

## ADDITIONAL PLACEMENT POLICY

### Background

Enable Ireland Sandymount School is a co-educational special school providing a primary and second-level education to students from age 4 to 18 with physical and other complex needs. Some of our students experience developmental delay and though may not present with a physical disability, they need our specialised setting. Our students are bused daily into School from all parts of the South Dublin City and County.

### Aims

This policy aims to:

- Outline the agreed procedures for seeking additional educational placements for pupils 18 years and over
- Ensure the best education possible for all pupils in our school.

### School Ethos

The school vision/mission statement reflects the characteristic spirit of the school, “Excellence in Education” and will address:

- the placement of the student at the centre of the educational process
- enabling the student to participate in a full life according to their ability
- assisting the student with his/her holistic development
- preparing the student for continuing and lifelong learning
- empowering the student to realise his/her potential as an independent social being and self-fulfilled adult

Pupil learning needs are at the centre of all planning, and the focus of our school plan is the teaching and learning that takes place at the school. Enable Ireland Sandymount School promotes the 24 hour curriculum and our school day is a small part of what pupils learn throughout their lives. The school work in partnership with parents to ensure a quality education for our pupils. We recognise the work of the associated therapeutic disciplines provided by our patron body, Enable Ireland in supporting our pupils’ access education.

### Procedures for Seeking Additional Placement in Our School

Special schools funded by the Department are classified as primary national schools and are intended, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 64(1) of the Rules for National Schools, to cater for children and young persons with special educational needs from the age of 4 years until the end of the school year in which they reach their 18th year.

Special schools may however seek approval from the Department for an exemption from Rule 64(1) in respect of students over the age of 18 who are pursuing courses leading to accreditation on the National Qualifications Framework (e.g. Junior Certificate/LCA/FETAC 3).



A request for an exemption from Rule 64(1) can only be made by a school where:

1. The student is pursuing a course leading to accreditation on the National Qualifications Framework (e.g. Junior Certificate/Leaving Certificate Applied/FETAC 3)
2. The student requires one additional year in order to complete their course
3. Retaining the student in the school for another school year will not prevent a younger pupil being enrolled there
4. Plans are in place to transition the student to a post-school setting at the end of the particular school year

An extension of enrolment form should be completed and returned as soon as possible in respect of each student for whom your school wishes to seek approval for an exemption from Rule 64 (1) for the following school year.

Once completed, the form should be returned to the following e-mail address [special\\_education@education.gov.ie](mailto:special_education@education.gov.ie) with the subject line clearly marked: **Exemption from Rule 64(1) in respect of students over the age of 18** copying both the Principal and the Chairperson Board of Management.

#### Additional Requirements:

- A letter seeking an additional year must be written to the Principal
- An additional letter may be required from a recognised professional e.g. psychologist stating that an additional year would be of benefit to the pupil
- The letter will then be brought to the attention of the Board of Management at the following BoM meeting and a decision will be made by the Board

A decision to accept a pupil of 18 plus cannot impinge on the education of pupils under 18 years (the maximum number of pupils in any class is 11 and 6 in the ASD classes)

- In the event of applications exceeding available places, pupils will be offered a place on a first come, first served basis.

#### Equality

Our school will not discriminate on any of the nine grounds named in the Equal Status Act and any processes and procedures will not be applied in a discriminatory way. The school is committed to positive action for those who are disadvantaged or who need assistance that others do not need and the school should be alerted to the fact that support is needed so it can be put in place.

Discrimination under the nine grounds or harassment including sexual harassment is prohibited in our school.



## Review and Ratification

This policy was reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management.

Signed:



Sé Goulding, Chairperson of Board of Management



Jennifer Doyle, Principal

Date: 16 November 2023

