Admissions Policy

Ó Fiaich College, Hoey's Lane, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth, A91WK75

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"Working together, together achieving success"

POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO Ó FIAICH COLLEGE

A decision on an application for admission will be based on the implementation of this Policy, the information set out in the annual Admission Notice of the school and the information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission, once received before the closing date set out in the annual Admission Notice. The Principal of Ó Fiaich College is responsible for the implementation of this Admission Policy.

INTRODUCTION TO Ó FIAICH COLLEGE

History of our school

Ó Fiaich College is a coeducational post primary school situated south of Dundalk town centre on Hoey's Lane, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co Louth, A91 WK75 and sharing a modern education campus with Ó Fiaich Institute of Further Education and with Dundalk Institute of Technology.

Ó Fiaich College began life in Chapel Street in 1906 as Dundalk Municipal Technical School. In 1971 it moved to a new building and current location on the Dublin Road.

Mission Statement & Vision

OFC Mission – Together in the pursuit of excellence. Our school Mission Statement is at the core of everything we do *"Working together in pursuit of excellence. Ar Scáth a chéile a mhairimid"*.

OFC Vision – *"Working together, together achieving success"*. It is the vision of all staff in OFC to support learners in their journey through education to ensuring that each student reaches their full potential.

Description of School/School Ethos

Ó Fiaich College is a successful and progressive combined 2nd level and Post Leaving Certificate College. The objective of the management and staff is to provide a high quality holistic education to all students. The vibrant, enthusiastic and highly qualified teaching staff ensure that all students learn in a positive and caring environment where students' abilities are nurtured and challenged. Students are encouraged to reach their full potential regardless of any challenges they may encounter.

Ó Fiaich College offers all educational programmes currently approved by the Department of Education and Skills – Junior Certificate, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate, Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme and Leaving Certificate Applied. The consistent success of our students in these exams is a source of pride to the college community and ensures that a very high percentage of our leaving certificate graduates progress to the career option of their choice.

A wide range of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities are on offer with many teams and individuals competing successfully in local, national and international competitions.

Ó Fiaich College takes pride in its commitment to innovation, ensuring that young people are exposed to the most modern advancements and the technology of the future. Part of that commitment is the use of Digital Devices as an aid to research and learning.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PATRON – LOUTH AND MEATH EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD (LMETB)

The patron of Ó Fiaich College, Hoey's Lane, Dublin Road, Dundalk, Co. Louth is Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB). Louth and Meath Education and Training Board (LMETB) is the largest comprehensive educational provider in the Louth and Meath region with a range of educational services from primary to post primary and further education and training.

Louth and Meath Education and Training Board is committed to excellence and innovation in the education of young people and adults through the provision of dynamic services delivered by professional staff.

LMETB manages four Community National Schools, one Community Special School, a Centre for European Schooling, eighteen post primary schools including one school with Post Leaving Certificate provision and two dedicated Post Leaving Certificate colleges. LMETB is also joint patron of six Community Schools located in Ardee, Ashbourne, Athboy, Drogheda, Kells and Trim.

Each LMETB school and college has proven itself as a centre of excellence in teaching, learning and assessment in its local community. LMETB schools provide a welcoming atmosphere for students, staff, parents and the local communities in which they operate. The LMETB school/college experience is one where a warm relationship exists between teachers and learners and the atmosphere in lessons is positive and conducive to learning. A broad and balanced curriculum with a diverse range of co-curricular and extracurricular activities where the aptitudes of students are central to its design is available in LMETB schools. Each of these schools has built a very positive reputation in the local communities in which they operate and each school continues to enjoy strong parental support and a high level of satisfaction with the quality of teaching, learning and assessment.

At Further Education and Training level, LMETB manages Youthreach Centres, a Regional Skills and Training Centre, the Advanced Manufacturing Training Centre of Excellence (AMTCE), Drogheda College and an extensive range of Adult Education Services throughout counties Louth and Meath, including Adult Learning Services, Community Education, Back to Education Initiatives (BTEI), VTOS and Adult Guidance. Details of all LMETB schools and centres are included on our website www.lmetb.ie

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PART A

General Information for All Applicants

1. ***Glossary of Terms***
2. ***Admission Statement***
3. ***Legal Framework***
4. ***General Admission Provisions (for all Applicants)***

1 GLOSSARY OF TERMS

'**Applicant'** means the parent / guardian of a Student, or, in the case of a Student who has reached the age of 18 years, the Student, who has made an application for admission to Ó Fiaich College.

'**Student'** means the person in respect of whom the application is being made. All uses of the word throughout this Policy therefore imply 'prospective' as part of the interpretation. That is, the use of the word 'Student' does not mean that an application or acceptance of offer makes him/her a student of Ó Fiaich College; a person is only regarded as a student of Ó Fiaich College once s/he is enrolled on his/her first day of attendance. It does not include a person who was formerly enrolled in the school and was permanently excluded from the school or who left the school after being recommended for expulsion by the Board of Management.

'Enrolled' means attending the school as a registered student, in line with section 20(2) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.

'**Gender'**, in line with the definition of "*the gender ground*" in the Equal Status Act 2000, is such that "*one is male and the other is female*". This does not prejudice any Student who is Intersex or identifies as Androgynous/Androgyne, Bigender, Demigender, Gender Fluid, Genderqueer, Multigender, Neutrois, Non-binary, Transgender, Transsexual or otherwise.

'**Catchment Area'** refers to the designated residential area (determined by the Board of Management of Ó Fiaich College) in respect of the person on whose behalf the application is being made. The Catchment Area for Ó Fiaich College is defined as Dundalk urban area and surrounding hinterlands.

'**Parent'** has the same meaning as in the Education Act 1998 and includes a foster parent and a guardian appointed under the Guardianship of Children Acts, 1964 to 1997.

'**Feeder Primary Schools'** refers to the primary schools of preference for application to Ó Fiaich College. The feeder primary schools for Ó Fiaich College are included in the table below, in no particular order:

St. Joseph's N.S.	Muirhevnamor	Dundalk	Co. Louth
Redeemer Boys N.S.	Ard Easmuinn	Ecco Road	Dundalk
Redeemer Girls N.S.	Ard Easmuinn	Ecco Road	Dundalk
Gaelscoil Dhún Dealgan	Muirtheimhne Mór	Dún Dealgan	Co. Lú
St. Fursey's N.S.	Marlbog Road	Haggardstown	Dundalk
St. Oliver Plunkett N.S.	Sandy Lane	Blackrock	Co. Louth
St. Francis N.S.	Rock Road	Blackrock	Co. Louth
Scoil Mhuire Na nGael	Bay Estate	Dundalk	Co. Louth
Castletown Girls School	Castletown Road	Dundalk	Co. Louth
Réalt Na Mara	Mill Street	Dundalk	Co. Louth
St. Nicholas N.S.	Nicholas St	Dundalk	Co. Louth
St. Malachys Boys N.S.	Anne Street	Dundalk	Co. Louth
St. Malachys Girls N.S.	Anne Street	Dundalk	Co. Louth
De La Salle Primary School	Philip Street	Dundalk	Co. Louth
Dun Dealgan N.S.	Jocelyn Street	Dundalk	Co. Louth
C.B.S. Primary	Chapel Street	Dundalk	Co. Louth
S.N. Eoin Baiste	Fatima	Castletown	Dundalk
St. Mary's N.S.	Knockbridge	Dundalk	Co. Louth
Faughart Community N.S.	Mountpleasant	Faughart Upper	Co. Louth
Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál	Kilkerley	Dundalk	Co. Louth
Scoil Phadraig Naofa Kilcurry	Kilcurry	Dundalk	Co. Louth
Kilsaran N.S.	Kilsaran	Castlebellingham	Co. Louth
St. Peter's N.S.	Chapel Road	Dromiskin	Co. Louth
St. Mochta's N.S.	Louth Village	Dundalk	Co. Louth
Dulargy Mixed N.S.	Dulargy	Ravensdale	Dundalk
Bellurgan N.S.	Jenkinstown	Dundalk	Co. Louth
Shelagh N.S.	Hackballscross	Dundalk	Co. Louth

'First-Year' means the intake group of Students for the most junior class or year in a school.

2 ADMISSION STATEMENT

Ó Fiaich College is an ETB school:

ETB schools are state, co-educational, multidenominational schools underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence in Education
- Care
- Equality
- Community and
- Respect

As the state provider of education, the ETB sector defines a 'multidenominational' school in the following way:

In ETB schools, all students are given equal opportunities for enrolment in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018. Once enrolled, our schools strive to provide all students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life. In all aspects of school life all members of our school communities are treated equitably regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status.

Our schools provide a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. They strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. Our schools promote a fully inclusive education that recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents and staff. We prepare open-minded, culturally sensitive and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values.

In ETB schools, students of all religions and beliefs are treated equally. The school environment and activities do not privilege any particular group over another whilst at the same time acknowledging and facilitating students of all religions and beliefs.

Accordingly, Ó Fiaich College shall not discriminate in its admission of a Student based on the following grounds:

2.1. Gender of the Student or Applicant. However, where a school admits students of one gender only, it is not discriminatory to refuse to admit Students not of that gender;

2.2. Civil status of the Student or Applicant;

2.3. Family status of the Student or Applicant;

2.4. Sexual orientation of the Student or Applicant;

2.5. Religion of the Student or Applicant;

2.6. Disability of the Student or Applicant;

2.7. Race of the Student or Applicant;

2.8. The Student's or Applicant's membership of the Traveller community;

2.9. Special educational needs of the Student or Applicant.

Ó Fiaich College will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 relating to the provision of education to children with special educational needs, including in particular by the provision and operation of a special class or classes when requested to do so by the Council.

Ó Fiaich College will comply with any direction served on the patron or the board, as the case may be, under section 37A and any direction served on the board under section 67(4B) of the Education Act.

Ó Fiaich College shall not charge fees or payments or seek contributions as a condition of admission or continued enrolment of a Student.

3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

LMETB was established under the Education and Training Board Act 2013 which sets out the functions of all ETBs, including to establish and maintain recognised schools, centres for education and education and training facilities in each ETB's functional area.

The board of management of Ó Fiaich College is a committee established under section 44 of the Education and Training Board Act 2013 and also constitutes a board of management within the meaning of the Education Act 1998.

The Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 place a duty on all recognised schools to prepare and publish an Admission Policy.

The Education Act 1998 provides for an appeal process in the event of a refusal to admit a student. The appeal process is set out in section 5.2 in respect of applications made to the First-Year Group and in section 6.2 in respect of applications made to all years other than the First-Year Group.

Section 62(7)(n) of the Education Act 1998 requires each school to set out in its Admission Policy the arrangements it has in place where a parent, or student over 18 years of age, requests that the student opt-out of religious instruction.

It is important to understand that our school does not provide '*religious instruction'* and therefore the legal requirement to advise of the option to opt-out of religious instruction does not arise in this school. There is an important distinction between '*religious instruction'* and *'religious education'*.

- *Religious instruction* is a term used in Ireland to indicate instruction in accordance with the rites, practices and teachings of a **particular** religion or denomination for pupils of that religious tradition.

- *Religious education* is open to all pupils regardless of their commitment to any particular religion or worldview. It seeks to contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all students equally.

4 GENERAL ADMISSION PROVISIONS

A decision on an application for admission shall be based on:

- the implementation of this Admission Policy,
- the annual Admission Notice of the school, and the
- information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission.

In processing an application Ó Fiaich College **shall not consider**:

4.1 The payment of fees or contributions to the school;

4.2 A Student's academic ability, skills or aptitude;

4.3 The occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a Student's Parent(s);

4.4 A requirement that a Student or his or her Parent(s), attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;

4.5 A Student's connection to the school due to a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school.

4.6 The date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school as long as it is received during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual Admission Notice for that academic year.

Ó Fiaich College will consider the offer of a place to every Student seeking admission to the school, **<u>unless</u> the following applies**:

4.7 The Parent fails to confirm in writing that s/he accepts the Student Code of Behaviour and he/she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the Student;

Where Ó Fiaich College considers an application, each Student shall receive a place, unless the school is oversubscribed, in which case, selection criteria will be applied to each application.

Section 5 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for the First-Year Group.

Section 6 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for all year groups other than First-Year.

PART B

Information for Specific Categories of Applicants

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SECTION 5
APPLICATION TO THE FIRST-YEAR GROUP

5 APPLICATION TO THE FIRST-YEAR GROUP

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5.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (FIRST-YEAR GROUP)

In the event that Ó Fiaich College is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to section 4.7.

Incomplete applications received by the school will not be processed under this policy.

5.1.1 Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 5.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Ó Fiaich College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications to all year groups other than First-Year.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

5.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority

Ó Fiaich College will apply the following criteria for admission to the First-Year Group:

5.1.2.1 If the Student resides in the Catchment Area and will have attained 12 years of age by the 31st January of the academic year to which s/he is applying to be enrolled in First Year, after having completed sixth class in primary school (or equivalent);

5.1.2.2 Whether the Student, at the time of application, is attending one of the Feeder Primary Schools and has been enrolled there for at least one full academic year;

5.1.3 Selection process

Ó Fiaich College will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the relevant year group still has places available, the remaining Applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the relevant year group. This process is continuously carried out against all selection criteria until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Ó Fiaich College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the relevant year group, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

5.1.4 Late applications

An application received by Ó Fiaich College after the closing date published by the school, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where the relevant year group is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications, irrespective of any selection criteria which may been applied to applications received before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school, subject to section 4.7. For the avoidance of doubt, selection criteria are not relevant to, and will not be applied to, late applications.

Where the relevant year group is not oversubscribed, *i.e.* there is no waiting list, and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within the relevant year group, subject to section 4.7 and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school by the date stated for same in the letter offering the place.

5.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within the relevant year group but does not accept the offer, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the relevant year group have been filled.

5.1.6 Acceptance of a place

If the Student in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School's Admission Notice, or by the date stated for same in the letter offering the place if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the School's Admission Notice, or by the date stated for same in the letter offering the place if it is a late application if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for withdrawal of an offer, as set out below.

5.1.7 Refusal

Where a Student in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

5.1.7.1. The reasons that the Student was not a offered a place in Ó Fiaich College;

5.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed;

5.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and

5.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7 an offer of admission may not be made where:

5.1.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

5.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

5.1.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or

5.1.8.2. The 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 for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, by the date stated for same in the letter offering the place, or

5.1.8.3. An Applicant has not indicated:

(i) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);

and

(ii) whether or not or s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place for that academic year (and shall not be placed on a waiting list). If the Applicant still desires a place for that academic year, a new application must be made for the same academic year on behalf of that Student and shall be treated as a late application in line with section 5.1.4 above.

5.1.9 Appeals

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Ó Fiaich College regarding admission to the First-Year Group, see section 5.2.

5.2. APPEALS

5.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must first request a review by the board of management in writing, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8248c-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-due-to-a-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-seek-a-review-by-the-board-of-management, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Ó Fiaich College. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty-one calendar days of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing info@ofi.ie

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, or the board of management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form', available at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8248c-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-due-to-a-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-appeal-if-a-child-has-been-refused-admission-because-the-school-is-full and submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education or the appeal can be submitted online by uploading the required documentation at https://www.section29appeals.gov.ie/. As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the board of management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal, whichever is earlier, and an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

5.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission to Ó Fiaich College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the board of management, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/31c4f-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-for-a-reason-other-than-the-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-seek-a-review-by-the-board-of-management, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Ó Fiaich College. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty-one calendar days of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education after the publication of this policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing info@ofi.ie (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the board of management in writing to that effect.)

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form', available at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/31c4f-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-for-a-reason-other-than-the-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-appeal-if-my-child-has-been-refused-admission-and-the-school-has-places-available and submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education or the appeal can be submitted online by uploading the required documentation at https://www.section29appeals.gov.ie/. As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, that Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

5.2.3 Basis for a review by the board of management:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the board of management to review a decision of the school to refuse admission must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to review the decision.

SECTION 6
APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR

6 APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR

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6.2.3 Basis for a review by the board of management

6.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR)

In the event that Ó Fiaich College is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to section 4.7.

Incomplete applications received by the school will not be processed under this policy.

6.1.1 Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 6.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Ó Fiaich College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications to all years other than the First-Year Group.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

Where the Transition Year Programme and/or Leaving Certificate Applied Programme in Ó Fiaich College is/are oversubscribed, a Student applying for admission to such programm(es) in the relevant year group, will, subject to this policy, be placed on the appropriate waiting list already compiled (annually) by the school, which list will contain the names of students enrolled in the school who have been placed on an internal waiting list for this/ese programmes.

6.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority

Ó Fiaich College will apply the following criteria for admission to a year group other than First-Year:

6.1.2.1. If the Student resides in the Catchment Area

Any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not an Applicant is admitted.

6.1.3 Selection process

Ó Fiaich College will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the relevant year group still has places available, the remaining Applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the relevant year group. This process is continuously carried out against all selection criteria until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Ó Fiaich College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the relevant year group, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

6.1.4 Late applications:

An application received by Ó Fiaich College after the closing date published by Ó Fiaich College, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where the relevant year group is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications, irrespective of any selection criteria which may been applied to applications received before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school, subject to section

4.7. For the avoidance of doubt, selection criteria are not relevant to, and will not be applied to, late applications.

Where Ó Fiaich College is not oversubscribed, *i.e.* there is no waiting list, and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within the relevant year group, subject to section 4.7 and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied, *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school by the date stated for same in the letter offering the place.

6.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within the relevant year group but does not accept the offer, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the relevant year group have been filled.

6.1.6 Acceptance of a place:

If the Student in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or by the date stated for same in the letter offering the place, if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or by the date stated for same in the letter offering the place it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for withdrawal of an offer, as set out below.

6.1.7 **Refusal:**

Where a Student in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

6.1.7.1. The reasons that the Student was not a offered a place in Ó Fiaich College,

6.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed,

6.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable, and

6.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7 an offer of admission may not be made where:

6.1.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

6.1.8 **Withdrawal of an offer**

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

6.1.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or

6.1.8.2. The 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 for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, by the date stated for same in the letter offering the place, or

6.1.8.3. An Applicant has not indicated:

(i) whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);

and

(ii) whether or not or s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place for that academic year (and shall not be placed on a waiting list). If the Applicant still desires a place for that academic year, a new application must be made for the same academic year on behalf of that Student and shall be treated as a late application in line with section 6.1.4 above.

6.1.9 Appeals:

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Ó Fiaich College regarding admission to a year group other than First-Year, see section 6.2.

6.2 APPEALS

6.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must first request a review by the board of management in writing, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8248c-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-due-to-a-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-seek-a-review-by-the-board-of-management, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Ó Fiaich College. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty-one calendar days of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing info@ofi.ie

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, or the board of management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form', available at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/8248c-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-due-to-a-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-appeal-if-a-child-has-been-refused-admission-because-the-school-is-full and submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education or the appeal can be submitted online by uploading the required documentation at https://www.section29appeals.gov.ie/. As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the board of management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal, whichever is earlier, and the appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

6.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission to Ó Fiaich College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the board of management, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/31c4f-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-for-a-reason-other-than-the-school-being oversubscribed/#how-to-seek-a-review-by-the-board-of-management, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Ó Fiaich College. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty-one calendar days of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing info@ofi.ie (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the board of management in writing to that effect.)

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form', available at https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/31c4f-appeals-in-relation-to-refusal-to-admit-a-student-for-a-reason-other-than-the-school-being-oversubscribed/#how-to-appeal-if-my-child-has-been-refused-admission-and-the-school-has-places-available and submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education or the appeal can be submitted online by uploading the required documentation at https://www.section29appeals.gov.ie/. As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, that Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

6.2.3 Basis for a review by the board of management:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the board of management to review a decision of the school to refuse admission must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to review the decision.