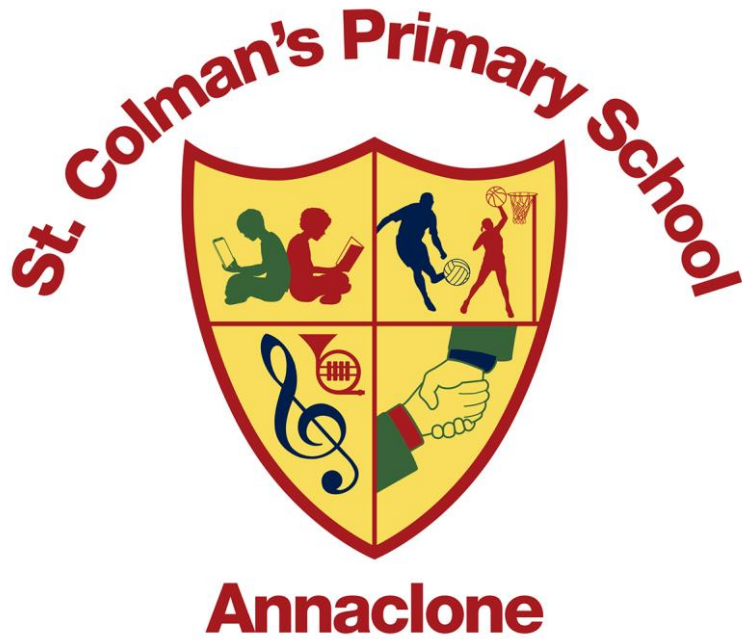


St. Colman's Primary School/ Annaclone



Admissions Policy

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Vision Statement

Vision Statement

To be an inclusive, caring School where childhood and community are valued; one, which inspires learning for life and develops the personal qualities needed to succeed in a rapidly changing World. This vision will be best realised as we undergo a continual journey of collaboration and progress through partnership, leading to excellence.

Mission Statement

We believe that each child will succeed through experiencing quality in:

- ☐ A broad and challenging curriculum
- ☐ Innovative teaching and an investigative approach to learning
- ☐ A stimulating learning environment
- ☐ An enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- ☐ A rich, varied and up-to-date range of learning resources
- ☐ An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- ☐ Learning partnerships between the school, home and parish community

We demonstrate our commitment to working as a learning community by:

- ☐ Striving for continuous improvement in all that we do
- ☐ Working collaboratively towards common goals

Aims for the Pupils

St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit (Annaclone), promote high achievement and learning for life by working with the staff and children to:

- ☐ Develop enquiring minds and a spirit of curiosity
- ☐ Promote well-being and the importance of a healthy work/life balance
- ☐ Encourage excellence and the development of new skills
- ☐ Ensure the children in our school are immersed in their community but are also forward facing and expansive in outlook
- ☐ Achieve their highest standards in all areas of the curriculum

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- ❑ Have high self-esteem - respecting themselves, others and the environment by our positive approach to behaviour thus ensuring that each individual is motivated to do his/her best
- ❑ Utilise and provide opportunities to develop their thinking skills enabling them to work independently or collaboratively
- ❑ Be an integral part of the Parish community - one which fosters a faith commitment to Christ and prepares pupils for a fuller participation in the life of the Church
- ❑ Seek to extend themselves in mind, body and spirit
- ❑ Become highly motivated life-long learners
- ❑ Gain advanced technological skills and an awareness of Global Issues
- ❑ Be flexible and adaptable for the modern world

Our School Values:

- Happiness and enjoyment
- Effort, attitude and perseverance
- Team, school and community spirit
- Honesty, fairness and trustworthiness
- Respect and tolerance
- Politeness, kindness and caring
- High standards of behavior
- Partnerships and collaboration



Ethos of the School

St Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit sets out to create a caring and supportive environment, where all children can develop intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially, morally and spiritually.

In addition, the delivery of the curriculum is designed to develop interest and motivation in children using enthusiastic teaching and interesting and relevant learning activities.

- Children are encouraged to achieve high standards and are given as much help as they may need in order to achieve success.
- There are many extra-curricular activities that encourage co-operation and discipline through team games. Children are further encouraged through a variety of musical/dramatic productions to develop self-discipline.
- Within this context there is a code of discipline that is consistently enforced to ensure that the education of children takes place in an orderly and caring environment.
- Through continual monitoring of individual children's achievements, class teachers provide work pitched at a level that challenges each child yet does not frustrate.
- Good relationships within the School are vital. The staff set an example by working well together with a harmony of purpose and providing an interesting and caring environment within their classrooms.
- As part of the pastoral dimension of the School, children are taught how to care for others, to respect other people's points of view and to respect property. Children are encouraged to contribute to charity and to help people who are less fortunate than themselves.

Admissions Policy

1 Introduction

- 1.1** The governing body of **St Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit** apply the regulations on admissions fairly and equally to all those who wish to attend this school and the Nursery Unit.

2 Aims and objectives

- 2.1** We are an inclusive school that welcomes children from all backgrounds and abilities.
- 2.2** All applications will be treated on merit and in a sensitive manner.
- 2.3** The only restriction we place on entry is that of number. If the number of children applying for entry exceeds the places available, we enforce the procedure set out below in order to determine whether a child is accepted or not. It is our wish to allow parents the right to have a place at the school of their choice. However, this is not always possible, due to the excess demand on the school places available.
- 2.4** The level of ability of a child plays no part in the admissions policy of this school.

3 How parents can apply for their child to be admitted to our school/nursery

- 3.1** As our school/nursery is a community school, the school determines the admission arrangements in agreement with the Education Authority – Southern (EA(S)). EA(S) is therefore the 'Admissions Authority' for our school/nursery. The regulations for entry to each school, where the Admissions Authority is the EA(S), are published each year by the EA(S). Parents can receive a copy of these regulations directly from the EA(S).
- 3.2** The EA(S) publishes a composite admissions prospectus each year, which gives information about how parents can apply for a place in the school of their choice. Parents have a right to express a preference for the school of their choice and they should do so on the application form. Expressing a preference does not, in itself, guarantee a place at this school. Application forms can be obtained from the Pupil and Parent Unit of the EA(S) and should be completed by the date stipulated on the forms. The school notifies parents about the school place as soon as all the applications have been considered.
- 3.3** In this area, children enter school in the academic year they become 4/5. There is one admissions date per year for P1, early in September. Therefore, parents who would like their child to be admitted to this school during the year their child is four turning five they should ensure that they complete the necessary application forms at the appropriate time.

- 3.4** In this area, children enter Nursery in the academic year they become 3/4. There is one admissions date per year for Nursery, early in September. Therefore, parents who would like their child to be admitted to this school during the year their child is three turning four they should ensure that they complete the necessary application forms at the appropriate time.

4 Admission appeals

- 4.1** If we do not offer a child a place at this school/nursery, it is because to do so would prejudice the education of other children by allowing the numbers of children in the school to increase too much.
- 4.2** If parents wish to appeal against a decision to refuse entry, they can do so by applying to the EA(S). An independent appeals panel then meets to consider all appeals by parents who have been refused a place at our school and who wish to appeal against this decision. An appeals panel's decision is binding for all parties concerned. If the appeals panel decides that we should admit a child to our school/nursery, then we will accept this and continue to do all we can to provide the best education for all the children at our school/nursery.

5 The standard number

- 5.1** The standard number is the number of children the school can accommodate. The standard number for our school is **161** (P1 – 23) and for the nursery is **26**. The Yearly intake number is determined by the DE. We keep these numbers under review and the governors will apply, to the DE, to change the number if circumstances allow.

6 Infant class size

- 6.1** We teach infant children (P1 – P4) (aged four to seven) in classes that have a maximum number of 30 children but if we find that we have to we will apply to the EA(S) for an exemption to this number.

