



**Dublin 15
Autism Class Application Trial (ACAT)
2025/2026 School Year
Information Note**

A number of primary schools with autism classes in Dublin 15 have come together, with the support of the National Council of Special Education (NCSE) to create a *collective* Autism Class Application Trial (ACAT) for parents/guardians seeking an autism class and/or autism school place for the 2025/2026 academic year.

Why have this trial?

The aim of ACAT is to ease the administration burden of parents/guardians, and support autism class forward planning in the D15 area.

What do parents have to do to take part?

Parents/guardians complete the ACAT application form (Appendix 1) and enclose it with the required professional report(s) supporting special class placement.

Send your application and supporting evidence to:

NCSE D15 ACAT,
NCSE Offices,
Block 3,
Grove Court,
Blanchardstown,
Dublin 15,
D15 HNT2.

EMAIL:

D15ACAT@ncse.ie

Does this mean we'll get a special class place?

Applying for a place via ACAT **does not guarantee your child a school place.** Places available in each participating school are detailed on each school's admission notice, which is accessible via <https://ncse.ie/the-ncse-and-13-dublin-15-schools-commence-autism-class-application-trial> , and each participating school's website linked below.



What schools are taking part in the trial that I can apply to?

Participating Schools

Roll #	School Name	website	School email:	Address	Patronage	Ethos
00697S	St Brigid's Mixed National School	https://saintbrigids.ie	info@saintbrigids.ie	Castleknock, D15P820	Catholic, Co-educational (boys & girls), Vertical (Junior Infants - 6th class)	here
18046A	Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí	https://scoilbhrideb.com/	secretarysbb@gmail.com	Blanchardstown, D15 H329	Catholic, Boys only, Vertical (Junior infants - 6th class)	here
19505L	Scoil Oilibhéir	http://www.gaelscoililibheir.ie/	runai.scoil.oilibheir@gmail.com	An Chúil Mhín (Coolmine), D15 PX99	Gaelscoil (through Irish), Catholic, Co-educational (boys & girls), Vertical (Junior Infants - 6th class)	here
19644C	St Ciaran's National School	https://www.stciarans.com/	secretary@stciarans.com	Hartstown, D15 ED83	Catholic, Co-educational (boys & girls), Vertical (Junior Infants - 6th class)	here
19755L	Sacred Heart National School	https://www.shns.ie/	office@shns.ie	Huntstown, D15 KF65	Catholic, Co-educational (boys & girls), Vertical (Junior Infants - 6th class)	here
20098I	Castleknock Educate Together National School	http://www.cetns.ie/	secretary@cetns.ie	Castleknock, D15X094	Educate Together, Co-educational (boys & girls), Vertical (Junior Infants - 6th class)	here
20137P	Mary Mother of Hope Senior National School	https://www.hopen.s.ie/	school@hopens.ie	Littlepace, D15 PH93	Catholic, Co-educational (boys & girls), Senior School (3rd - 6th class)	here
20241K	Scoil Choilm Community National School	https://www.scoilchoilmcns.ie/	scoilchoilm@scns.ie	Clonsilla, D15 Y9RV	ETB, Co-educational (boys & girls), Vertical (Junior Infants - 6th class)	here
20309S	Mary Mother of Hope Junior National School	https://hopejns.ie/	info@hopejns.ie	Littlepace, D15TA49	Catholic, Co-educational (boys & girls), Junior School (Junior Infant - 2nd class)	here
20383H	Hansfield Educate Together National School	https://www.hansfieldetns.com/	hansfieldetns@gmail.com	Hansfield, D15 H1FC	Educate Together, Co-educational (boys & girls), Vertical (Junior Infants - 6th class)	here
20384J	Powerstown Educate Together National School	https://www.powerstowntnet.com/	info@powerstowntnet.com	Tyrrlestown, D15VR80	Educate Together, Co-educational (boys & girls), Vertical (Junior Infants - 6th class)	here
20392I	Pelletstown Educate Together National School	https://www.pelletstowntnetns.ie/	secretary@pelletstowntnetns.com	Rathborne, D15 X63X	Educate Together, Co-educational (boys & girls), Vertical (Junior Infants - 6th class)	here
17891J	Scoil Mhuire Mount Sackville	https://scoilmhuiremountsackville.ie/	office@scoilmhuiremountsackville.com	Chapelizod, D20 HX04	Catholic, Co-educational (boys & girls), Vertical (Junior Infants - 6th class)	here

Parents/guardians should familiarise themselves with the ethos of the various schools they choose as this may significantly impact any decision on which schools are selected. **Parents/guardians should take the time to visit each school's website, before deciding to apply to the school.**

Parents/guardians should note that there are other primary schools in the Dublin 15 area you can apply to, but only the schools listed above are participating in this ACAT



What form do I have to fill?

Common Application Form

You'll find the form on school and the NCSE website:

<https://ncse.ie/the-ncse-and-13-dublin-15-schools-commence-autism-class-application-trial>

This is a paper application form which must be filled out in full, including providing your consent.

Applications will only be accepted on this Application Form.

NCSE D15 ACAT, NCSE Offices, Block 3, Grove Court, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, D15 HNT2.

Parents/Guardians should note in advance that this completed Application Form together with any supporting documentation will be provided to each school selected by the parent/guardians. In the case of a student who has selected three schools, the Application Form and the supporting documentation will be supplied to each of those three schools.

As parents/guardians will note, there is a specific tick box on the Application Form confirming their consent for this information to be shared with the schools in respect of which an application has been made. Parents/Guardians should note that where this consent is not given, it will not be possible to process the application, and the application will be refused.

Consent				
The NCSE are obliged to collect certain information when meeting our legal obligations under Section 41 of the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004. This obligation under the Act, together with Article 6(1)(c) of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) informs the NCSE's legal basis as a data controller. Full details of the NCSE's data protection policy setting out what data we process and how we retain personal data, as well as information regarding the rights of data subjects are available at http://ncse.ie/ncse-data-protection . Consent is required in order for this application to be included in the trial.				
I/we consent for all information in this form and supporting evidence provided being shared with the NCSE and schools where application for placement has been indicated.			yes	no
Name		Signed	date	
Name		Signed	date	

Parents/guardians should also note that the Application Form and supporting documentation will be retained by each school regardless of whether their child is offered a place or not. If the child is offered a place then it will be kept as part of the child's school file, if the child is not offered a place the child



will be waitlisted and as such the documentation will require to be kept for the period on which the child is waitlisted.

When can we apply and when will we hear about places?

The trial involves a Common Application Window (CAW) for Autism classes

Autism Class Application Window for admission for 2025/2026 academic year	
Participating schools will commence accepting applications for admission to the special class on	04/11/2024
Participating shall cease accepting applications for admission to the special class on	08/01/2025 @2pm
NCSE to share applicants with schools	13/01/2025
Participating schools meet	16/01/2025
The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application for admission to the special class is	24/01/2025
The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	31/01/2025

The Common Application Window will be published on each participating school's Admission Notice and school website. It will also be published on NCSE website, and social media. It will be shared with local CDNT teams, parent advocacy groups and National Parents Council.

How can I find out more and get support with making an application?

A dedicated team of NCSE personnel will operate a help desk to assist parents/guardians. Email: D15ACAT@ncse.ie to contact this help desk.

Drop in Clinics

A number of drop-in clinics will take place across D15 area during the application window to support parents/guardians participate in this ACAT

- Powerstown ETNS, Tyrrelstown, D15VR80 **Wednesday 6th November 10am – 11am**
- Castleknock ETNS, Castleknock **Wednesday 20th November 10am – 11am**
- Sacred Heart NS, Huntstown **Wednesday 4th December 10am – 11am**
- Mary Mother Hope JNS, Littlepace, , **Wednesday 11th December 10am – 11am**
- Powerstown ETNS, Tyrrelstown, D15VR80 **Wednesday 8th January 10am – 11am**



How will I know my application has been received and is being considered?

1. Parents will receive email confirmation from Email D15ACAT@ncse.ie once application has been received.
2. NCSE dedicated team will read each report submitted. NCSE dedicated team will inform parents/guardians via email D15ACAT@ncse.ie if they are of the opinion that the report submitted does not meet DE criteria for autism class / admission.
3. NCSE team will advise parents/guardians on necessary next steps and the range of options available re placements.
4. NCSE will advise parents/guardians if they have not consented to sharing information with selected schools on application form.
5. Irrespective of NCSE feedback to parents/guardians, each application will be forwarded to each school parent/guardians have selected on Application form.

What is the Department of Education criteria for enrolment in a special class, (autism)?

DE Criteria for Enrolment to Autism classes (as per circular 0080/2024)

All the Participating Schools require that an appropriate report be submitted confirming:

Diagnosis of Autism: DSM IV/V or ICD 10/11 (psychologist, psychiatrist, multi-disciplinary report)
AND
A demonstration of the understanding of complexity of the child's overall level of need/s
evidenced in the professional reports
AND
Given the severity or complexity of the child's support needs, a clear professional
recommendation as to what educational placement type would be most appropriate to best
meet the child's needs, along with the rationale for same.

Where an application is received for a participating school and the enclosed report does not satisfy the criteria above, the application will be refused/deemed ineligible.

Parents should check that the professional report(s) on their child meet this criteria. If in doubt, contact your local SENO.