



Educate  
Together

4<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Dear Parents, Students, Friends, Supporters and Contributors,

**Re: Admissions Policy for North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School,**

Thank you for expressing your interest, participating in consultations and general support in any way towards the development of North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School's Admissions Policy. The Policy and Enrolment Procedures have been finalized and are enclosed with this letter.

In accordance with our core principles of equality, participation and inclusion, we asked stakeholders to make submissions to the development of the Admissions Policy. We were pleased to receive submissions from parents/guardians, boards of management of local primary schools, school Principals and others, all of whose views have been carefully considered.

This Admissions Policy will guide the school's Interim Board of Management until the school opens its doors to 1<sup>st</sup> Year students in September 2016. In the meantime, it will be reviewed in September 2015 to ensure that policy and procedures are working effectively. Following the establishment of the school in September 2016, it is anticipated that the Board of Management will review the Admissions Policy on an annual basis.

The Admissions Policy states that places will be offered in the following priority order:

**Priority 1**

Children living in the geographical areas defined as "Bray", "Kilternan", and "Ballybrack/Shankill" in the Department of Education and Skills map attached to the policy. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis.

Students who satisfy the above criterion have automatic access if places are available in the school.

**Priority 2**

Should places remain available following the enrolment of Priority 1 applicants, applications will be considered from students who, at the time of application attend Bray School Project, Greystones ETNS and Wicklow ETNS.

**Priority 3**

Should places remain available following the enrolment of Priority 1 and Priority 2 applicants, applications will be considered from students who, at the time of application attend any Educate Together National School.

**Priority 4**

Should places remain available following the enrolment of Priority 1, Priority 2 and Priority 3 applicants, applications will be considered from all other applicants. Places will be offered on a first come first served basis.

In making our decisions on the above Admissions Policy, we considered the following: the Educate Together Charter; local catchment area; demand from parents/guardians whose child(ren) attend(s) Educate Together national school(s); and demand from parents/guardians of children resident in other areas and attending other school types.

**Priority 1**

It is important to note that patrons of the new second-level schools sanctioned by the Department of Education and Skills (DES) in 2014 gave a commitment to meet certain criteria that were laid down by the DES. One criterion was to confirm our "*willingness to enrol children in the area for whom the Department has identified the need for a school.*" By defining the local catchment area for the school, we have fulfilled this criterion. Families who reside in the local catchment areas are eligible to apply for

places at the school under Priority 1 in the Admissions Policy, as there is an identified need for a new post-primary school in the area.

#### **Priority 2**

We also considered the views of parents/guardians whose children currently attend Bray School Project, Greystones and Wicklow Educate Together National Schools, and who want the choice to continue into a second-level school of the same ethos for their child(ren). At present, no other school in the area provides pupils leaving Educate Together primary schools with continuity of ethos as they make the important transition to second-level.

As North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School will be one of the first Educate Together second-level schools in the country, we are responding to the wishes of parents/guardians for choice in their child(ren)'s education. Priority 2 in the Admissions Policy, therefore, is to provide students attending Bray School Project, Greystones and Wicklow Educate Together National Schools with the opportunity to enrol in this school.

#### **Priority 3**

We also considered the views of parents/guardians whose children currently attend Educate Together national schools, and who want the choice to continue into a second-level school of the same ethos for their child(ren). At present, no other school in the area provides pupils leaving Educate Together primary schools with continuity of ethos as they make the important transition to second-level.

As North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School will be one of the first Educate Together second-level schools in the country, we are responding to the wishes of parents/guardians for choice in their child(ren)'s education. Priority 3 in the Admissions Policy, therefore, is to provide students attending Educate Together national schools with the opportunity to enrol in this school.

#### **Priority 4**

In the Expressions of Interest collected prior to our application for patronage of this school, it was clear that this model of second-level education had broad appeal. Many expressions of interest were received from families whose children do not attend an Educate Together national school, or who do not reside in the immediate local area. With this in mind, we have included Priority 4 in the Admissions Policy to enable applicants from any area and any type of school to have the opportunity to enrol in this new second-level school.

To join the mailing list for North Wicklow Educate Together Secondary School, and to keep up to date with developments, please visit the website [www.northwicklowsecondary.ie](http://www.northwicklowsecondary.ie), email [etlevel2@gmail.com](mailto:etlevel2@gmail.com) or call 01 429 2500.

Yours faithfully,

*Niall Wall*

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