary Team in the report that a special class placement in a mainstream school is both necessary and suitable for the child;
4. We operate an age-criteria in our autism classes to ensure children are accessing a peer – appropriate, positive learning environment.

Powerstown ETNS is engaging with NCSE and a select number of Dublin 15 primary schools and special schools in an **“autism application trial”**. This trial creates a “centralised application system” for all participating schools, whereby parents apply **ONCE** and application form is processed by each participating school. Please see Terms of Reference for further details. .

### (4B) BIRCH DLD CLASS

Powerstown Educate Together National School, with the approval of the Minister for Education, has established a class to provide an education exclusively for students with;

#### **Developmental Language Disorder (DLD).**

This class is called the Birch Class.

Both Criteria A and B must be met by the applicant, and the application process must be adhered to.

#### **Criteria A: Department of Education (DE) Criteria.**

The DE has outlined the criteria for enrolment in a (SSLD) DLD Class. These include exclusionary and discrepancy criteria in relation to language and IQ scores in children with DLD. In order to be described as having a Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) as per the Department of Education in Ireland pupils should meet each of the following criteria (from the DE Circular 38/07):

- I. Assessment by a psychologist on a standardised test of intelligence, which places non-verbal, or performance ability within the average range or above (i.e. non-verbal IQ of 90, or above).
- II. Assessment on a standardised test of speech and/or language development by a speech and language therapist which places performance in one or more of the main areas of speech and language development at two standard deviations or more below the mean or at a generally equivalent level (i.e. at or below a standard score of 70).
- III. The pupils' difficulties are not attributable to hearing impairment, the hearing threshold for the speech related frequencies should be 40dB
- IV. Emotional or behavioural disorders or a physical disability are not considered to be primary causes.

#### **Criteria B: Local Criteria for Powerstown ETNS SSLD Class.**

- I. The child must live within the designated catchment area at the time of referral. This is defined as the Dublin North Central and North West Dublin areas of the greater Dublin North City & County Community Healthcare Organisation CHO.
- II. At the time of application, a child must be currently enrolled in Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th class (or equivalent). To be allocated a place in ***Powerstown ETNS***, children must be in Senior Infants – 5<sup>th</sup> class. Places are restricted to a range of 3 consecutive class groups, meaning children enrolled in Senior Infants, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> class and/or children in 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> class and/or 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> class and/or 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup>.
- III. Speech & Language Assessments must have been carried out within ***6 months*** of the application deadline (i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> September onwards). Standardised assessments should be used and ***all subtest and core/index scores*** should be reported which places performance in one or more of the main areas of speech and language development at two standard deviations or more below the mean or at a generally equivalent level. SLTs are required to supplement this with previous assessment results/findings (from the past two years) that demonstrate the clinical markers for DLD and support the clinical diagnosis of DLD.
- IV. A child must have attended a minimum of ***8 individual therapy sessions*** within 9 months of the application deadline (i.e. from June onwards).
- V. An up to date psychology report, ***within 3 years of referral***; which includes the results of a comprehensive assessment of intellectual ability, including non-verbal index/factor scores and subtest results.

**Please refer to school's DLD Policy**

## **5. ADMISSION OF STUDENTS**

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (please see [section 7 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. ([Click here for Code of Behaviour](#))

- c) the admission of the applicant would pose a significant risk to the health and safety of the applicant or students and staff of the school, or risk significantly interfering with the right of other students to an appropriate education.
- d) **PETNS Autism Classes** provide an education exclusively for students with Autism and the school may refuse admission to this class, where the student concerned does not have the specified category of additional (“special”) educational needs provided for in this class.
- e) **PETNS Birch Class (specialised class for children with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD) known as Specific Speech and Language Disorder/SSLD by Department of Education)** provides an education exclusively for students with Developmental Language Disorder and the school may refuse admission to this class, where the student concerned does not have the specified category of additional (“special”) educational needs provided for in this class.

## 6. WHAT WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED / 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, other than in relation to a student’s prior attendance at—
  - (I) an early intervention class, or
  - (II) an early start pre-school, specified in a list published by the Minister from time to time;
- (b) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school;
- (c) a student’s academic ability, skills or aptitude; other than in relation to:
  - (i) admission to specialised class for children with autism - insofar as it is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not the student has the category of additional (“special”) educational needs concerned;
  - (ii) admission to specialised class for children with DLD - insofar as it is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not the student has the category of additional (“special”) educational needs concerned;
- (d) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student’s parents;
- (e) a requirement that a student, or his 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 siblings of students who are enrolled in the school at the same time

(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.

## 7. OVERSUBSCRIPTION:

### (7A) JUNIOR INFANTS

In the event that Powerstown ETNS 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 for Junior Infants. Students must reach 4 years of age on or before 1<sup>st</sup> June of the year of admission into Junior Infants.

#### Priority Category 1:

- Applicant students who are siblings of children, enrolled in the school and are 4 years of age on or before 1<sup>st</sup> June of the year of admission into Junior Infants.

#### Priority Category 2:

- Applicants who are 4 years of age on or before 1<sup>st</sup> June of the year of admission into Junior Infants.

#### Priority Category 3:

- All other applicants

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), places will be offered or added to a waiting list by the **earlier date of birth of the student**.

### (7B) SPECIALISED CLASSES FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

If our Autism Classes are oversubscribed the school will apply the following selection criteria to students. These will be applied in the order listed below to applications received within the timeline as set out in the school's annual admission notice for the additional ("special") educational needs provided for in this class.

#### Priority Category 1:

- Current students of the school/students who have been offered a place in the mainstream school for the coming September who meet age criteria as detailed in Admissions Notice (to correspond with current enrolees)

#### Priority Category 2:

- Applicant students who are siblings of children, enrolled in the school at the same time who meet age criteria as detailed in Admissions Notice (to correspond with current enrolees)

#### Priority Category 3:

- Children living within the Catchment Area (Tyrrelstown, Mulhuddart, Hollystown) who meet age criteria as detailed in Admissions Notice (to correspond with current enrolees)

**Priority Category 4:**

- Children living within D15 who meet age criteria as detailed in Admission’s Notice (to correspond with current enrolees)

**Priority Category 5:**

- Children living outside the Catchment Area who meet age criteria as detailed in Admission’s Notice (to correspond with current enrolees)

**Priority Category 6:**

- Revisit categories 1 – 5, prioritising children closest in age to the age criteria detailed in Admission’s Notice

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), places will be offered or added to a waiting list by way of a lottery of completed applications.

**(7C) SPECIALISED CLASS FOR CHILDREN WITH DLD (BIRCH CLASS)**

If the DLD classes are oversubscribed the Common Advisory Admissions Committee will apply the following selection criteria (Criteria C) relating to greatest medical need. These will be applied to applications received within the timeline as set out in the school’s annual admission notice for the DLD class.

**Criteria C: Factors relating to greatest medical need**

The following factors will be considered by the Common Advisory Admissions Committee in relation to identification of the children’s needs and those presenting with the greatest (medical) need will be offered a place in the class. The adapted New Brunswick Priority Rating Scale (PRS) will be used to identify the applicants with the greatest need under Criteria C under the areas of;

- The impact of Primary Presenting Problem
- The predicted Outcome of Intervention
- The impact of Service Delay

These areas of the PRS will be rated on a 5-point scale with 1 being a low impact score and 5 being a high impact score. The following information will be considered when reviewing individual applications under Criteria C;

1. The applicant’s current profile, including standardised assessment results of receptive and expressive language development and speech. Standard scores, percentile ranks, standard deviations and age equivalents should be included where possible.
2. The severity of the applicant’s speech impairment i.e. current level of intelligibility, phonological system, oral motor functioning.



3. History of the applicant's involvement to date with speech and language therapy services including the number of therapy sessions attended and/or offered, the focus of therapy and therapy outcomes.
4. Summary of the impact of the applicant's language and/or speech impairment on his/her educational progress
5. Summary of the impact of the applicant's language on his/her social/emotional development.
6. Case history information as included in the SLT Report; Psychology Report and other reports submitted.

In the event of spare capacity in the SSLD class the Advisory Admissions Committee will adhere to the relevant clauses in Circular 0038/2007.

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), places will be offered or added to a waiting list by way of a lottery of completed applications.

#### **(7D) SENIOR INFANTS – 6<sup>TH</sup> CLASS**

If Powerstown ETNS is oversubscribed, the school will, when deciding on applications for admission, apply the following selection criteria in the order listed below. It will be applied to those applications that are received within the timeline for receipt of applications as set out in the school's annual admission notice for other year groups. Students must be moving to the next year group if the application is for September or to the same year if applying to move during the school year:

##### **Priority Category 1:**

- Applicant students who are siblings of children, enrolled in the school and applicants age corresponds with being 4 years of age on or before 1<sup>st</sup> June of the year of admission into Junior Infants.

##### **Priority Category 2:**

- Applicants age corresponds with having reached 4 years of age on or before 1<sup>st</sup> June of the year of admission into Junior Infants.

##### **Priority Category 3:**

- All other applicants

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), places will be offered or added to a waiting list by the earlier date of birth of the student.

## **8. LATE APPLICATIONS**

All applications for admission received after the closing date as outlined in the annual admission notice for Junior Infants, a specialised class or to other year groups will be considered and decided upon in date order of when they were received 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 not later than three weeks after the date on which the school received the application. Late applicants will be offered a place if there is a place available. In the event that there is no place the name of the applicant will be added to the waiting list.

If two applications are received at the same time the applicant will be offered a place or placed on the waiting list **in order of earliest date of birth.**

## 9. 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 Powerstown ETNS 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 Powerstown ETNS 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 ([see section 7 above](#)). Late applications will be added to the list in date order ([see section 8 above](#)).

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.

Waiting lists will expire at the end of each school year.

## 10. ADMISSIONS OF STUDENTS AFTER THE COMMENCEMENT OF SCHOOL YEAR

If a place is available after the commencement of the school year in which admission is sought, the place will be offered to the next place on the waiting list if there is one or to the next application.

## 11. DECISIONS ON APPLICATIONS

All decisions on applications for admission to Powerstown Educate Together National School will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy;
- The school's annual admission notice (where applicable);
- 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.

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.

## 12. NOTIFYING APPLICANTS OF DECISIONS

Applicants will be informed in writing as to the decision of the school, within the timeline outlined in the relevant annual admissions notice but no later than three weeks after the annual admissions process or for late applications, three weeks after the school receives an application.

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 17 below for further details](#)).

## 13. ACCEPTANCE OF AN OFFER OF A PLACE BY AN APPLICANT

In accepting an offer of admission from Powerstown Educate Together National School you must indicate—

- 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
- whether or not you have applied for and are 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.

## 14. CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH OFFERS MAY NOT BE MADE / WITHDRAWN

An offer of admission may not be made or may be withdrawn by Powerstown ETNS where;

- it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- 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 13 above](#).
- (v) the admission of the applicant would pose a significant risk to the health and safety of the applicant or students and staff of the school, or risk significantly interfering with the right of other students to an appropriate education.

## 15. SHARING 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 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
- (iv) 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)

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

The Board of Management of Powerstown ETNS 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. REVIEWS/APPEALS

### (17A) REVIEW OF DECISIONS BY THE BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

The parent/guardian 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.

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 within 21 calendar days of the date** 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 within 21 calendar days of the date** of that decision by the Board of Management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

### **(17B) RIGHT OF APPEAL**

Under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, the parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, 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.

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. More information on appeals can be found [here](#).

## **18. DATA PROTECTION**

Powerstown ETNS acknowledges its obligations as a data controller under the Data Protection Acts 1988 - 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Information obtained for the purposes of allocating places in the school to students will only be used and disclosed in a manner which is compatible with this purpose. Only such personal data as are relevant and necessary for the performance of this function will be retained. The school undertakes to ensure that such information is processed fairly, that it is kept safe, secure, accurate, complete, and up to date. Individuals have the right to have any inaccurate information rectified or erased. All data submitted as part of the admissions process will be destroyed within twelve months of the end of the school year the application is for (as opposed to the receipt of the application). A copy of all personal data obtained and kept as part of the admissions process will be made

available to the subject of such data on receipt of a written request to the chairperson of the board of management.

## **19. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

The Board of Management has a duty of care to ensure as far as practicable the health and safety of the students and staff of the school. In addition, the Board of Management is required under section 15(1) of the Education Act 1998 to provide, or cause to be provided, an appropriate education for each student at the school for which that board has responsibility.

An application for admission may be refused, therefore, where the admission of the applicant would pose a significant risk to the health and safety of the applicant or students and staff of the school, or risk significantly interfering with the right of other students to an appropriate education.