



Presentation Secondary School Castleisland Co. Kerry



Admission Policy

61260U

CEIST

1. Introduction

This Admission Policy complies with the requirements of the Education Act 1998, the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Equal Status Act 2000. In drafting this policy, the Board of Management of the school has consulted with school staff, the school patron and with parents of children attending the school.

The policy was approved by the Board of Management on 12th December 2022 school patron on 28th November 2022. It is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request, to any person who requests it.

The relevant dates and timelines for Presentation Secondary School's admission process are set out in the school's annual admission notice which is published annually on the school's website at least one week before the commencement of the admission process for the school year concerned.

This policy must be read in conjunction with the annual admission notice for the school year concerned.

The application form for admission is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy on request to any person who requests it, from the school office in hardcopy or softcopy via the school email.

2. Characteristic Spirit and General Objectives of the School

Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland is a Catholic all girls voluntary secondary school with a Catholic ethos under the trusteeship of CEIST (Catholic Education an Irish Schools' Trust).

In accordance with S.15 (2) (b) of the Education Act, 1998, the Board of Management of Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland, shall uphold, and be accountable to the patron for so upholding, the characteristic spirit of the school as determined by the cultural, educational, moral, religious, social, linguistic and spiritual values and traditions which inform and are characteristic of the objectives and conduct of the school.

“Catholic Ethos” in the context of a Catholic voluntary secondary school means the ethos and characteristic spirit of the Roman Catholic Church which aims to promote:

- (a) the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects; and
- (b) a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- (c) a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and
- (d) the formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, and/or such ethos and/or characteristic spirit as may be determined or interpreted from time to time by the Irish Episcopal Conference.

Catholic education is therefore a lifelong process of human growth and development which has been at the heart of the Church's mission since Jesus Christ urged his disciples to 'go teach all nations'. The person of Christ is the core of Catholic education.

Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland draws on the richness of the religious and cultural heritage of the past, interpreted and lived out for students living in today's world. The charisma of founder, Nano Nagle of Presentation Order who began this school is of very significant importance in the life of the school.

As a CEIST school, Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland values teaching as one of the most important of all human activities. Our school seeks to build a quality learning community that welcomes, and bears witness to the Gospel values of Jesus Christ, expressed through the lens of the CEIST Charter. These are encapsulated in the core values which are intended to support and nourish the lives of the people who are at the heart of our schools.

- *Promoting Spiritual and Human Development*
- *Achieving Quality in Teaching and Learning*
- *Showing Respect for Every Person*
- *Creating Community*
- *Being Just and Responsible*

Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland is inspired by the words of Jesus Christ to his disciples, “I have come that they may have life and have it to the full” (Jn 10:10). Because of this, Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland provides a rich, holistic education in the Catholic tradition where engagement with and development of the whole person; the intellectual, moral, religious, physical, spiritual and psychological are at the core of our practice.

Education has as its goal the formation of a human person who is free, rational and mature in relationships. Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland offers educational opportunities which promote excellence so that students can respond responsibly and creatively to their own lives, the lives of others and to the earth, which is our common home.

In Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland the dignity and uniqueness of every human being as a child of God is acknowledged and affirmed. The Catholic school is an inclusive community, ideally built on love and formed by the interaction and collaboration of its various components: students, parents, teachers, non-teaching staff and members of the Board of Management. Catholic schools are also outward looking. They are connected to their local parish and Diocese and other local organisations which enrich the life of the school. Our school draws on the rich resources of the local community and, in turn, contributes to the life of the local community.

As a Catholic school, Religious Education is central to our curriculum. Alongside Religious Education, the school supports the formation in faith of our students through many school-based experiences of prayer and ritual. All students’ spiritual growth is further enhanced through such areas as sport, language, nature, art, poetry and music.

Mission Statement

Guided by our Catholic ethos we provide a positive, respectful, inclusive, and welcoming learning environment for all, with a commitment to academic excellence.

Our students are afforded many opportunities to reach their full potential in all aspects of education.

We are dedicated and inspiring leaders of innovative and modern teaching practices, supported by a highly equipped technological learning environment.

Vision Statement

Our vision is to prepare accomplished, confident, independent young adults who follow their passions, develop a love of learning and become positive role models in society.

We aim to ensure that the day-to-day running of the school is conducted in the light of the Presentation ethos, the School’s Mission Statement and CEIST charter. Our School Admissions Policy set out below complies with all national legislation and Department of Education & Skills circulars. It is also in line with the Presentation Sisters’ philosophy, the CEIST Charter and the school’s Mission Statement.

3. Admission Statement

Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

- (a) the gender ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned
- (b) the civil status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned
- (c) the family status ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned
- (d) the sexual orientation ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned
- (e) the religion ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned
- (f) the disability ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned
- (g) the ground of race of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned
- (h) the Traveller community ground of the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned
- (i) the ground that the student or the applicant in respect of the student concerned has special educational needs

Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland will cooperate with the NCSE in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 in relation 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.

Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland will comply with any direction served on the board or the patron under section 37A and 67(4)(b).

As per section 61(3) of the Education Act 1998, 'civil status ground', 'disability ground', 'discriminate', 'family status ground', 'gender ground', 'ground of race', 'religion ground', 'sexual orientation ground' and 'Traveller community ground' shall be construed in accordance with section 3 of the Equal Status Act 2000.

Presentation Secondary School is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it admits a student of Catholic denomination in preference to others.

Single gender schools

Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland is an all-girls school and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit a girl applying for admission to this school.

Post-primary denominational schools

Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it admits a student of the Catholic faith in preference to others.

All denominational schools

Presentation Secondary School Castleisland is a school whose objective is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not Catholic and it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

4. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the school

Presentation Secondary School Castleisland does not have a Special Class.

5. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (please see section 6 below for further details).
- b) a parent of a student, 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.
- c) Presentation Secondary School provides education exclusively for girls and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not of the gender provided for by this school.
- d) Presentation Secondary School is a Catholic school and may refuse to admit as a student a person who is not Christian denomination where it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school.

6. Oversubscription

In the event that the school is oversubscribed, the school will, when deciding on applications for admission, apply the following selection criteria in the order listed below to:

those applications that are received within the timeline for receipt of applications as set out in the school's annual admission notice:

- a) Girls attending local primary schools (see appendix 1)
- b) Sisters of students who are attending/have attended the school
- c) Daughters of past pupils (cap 25%)

Please note: visiting international students will only be accepted if there is sufficient spaces in the relevant years in which they apply. Presentation Castleisland has a vibrant visiting student programme and it will endeavour to accept students where there is available spaces.

In the event that there are two or more students tied for a place or places in any of the selection criteria categories above (the number of applicants exceeds the number of remaining places), the following arrangements will apply:

If the number of applicants in a specific category exceeds the number of places available, a lottery will be used to allocate these places. Procedure for the lottery which will be independently overseen, will be determined by the Board of Management.

7. What will not be considered or taken into account

In accordance with section 62(7)(e) of the Education Act, the school will not consider or take

into account any of the following in deciding on applications for admission or when placing a student on a waiting list for admission to the school:

- (a) a student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí
- (b) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school
- (c) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude
- (d) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents
- (e) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission
- (f) a student's connection to the school by virtue of a member of her family attending or having previously attended the school i.e. sisters of and daughters of up to 25%
- (g) the date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school

This is subject to the application being received at any time during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned.

8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Presentation Secondary School will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy.
- The school's annual admission notice (where applicable).
- The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in our annual admission notice for receiving applications.

(Please see section 13 below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and section 14 below in relation to applications for places in years other than the intake group.)

Selection criteria that are not included in our school admission policy will not be used to make a decision on an application for a place in our school.

9. Notifying applicants of decisions

Applicants will be informed in writing as to the decision of the school, within the timeline outlined in the annual admissions notice.

If a student is not offered a place in our school, the reasons why they were not offered a place will be communicated in writing to the applicant, including, where applicable, details of the student's ranking against the selection criteria and details of the student's place on the waiting list for the school year concerned.

Applicants will be informed of the right to seek a review/right of appeal of the school's decision (see section 17 below for further details).

10. Acceptance of an offer of a place by an applicant

In accepting an offer of admission from Presentation Secondary School Castleisland, you must indicate:

(i) whether or not you have accepted an offer of admission for another school or schools. If you have accepted such an offer, you must also provide details of the offer or offers concerned and

(ii) whether or not you have applied for and awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school or schools, and if so, you must provide details of the other school or schools concerned.

Applicants should be aware that failure to disclose this information on the acceptance of a place may lead to an offer being withdrawn by the school.

11. 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 Presentation Secondary School Castleisland where:

- (i) It is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- (ii) An 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.
- (iii) The parent of a student, 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.
- (iv) An applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of ‘acceptance of an offer’ as set out in section 9 above.

12. 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 data between schools in order to facilitate the efficient admission of students. Section 66(6) allows a school to provide a patron or another Board of Management with a list of the students in relation to whom—

- (i) an application for admission to the school has been received
- (ii) an offer of admission to the school has been made
- (iii) an offer of admission to the school has been accepted

The list may include any or all of the following:

- (i) the date on which an application for admission was received by the school
- (ii) the date on which an offer of admission was made by the school
- (iii) the date on which an offer of admission was accepted by an applicant
- (iv) a student’s personal details including his or her name, address, date of birth and personal public service number (within the meaning of section 262 of the Social Welfare Consolidation Act 2005)

13. Waiting list in the event of oversubscription

In the event of there being more applications to the school year concerned than places available, a waiting list of students whose applications for admission to Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland were unsuccessful due to the school being oversubscribed will be compiled and will remain valid for the school year in which admission is being sought.

Placement on the waiting list of Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland is in the order of priority assigned to the students' applications after the school has applied the selection criteria in accordance with this admission policy.

Offers of any subsequent places that become available for and during the school year in relation to which admission is being sought will be made to those students on the waiting list, in accordance with the order of priority in relation to which the students have been placed on the list.

14. Late applications

All applications for admission received after the closing date as outlined in the annual admission notice will be considered and decided upon in accordance with our school's admissions policy, the Education Admissions to School Act 2018 and any regulations made under that Act.

Late applicants will be notified of the decision in respect of their application not later than three weeks after the date on which the school received the application. Late applicants will be offered a place if there is a place available. In the event that there is no place available, the name of the applicant will be added to the waiting list.

15. Procedures for admission of students to other years and during the school year

This is subject to the application being received at any time during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned.

This is also subject to the school making offers based on existing waiting lists (up until 31st January 2025 only).

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school to classes or years other than the school's intake group are as follows:

Where places are available, Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland will make every effort to facilitate a student seeking transfer once the following is completed:

1. Completion of transfer form
2. Signing the school's code of behaviour
3. Board of Management agree to admission

The procedures of the school in relation to the admission of students who are not already admitted to the school, after the commencement of the school year in which admission is sought, are as follows:

The school will make every effort to facilitate a student seeking a transfer to Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland after the commencement of the school year in which admission is sought.

However, entry in these instances will depend on

1. The availability of places
2. Compatibility of subjects studied by the applicant and those available in Presentation
3. The completion of the transfer form
4. Signing the school's code of behaviour
5. Board of Management agree to admission

16. Declaration in relation to the non-charging of fees

The Board of Management of Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland or any persons acting on its behalf shall not, except in accordance with section 64 of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 1998, charge fees for or seek payment or contributions (howsoever described) as a condition of

- (a) an application for admission of a student to the school
or
- (b) the admission or continued enrolment of a student in the school.

17. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

A parent of a student, or a student who has reached the age of 18, who wishes to attend Presentation Secondary School, Castleisland without attending religious instruction should make a written request to the Principal. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s) or the student, as the case may be, to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

18. Reviews/appeals

Review of decisions by the Board of Management

The parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may request the board to review a decision to refuse admission. Such requests must be made in accordance with Section 29C of the Education Act 1998.

The timeline within which such a review must be requested and the other requirements applicable to such reviews are set out in the procedures determined by the Minister under section 29B of the Education Act 1998 which are published on the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

The Board of Management will conduct such reviews in accordance with the requirements of the procedures determined under Section 29B and with section 29C of the Education Act 1998.

Note: Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **must request a review** of that decision by the board of

management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to a reason other than the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **may request a review** of that decision by the Board of Management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

Right of appeal

Under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998, the parent of the student, or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, may appeal a decision of this school to refuse admission.

An appeal may be made under Section 29 (1)(c)(i) of the Education Act 1998 where the refusal to admit was due to the school being oversubscribed.

An appeal may be made under Section 29 (1)(c)(ii) of the Education Act 1998 where the refusal to admit was due a reason other than the school being oversubscribed.

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **must request a review** of that decision by the board of management **prior to making an appeal** under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management)

Where an applicant has been refused admission due to a reason other than the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **may request a review** of that decision by the Board of Management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998. (see Review of decisions by the Board of Management)

Appeals under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 will be considered and determined by an independent appeals committee appointed by the Minister for Education and Skills.

The timeline within which such an appeal must be made and the other requirements applicable to such appeals are set out in the procedures determined by the Minister under section 29B of the Education Act 1998 which are published on the website of the Department of Education and Skills.

19. Application to Repeat a School Year

All applications to repeat a school year are subject to the Department of Education and Skills Circular M02/95 and will be considered accordingly and in the light of places available in the relevant school year. The Department of Education and Skills generally restricts education for students at second level to a maximum of six years and does not allow students to repeat a year except in exceptional circumstances. Any application must be in writing and should set out the reason(s) for the application to repeat a school year and be accompanied by supporting documentation as appropriate.

Appendix 1

List of Feeder Primary Schools

- 1) Muire Gan Smal, Presentation Primary School, Castleisland
- 2) Gael Scoil Aogain, Castleisland
- 3) Scartaglen National School
- 4) Kilmurry National School
- 5) Scoil Ide, Curranes
- 6) Knockaclaurig N.S.
- 7) Scoil Mhuire, Currow
- 8) Loughfouder National School
- 9) St. Mary's National School, Knocknagoshel
- 10) Clogher National School
- 11) Nohoval National School
- 12) O'Brennan National School
- 13) Firies National School
- 14) Knockaderry National School
- 15) Brosna National School
- 16) Flemby National School
- 17) Dromtrasna National School
- 18) Anabla National School

Signed: Mary D Keefe
Chairperson of Board of Management

Date: 12/12/22

Signed: Piara Dargatzis
Secretary to the Board of Management

Date: 12/12/22