



Holy Family Senior School

Ennis, Co. Clare.

Roll Number: 07315N

Admissions Policy

**Special Class for pupils with a Specific Learning Disability (SLD)
(Reading Class)**

Principal: Sarah Barnes

January 2021

1.Admissions Statement

Holy Family Senior School is a mainstream school which has established special classes with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills. The special classes in Holy Family SNS provide an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the National Council for Special Education (NCSE).

- The school's admissions policy should be read in conjunction with this document which is specific to the special class for pupils with a Specific Learning Disability (SLD- Dyslexia). This class is often referred to as the Reading Class.
- Holy Family Senior School has been assigned a Junior class for pupils who are presenting with a Severe Specific Learning Disability.
- The class is open to pupils in 3rd and 4th class, who meet the entry requirement specified below.
- The pupil – teacher ratio is 9 – 1 and placement is for 1 or 2 years only.

2. Our Aim

Holy Family Senior School is a community where pupils, teachers and parents/guardians work together to ensure that all pupils feel happy and valued and are afforded every opportunity to flourish as learners and individuals.

Our Reading class aims to offer a structured multisensory child specific learning environment within a mainstream co-educational national school. This setting facilitates optimum inclusion as part of the school community with access to mainstream activities as appropriate.

3.Admission of students

The class for pupils with SLD has places for a maximum of 9 pupils.

The number of places available each September will be published on the school's annual admissions statement.

The school shall only admit those pupils who meet the enrolment criteria.

It may not be possible to admit all pupils who meet the enrolment criteria when:

- a) the class is oversubscribed (please see below 5 for further details)
- b) a parent of a pupil, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the positive 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 pupil.

4. Criteria for enrolment in HFS Reading Class/Class for pupils with a Specific Learning Disability (NCSE and SERC 1993)

- The pupil must be in, or about to enter, 3rd or 4th class.
- The pupil's general cognitive ability (IQ) must be in the average or above average range, as assessed by a psychologist.
- The pupil's achievement scores must be on or below the 2nd percentile, in one or more areas of literacy testing.
- The pupil must have a recent formal written diagnosis of a Specific Learning Disability/ Dyslexia by a psychologist.
- There must be a recommendation in the psychological report that a special class placement in a mainstream school is both necessary and suitable for the child.

5. Procedure for Enrolment:

- A parent/guardian may contact the Principal of the school at any time to seek information about the special class in the school.
- Application forms for the special class can be obtained through contacting the school on info@hfss.ie or writing to The Principal, Holy Family SNS, Station Road, Ennis, Co. Clare.

- The Class Admissions Committee will meet after March the 31st to process applications.
- The committee consists of the Principal, the Special Class teacher and school SEN Coordinator, with the support of the NEPS psychologist when available.
- The admissions team will analyse all Psychological, School and Parental reports and will rank all applications in order of priority and eligibility based on all information received at time of application.
- Applicants will be listed in order of need, based on the discrepancy between expected and actual performance (i.e. ability (IQ) v achievement) as assessed by a psychologist.
- Successful candidates will be offered a place in writing and will have ten days to accept the offer.
- A place which is not accepted will then be offered to the next applicant on the list.
- The Admissions team will reconvene in the event that vacant places become available after the 31st March.
- The local NCSE Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO) will be informed of all successful applicants. At this stage if pupils are eligible for school transport applications are made to the SENO.

6. Oversubscription

- If the special class for pupils with SLD is oversubscribed in one given year, the Admissions Team will analyse all Psychological, School and Parental reports and will rank all applications in order of priority and eligibility based on all information received at time of application.
- In the event of children presenting with the same ranking, a random lottery system will be used to select the successful applicant.

7. 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 pupils.

8.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 Holy Family Senior School where:

- (i) it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- (ii) the parent of a pupil, 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.

9.Appeal process

The Parents/Guardians of a child who has been refused enrolment may appeal the decision under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, by accessing the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

10 Implementation and Review

This policy will be implemented from 27th January 2021. It will be reviewed at the end of every school year, or as circumstances require.

12 Ratification

This policy was ratified by The Board of Management of Holy Family Senior School on 27th January 2021

Chairperson BOM: *Joe Carmody*