



# **Admissions Policy**

**March 2012**

**Dominican College Sion Hill  
Admissions Policy**

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# Section 1 - Introduction

## *1.1 General*

Dominican College Sion Hill is a Voluntary, Catholic, all-girls Secondary School under the trusteeship of Le Chéile. Pupils are prepared for the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate programmes. The School operates within the regulations laid down by the Department of Education and Science with due regard to the rights of the Patron as set out in the Education Act 1998.

Within the context of these regulations, the rights of the Patron and the resources available, the School supports the principles of inclusiveness, equality of access and participation in the School, parental choice and respect for diversity of traditions, values, beliefs, languages and ways of life in society. No applicant is discriminated against on the grounds of disability.

The School recognises that the primary responsibility for the education of children rests with their parents/guardians and seeks to co-operate closely with, and to be as helpful as possible to, them in the fulfilment of that responsibility.

While welcoming people from other faiths to attend Dominican College Sion Hill, Parents/Guardians, who decide to apply for a place for their daughter in the School, should be aware of our aims, values and ethos.

## *1.2 Communication with Parents/Guardians*

Each student has a homework journal, which should be used for two-way communication between home and School (letters re absences, homework, appointments etc.). Students keep a record of homework in their journal. Reports are issued in November, February and summer. A Parent Teacher Meeting is held once a year for each class. These meetings are brought to the attention of the Parents/Guardians by letter and text message. Parents/Guardians are strongly urged to attend. Parents/Guardians may also make appointments to meet with relevant personnel as necessary.

## *1.3 Pastoral Care*

The School has a comprehensive Pastoral Care system with

- Year-heads
- Guidance Counsellor
- Class Tutors
- Class representative

all of whom are available to assist pupils who may have difficulties.

## *1.4 Board of Management*

A Board of Management under the Deed of Trust manages the School. The Board comprises of eight members – four nominees of Le Chéile, two parent nominees and two teacher nominees. The names of the Board members are available on the school website. The Principal of the School acts as Secretary to the Board and while a member of the Board, does not have voting rights. The term of office of the Board of Management is three years and the current Board was appointed in October 2011.

### ***1.5 Parent Teacher Association***

The school has a Parent Teacher Association and all Parents/Guardians are welcome to join. Any Parent/Guardian wishing to become involved should contact the Chairperson of the Parent Teacher Association.

E-mail: [pta@sionhillcollege.ie](mailto:pta@sionhillcollege.ie)

The Parent Teacher Association aims to promote the educational development of our students and to assist with the various school activities.

### ***1.6 Student Council***

A Student Council is actively in place and this is facilitated by a member of staff. The Council consists of students democratically elected from each class in the School and provides a forum through which the students of the School can play a full part in the development of a partnership approach to school life and issues. The Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl are automatically on the Student Council.

### ***1.7 Student Leadership***

The School has a Prefect system led by the Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl. Prefects are assigned to lead the following Committees: Sports Committee, Social Awareness Committee, Arts Committee, Mind, Body and Soul Committee and Environment Committee. Each Committee has a representative from each year and two Prefects lead the group as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

## Section 2 - Aims, Values and Ethos of School

### *2.1 School Philosophy and Mission Statement*

Dominican College Sion Hill aims to help each student to achieve her full potential, academically, spiritually, physically, emotionally and socially, in a happy, secure environment.

### *2.2 Aims*

Within this broad objective, we aim to:

- create an atmosphere of Christian care and concern
- be welcoming to all regardless of culture, religion or social background
- be inclusive in our intake
- give due priority to religious education
- provide the educational environment and facilities to enable students to reach their full potential
- enable students to develop a healthy self-esteem
- provide a disciplined atmosphere, which encourages respect for others and enables the student to grow in freedom
- educate the whole person
- provide a comprehensive curriculum.

### *2.3 Scope*

This document sets out the Policy of the School in respect of Admissions to the School in the following circumstances:

- Applicants applying for a place in First Year
- Applicants from outside of the school applying for a place in any other year group or programme
- Applicants applying to transfer from another second-level school.

The Policy should be read in conjunction with the following:

- The School's **Mission Statement, Ethos & Educational Aims**
- The School's **Special Educational Needs Policy**
- The School's **Code of Behaviour**

## ***2.4 Rationale***

This Policy aims to ensure that appropriate procedures are in place to enable the School to:

- make decisions on all applications, in an open and transparent manner, consistent with the Mission Statement of the School and legislative requirements
- make an accurate and appropriate assessment of the capacity of the School to cater for the needs of applicants in the light of the resources available to it; put in place a framework which will ensure effective and productive relations between students, parents/guardians and teachers where a student is admitted to the School.

## ***2.5 Relationship to the School's Mission/Vision/Aims***

The community of the School works in a holistic manner to ensure that dependence is gradually replaced by responsibility for self, society and the world. The dignity of each student, staff member and parent/guardian is honoured and reflected in School policies and structures, including this Policy. While educational excellence is promoted, it is the needs of the learner that direct the development of the School.

## ***2.6 Legal Framework***

The Education Act 1998

The Education Welfare Act, 2000

The Equal Status Act, 2000

The Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004

## Section 3 - General Information about the School

### 3.1 Website

Information on the School's policies and procedures are available on the School website

[www.sionhillcollege.ie](http://www.sionhillcollege.ie)

### 3.2 Curriculum

The School follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education & Skills (DES), which may be amended from time to time, in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act 1998. We provide a six year curriculum consisting of a three year Junior Certificate Programme, a one year Transition Year Programme and a two year Leaving Certificate Programme. (Transition Year is compulsory for all pupils.)

Subjects offered depend on demand and on the resources that DES makes available.

It is advisable that students take Science in the Junior Cycle if they wish to study any of the Science subjects in the Senior Cycle. (Exemptions will only be made in exceptional circumstances.)

<u>Junior Cycle: (3 years).</u>	<u>Senior Cycle: (2 years)</u>
Religion *	Religion **
Irish *	Irish *
English *	English *
Maths *	Maths *
French or German *	French or German *
History *	Biology
Geography *	Chemistry
Art	Physics
Business	Art
Music	Business
Home Economics	Music
Science	Home Economics
C.S.P.E. *	History
S.P.H.E. **	Geography
P.E. **	Reach **
Computer Studies**	P.E. **

\* Core Subjects

\*\* Core Subjects (non-examination)

### ***3.3 Teacher Resources***

Teacher allocation is sanctioned by DES on a year-to-year basis. In addition, the School has a Principal, a Deputy Principal, a Guidance Counsellor and a Learning Support Teacher. There is also a number of Assistant Principals and Special Duties Teachers.

### ***3.4 Evening Study***

Evening Study is provided for two hours after school, four days a week. A payment is required to cover the expenses involved. The provision of this facility is subject to demand.

### ***3.5 Voluntary Contribution***

The School requests a voluntary contribution from Parents/Guardians who can afford to pay it. The amount requested is €300 for one daughter and €400 for families with more than one daughter attending the School. These funds are used to cover some of the costs of sports' coaching, photocopying, transport to events outside school etc. and *are subject to regular review.*

### ***3.6 School Calendar***

This is produced each year by School Management and is distributed at the start of the academic year. A copy of the Calendar is available in the School journal and on the School's website.

### ***3.7 Transition Year***

The Transition Year (TY) is a one-year programme, which comes immediately after completion of the Junior Certificate. It is compulsory for all students. An information evening for Parents/Guardians is held in March/April of each year. A Transition Year fee is payable, which is in addition to the Voluntary Contribution.

#### **The aim of the TY programme is**

- to develop aspects of the curriculum which tend not to be catered for elsewhere in the school curriculum
- to develop teamwork through task-oriented projects
- to develop links between the School and the wider community
- to encourage students to become self-motivated learners
- to provide an opportunity for students to develop an understanding of how learning occurs generally, with particular reference to their own learning styles
- to introduce students to a wide range of cultural activities and sporting activities
- to prepare students to become responsible members of society
- to provide a good academic basis for beginning the senior cycle course.

**Subjects will be selected from the following list:**

<b>Core Subjects</b>	<b>Choice Subjects</b>
Irish	Art
English	Business
Mathematics	Home Economics
French or German	Music
Personal Development	History
Religion	Geography
Physical Education	Physics
Italian	Chemistry
Psychology	Biology
Sports	ICT
	Reach + (Career & College Preparation Programme)

**In addition to these subjects, various short modules are offered. These vary from year to year. In previous years, the following modules have been included:**

Animation	Modern Dance
Debating	Self-Defence
Drama	Leadership
Public Speaking	Car Maintenance

Provision of these subjects and activities is subject to resources available and demand.

See the Transition Year Programme for more details.

### ***3.8 Extra-Curricular Activities***

Dominican College Sion Hill provides a wide range of artistic, cultural, social and sporting activities as we believe strongly that these aid in developing a student's full potential and provide her with the confidence to be involved in various activities in later life. The School also places great emphasis on the development of team games for all its students. Sport is compulsory for 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> years.

**The following activities are currently catered for:**

<b>Sports</b>	Basketball
	Hockey
	Gaelic Football
	Athletics
	Tennis
	Karate
	Multi-Sports
	Rounders
	One Mile Challenge
	Sports Day
<b>Arts</b>	Debating
	Art Club
	Book Club
	Choir
	Gospel Choir
	Orchestra
	Drama
	Musical
	Arts Month
	Music Lessons
	Poetry Aloud
	Theatre Outings
	Singathon
<b>Social Awareness</b>	St Vincent de Paul
	ALIVE (Third World Group)
	Enable Ireland
	Homework Club
	International Event
	Lourdes Pilgrimage
<b>Environment</b>	Green Schools
	Environment Week
	Eco-Unesco
<b>Mind, Body &amp; Soul</b>	Retreats
	Liturgies
	Reflections
	Yoga

## Section 4 – School Details

**School Name:** Dominican College Sion Hill

**Address:** Cross Avenue,  
Blackrock,  
Co. Dublin.

**Contact details:** **Telephone:** 01- 288 67 91  
**Fax:** 01- 278 03 56  
**E-mail:** [admin@sionhillcollege.ie](mailto:admin@sionhillcollege.ie)  
**Website:** [www.sionhillcollege.ie](http://www.sionhillcollege.ie)

**Principal:** Ms Sheila Drum

**Deputy Principal:** Mr Gerry Killion

**Guidance Counsellor:** Mr Paul O'Brien

**Learning Support  
Teacher:** Ms Gillian Kaye

**Year Heads:** Ms O'Gorman  
Ms McCumiskey

**Transition Year Co-ordinator:** Ms Ciara Reid

**School Secretaries:** Ms Imelda Cronin  
Ms Margaret Flood

**Caretaker:** Mr Martin Crowley

**Opening Times:** 8.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday  
8.00 a.m. – 3.40 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday

- The school will open to receive pupils at 8.00 a.m. No responsibility is accepted for pupils arriving before that time.
- At the end of the school day, Parents/Guardians who wish to escort their children home, should arrive not later than five minutes before end of school day (i.e. 2.55 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and 3.35 p.m. on Tuesday and

Thursday). The school cannot accept responsibility for students after those times.

- The school will make all reasonable efforts to inform Parents/Guardians in advance of any minor adjustments in the opening/closing times which may occur on occasions.

## **Section 5 - Application Procedure**

### ***5.1 General***

Our Application Procedure complies with all current legislation and, in particular, with the Education Act 1998, Education Welfare Act 2000 and Equal Status Act 2000.

Students may transfer into the School at any time subject to:

- School Admissions Policy
- The School being satisfied with the reasons for the transfer
- The School regarding the move to be in the best interests of the student
- Available vacancy
- Consultation with the Educational Welfare Officer if appropriate.

### ***5.2 Learning about the School***

The School provides information to Parents/Guardians who are considering sending their daughter(s) to our School, and to students through the following:

- Visits to local Primary Schools to talk to students
- Open Nights
- Replying to Parents' Enquiries
- Notices in the local press

Enquiries can also be made by phoning the School during school hours or by calling into the office.

It is possible to visit the School by making a prior appointment with the Principal.

### ***5.3 Eligibility for Admission***

We welcome all students for whom the School can provide an appropriate education, having regard to the facilities, personnel and resources available. The School aims to provide an integrated and inclusive education.

We do not choose on the basis of an entrance assessment – our Entrance Assessment is to familiarise ourselves with the abilities of the student in order to ascertain how best to help her.

In order to be eligible for admission, an applicant must

- attain the required age of twelve by 1 January in the calendar year following her entry into First Year
- usually have completed Sixth Class in primary school
- support, in conjunction with her Parents/Guardians, Dominican College Sion Hill as a Voluntary, Catholic Secondary School under the trusteeship of Le Chéile.
- be willing, along with her Parents/Guardians, to accept the School's Code of Behaviour
- give confirmation in writing, that she, and her Parents/Guardians, accept the School's Code of Behaviour
- be willing to sit an Entrance Assessment

#### ***5.4 Application***

Application Forms are available on request from the School office and may also be downloaded from our website. The full Admissions Policy is available on request and is also published on the School website.

The closing date for receipt of forms shall be the 15<sup>th</sup> October two years prior to entry (i.e. for entry in 2014, the closing date is 15<sup>th</sup> October 2012) (the Closing Date).

- Completed Application Forms, accompanied by the applicant's birth certificate and a non-refundable administration fee of €100.00, should be returned to the School on or before the Closing Date. (The Board reserves the right to waive or refund this fee in certain circumstances.)
- When the School receives a properly completed Application Form, it will be marked with the date on which it is received and the applicant's name will be placed on the list of candidates seeking places in the year specified on the Application Form.
- Any applications received after the Closing Date will not be considered for a place until all the eligible entries have been processed.
- As soon as is practicable, but not later than 21 days after the Closing Date, the Board of Management shall make a decision in respect of the application concerned, and inform the Parents/Guardians in writing thereof. Education Welfare Act (Section 19, (3)).

#### ***5.5 Information required on Application Form***

- ❖ Applicant's Name
- ❖ Applicant's Address
- ❖ Applicant's Date of Birth
- ❖ Applicant's PPS Number
- ❖ Telephone numbers including an emergency contact number
- ❖ Applicant's Religion
- ❖ Parent/Guardian e-mail address
- ❖ Applicant's country of birth
- ❖ Names of Parents/Guardians
- ❖ Name of Applicant's previous school
- ❖ Names of older sisters who are/were in the School
- ❖ Whether the mother/guardian is a past pupil of the School
- ❖ Whether a Medical Card holder
- ❖ Whether exempt from study of Irish
- ❖ Mother's maiden name
- ❖ Parents'/Guardians' occupations
- ❖ Applicant's mobile number

The Application Form also asks Parents/Guardians to provide information regarding family situations, health or other matters that may affect the applicant's educational needs and suggests that a separate page be used for this.

Parents/Guardians may be required to complete a further information form regarding their child's educational progress at a later date and/or to co-operate with the School's attempts to identify the educational or other relevant needs of the child.

The School may wish to meet with an applicant and her Parents/Guardians to discuss the needs of the applicant, or the Parents/Guardians may request a meeting. Parents/Guardians may make an appointment to see the Principal by telephoning the School.

In either case, the School will make all reasonable efforts to accommodate such a meeting, prior to making a decision on an application.

Failure to fully complete the Application Form, failure to supply any relevant documentation requested by the School or failure to make a reasonable arrangement to meet with the School to discuss the application if required to do so, may result in a child being refused admission to the School.

### ***5.6 Communication***

It is the responsibility of the Parents/Guardians to ensure that the School is made aware of any changes in address or in any other details included in the Application Form. All correspondence will issue to the address appearing on the Application Form or as otherwise notified in writing to the School.

### ***5.7 Change of Entry Year***

If Parents/Guardians wish to alter the proposed year of entry of their daughter, a new Application Form must be submitted to the School on or before 15<sup>th</sup> October in the year before the newly proposed year of entry to the School. The date of receipt of the first Application Form for that applicant will be the date used in assessing the application.

## **Section 6 – Offer of Places in First Year**

### ***6.1 School Numbers***

The Board of Management will set a figure each year for the number of students to be accepted in First Year. That figure will depend on the overall number of students in the School and the overall capacity for which the School was designed, and the capacity of the School to fulfil its obligations under educational programmes currently in progress.

### ***6.2 Selection Criteria***

After the Closing Date, the list of applicants will be divided into two lists – the Priority List and the Standard List. Within each priority category in the Priority List, and in the Standard List, applicants will be listed in the order in which their completed Application Forms were received.

The Priority Categories, in order of priority, are:

- A) Sisters of current pupils. For this purpose, “current pupils” includes girls who have been offered, and have accepted and not declined, a place in First Year but who have not yet started First Year in the School.
- B) Girls whose father or mother is a member of the Staff in the School.
- C) Daughters of past pupils of the School.
- D) Girls who are pupils of the following schools on 1<sup>st</sup> September in the year in which the place is being offered. Places are offered to applicants from schools in the order in which they appear on the following list:

1. Our Lady of Mercy, Booterstown
2. Carysfort National School, Blackrock
3. Guardian Angels, Newtownpark Avenue
4. Scoil Caoimhín Naofa, Oatlands, Mount Merrion
5. Scoil San Treasa, Mount Merrion
6. St Patrick's GNS, Hollypark
7. Scoil Mhuire, Lakelands
8. Dominican Convent, Dún Laoghaire
9. Monkstown Educate Together
10. St Matthew's, Irishtown
11. The Harold School, Glasthule
12. St Brigid's, Haddington Road
13. St Brigid's, Foxrock
14. St Patrick's, Ringsend
15. Our Lady of Good Counsel, Killiney
16. St Anne's, Shankill.

It is the responsibility of Parents/Guardians to inform the school in the Application Form that their daughter falls into one of the above categories and, in the case of Category C, to specify the years of attendance of the Parent/Guardian at the School. Failure to comply with this responsibility will result in the exclusion of the candidate from a Priority Category.

### ***6.3 Offers***

Within 21 days of the Closing Date, the Principal will offer places to applicants. Places are offered first to applicants on the Priority List in the order in which they appear on that list. For the avoidance of doubt, places are first offered to all applicants in Priority Category A; if all places are not taken by applicants in that category, the remaining places are then offered to applicants in Priority Category B and so on through each succeeding Priority Category. Any places remaining after offers are made to all applicants on the Priority List are offered to applicants on the Standard List in the order in which their names appear on that list.

### ***6.4 Waiting List***

When the relevant number of offers has been made, a new list (the Waiting List) of 50 names is created, replacing the Priority List and the Standard List for that year of entry. The names of any applicants who were on the Priority List but did not receive an offer are placed on the Waiting List, in the order in which they appeared on the Priority List. The names of applicants on the Standard List who did not receive an offer are then placed on the Waiting List, in the order in which they appeared on the Standard List, until the Waiting List has 50 names.

### ***6.5 Unsuccessful Applications***

At the same time as offers of places are made, the Principal will write to the Parent/Guardians of the applicants who are not receiving an offer of a place. The Parents/Guardians of applicants whose names are placed on the Waiting List will be informed of the applicant's place on that list and will be given their number on the Waiting List. All other applicants will be informed that they have not qualified for an offer of a place nor a place on the Waiting List. The Application Forms of all unsuccessful candidates and any other related documents held by the School will then be destroyed.

## **Section 7 – Acceptance of Places**

### ***7.1 Acceptance***

Applicants who are offered a place should send confirmation of acceptance in writing to the Principal, together with a non-refundable fee of €150 within 14 days of the posting of the offer. (The Board reserves the right to waive or refund this fee in certain circumstances.)

Failure to confirm acceptance in the manner stipulated and by the date stipulated in the offer will result in the place offered being deemed to have been declined. Acceptances will not be accepted after the Acceptance Date.

### ***7.2 Entrance Assessment***

An Assessment will be held, which all incoming First Year students must sit. The purpose of the assessment is to allow for the formation of mixed-ability First Year classes.

### ***7.3 Information Evening***

The school will usually organise an Information Evening and prepare a School Information Pack, so that Parents/Guardians may inform themselves about the school. The Information Evening is open to Parents/Guardians of students who have been offered a place in the school.

### ***7.4 Meeting***

The school may request a meeting with the applicant and her Parents/Guardians after the offer of a place in the school has been made. Attendance at such a meeting is compulsory.

### ***7.5 Appeals***

Parents/Guardians have the right to appeal a refusal by a school to enrol a student under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998. The appeal must be made in writing within 42 calendar days from the date the decision of the School was notified to the Parents/Guardians.

An appeal may be made in writing to: *The Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills, The Appeals Administration Unit, Department of Education and Science, Marlborough Street, Dublin 1.*

Parents/Guardians must inform the school in writing of the decision to appeal.

### ***7.6 Declining a place***

It is understood that Parents/Guardians may apply to more than one second-level school for a place for their daughter(s). Parents/Guardians who no longer seek a place, or who no longer wish to take up a place that has been offered and accepted, are asked to inform the School in writing as soon as possible. If a place has been offered and accepted and the applicant subsequently decides not to attend the School, the booking fee will not be refunded.

## **Section 8 - Procedure for Application to other than First Year**

Admissions at other age levels occur only when vacancies arise in the appropriate classes. Please note that students will not be accepted into 5<sup>th</sup> year unless they have completed Transition Year at their previous school.

- Each applicant will be interviewed with Parents /Guardians.
- The Principal or Deputy Principal of transferring school will be contacted.
- The School will make every reasonable effort to facilitate an applicant seeking a transfer to the School.
- The Board of Management will decide on applications for admission to any other year other than First Year by applying the following criteria:

- The admission is in agreement with the School's Admission Policy
  - The School is satisfied with the reasons for the transfer
  - The School regards the move as being in the best interest of the applicant
  - The admission is of educational benefit to the student
  - Space is available
  - The admission is in the best interest of the School
  - Consultation with the Educational Welfare Officer if appropriate.
- All relevant information having been made available from the applicant's previous school, the Board will decide whether or not a transfer is suitable.
  - Where an applicant is considered for a place, the decision will be taken by the Board of Management, in consultation with the applicant's Parents/Guardians, her former school, the Education Welfare Officer, whether such a place may be offered immediately, or at the beginning of the next academic year.
  - Applicants who are being offered places should send confirmation of acceptance in writing to the Principal together with a non-refundable fee of €250. (The Board reserves the right to waive or refund this fee in certain circumstances.)

## **Section 9 - Enrolment of Students With Special Educational Needs**

The Board of Management welcomes students with special educational needs in so far as the Department of Education & Science provides the necessary resources for the student.

In order to provide for these needs, Application Forms will be examined by School Management to identify students with special needs. This is in order to establish the educational and training needs of the student relevant to her disability or special needs and therefore to apply to the SENO for the resources to support the student.

The Board of Management will therefore:

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- request that the Principal meets the Parents/Guardians to discuss the student's needs and the School's capability to meet those needs;
- request a copy of the student's medical/psychological report/individual educational report if available;

and/or

- request immediate assessment;
- request from the DES the necessary resources, prior to enrolment, for the needs of the student e.g. Special Needs Assistant, specialised equipment or furniture, learning support, transport or other necessary resources.

Should it prove impossible to provide the necessary resources, as decided by the Principal based on the foregoing, to provide for the needs of the student, the Board reserves the right to refuse an application for a place in the School.

The final decision with regard to enrolment of students in the School and with regard to all matters covered in this Admissions Policy lies with the Board of Management.

## **Section 10 - Review, Personnel and Timeframe**

The Policy will be reviewed regularly, and by the full staff and Board of Management every five years. Any staff member, Board Member, Parent/Guardian or student who is unhappy with the content or the implementation of any School Policy may request a review at any time and such a request will be dealt with as quickly as possible.

## Section 11 – Appendix

### *Legal Framework:*

#### **1. Education Act 1998**

Section 9(i) specifies that *“A recognised school shall .... Subject to this Act and in particular Section 15 (2) (d), establish and maintain an admissions policy which provides for maximum accessibility to the school.”*

- ***Consultation with Patron***

The Board of Management shall...

Section 15 (2)

*(c) Consult with and keep the patron informed of decisions and proposals of the Board*

- ***Admissions and participation policies***

*(d) Publish,*

*in such manner as the Board with the agreement of the patron considers appropriate, the policy of the school concerning admission to and participation in the school, including the policy of the school relating to expulsion and suspension of students and admission to and participation by students with disabilities or who have other educational needs, and ensure that as regards policy principles of equality and the right of Parents to send their children to a school of the Parents’ choice are respected and such directions as may be made from time to time by the Minister, having regard to the characteristic spirit of the school and the constitutional rights of all persons concerned, are complied with.*

- ***Parents’ Association***

Section 26

*(2) A Parents’ association shall promote the interests of the students in a school in co-operation with the board, Principal, teachers and students of a school and for that purpose may –*

*(b) Adopt a programme of activities which will promote the involvement of Parents, in consultation with the Principal, in the operation of the school*

- ***Information to students***

Section 27

*(1) A board shall establish and maintain procedures for the purposes of informing students in a school of the activities of the school*

*(2) The procedures established and maintained under subsection (1) shall facilitate the involvement of the students in the operation of the school, having regard to the age and experience of the students, in association with their Parents and teachers.*

**2. The Education Welfare Act 2000**

***Admission of a child to a recognized school***

- ***Refusal to enroll***

Section 19

*(1) the board of management of a recognized school shall not refuse to admit as a student in such school a child, in respect of whom an application to be so admitted has been made, except where such refusal is in accordance with the policy of the recognized school concerned published under section 15 (2) (d) of the Education Act 1998*

- ***Information from Parents***

*(2) The parent of a child who has made an application referred to in paragraph (1) shall provide the recognized school concerned with such information as may be prescribed by the Minister*

- ***Decision on admission***

*(3) As soon as is practicable, but not later than 21 days, after a parent has provided the information referred to in paragraph (2) the board of management of the school concerned shall make a decision in respect of the application concerned and inform the parent in writing thereof.*

- ***Statement of Strategy***

Section 22

*(1) The board of management of a recognized school shall, after consultation....prepare and submit to the (Education Welfare) Board, a statement of the strategies and measures it proposes to adopt for the purposes of fostering an appreciation of learning among students attending that school and encouraging regular attendance on the part of such students (...statement of strategy)*

- ***Code of Behavior***

Section 23

*(1) The board of management of a recognized school shall, after consultation with (principal, teachers, Parents, educational welfare officer) prepare a code of behavior in respect of the students registered at the school.*

*(2) A code of behavior shall specify –*

- A. the standards of behavior that shall be observed by each student attending the school*
- B. the measures that may be taken when a student fails or refuses to observe those standards*
- C. the procedures to be followed before a student may be suspended or expelled from the school concerned*
- D. the grounds for removing a suspension imposed in relation to a student; and*
- E. the procedures to be followed relating to notification of a child's absence from school*

- ***Parents and the Code of Behavior***

*(4) The principal of a recognized school shall, before registering a child as a student at that school ...provide the Parents of such child with a copy of the code of behavior in respect of the school and may, as a condition of so registering such child, require his or her Parents to confirm in writing that the code of behavior so provided is acceptable to them and that they shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the child.*

### **3. Equal Status Act**

#### **Section 4**

*Specifically in relation to disability, there appears to be no obligation on a service provider to take action to accommodate a person if that results in more than nominal costs.*

- ***Grounds of Discrimination***

#### **Section 5**

The prohibited grounds of discrimination are:

*Gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race, membership of the Travelling Community.*

#### **Section 7 (2)**

- ***Educational establishments***

*An educational establishment shall not discriminate in relation to:*

### ***Access***

*(a) The admission or the terms or conditions of admission of a person as a student to the establishment,*

### ***Participation***

*(b) The access of a student to any course, facility or benefit provided by the establishment,*

*(c) Any other term or condition of participation in the establishment by a student*

### ***Expulsion***

*(d) The expulsion of a student from the establishment or any other sanction against the student.*

## **Section 7 (3)**

*An educational establishment does not discriminate under subsection (2) by reason only that:*

### ***Single-sex Schools***

*(a) Where the establishment (i.e. the school) admits students of one gender only, it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not of that gender.*

### ***Ethos***

*(c) Where the establishment is a school providing primary or post primary education to students and the objective of the school is to provide education in an environment which promotes certain religious values, it admits persons of a particular religious denomination in preference to others or it refuses to admit as a student a person who is not of that denomination and, in the case of a refusal, it is proved that the refusal is essential to maintain the ethos of the school*

## **4. The Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 (EPSEN)**