



*Buncrana, Co.
Donegal*

POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOL YEAR 2023/2024

Crana College Post-Primary School

A decision on an application for admission will be based on the implementation of this Policy, the information set out in the annual Admission Notice of the school and the information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission, once received before the closing date set out in the annual Admission Notice. The Principal of Crana College is responsible for the implementation of this Admission Policy.

INTRODUCTION TO CRANA COLLEGE

Crana College is a co-educational, multi-denominational school under the aegis of Donegal Education and Training Board. The school is situated in the seaside town of Buncrana, the gateway to the Inishowen Peninsula in County Donegal. First established as a vocational school in 1925, Crana College has since evolved and developed into a second-level school which offers a wide range of courses, programmes and subjects at all levels.

Crana College is seen by the community as a provider of top grade education, catering for the needs of its comprehensive intake, achieving very high academic standards and providing opportunities for third-level.

Situated in the heart of Buncrana, on the shores of Lough Swilly, our students come from approximately twelve feeder schools in the town and surrounding areas. The extensive and varied curriculum on offer, and the opportunity to sample new subjects before choosing to study them, ensure that our students study subjects that suit their ability and interests. The College's pastoral care system promotes close working relationships and friendly personal contact between teachers, pupils and parents.

Management and staff are committed to the highest standards of education. With the cooperation of the student body, they endeavour to create a calm, caring and creative environment in which all pupils are given the best opportunities to develop their potential to the full, to acquire knowledge, and to adopt a positive attitude towards work, life and their community.

Mission

It is our mission to create a calm, caring and creative environment where all pupils are given the best opportunities to develop their potential to the full, to acquire knowledge and to adopt a positive attitude towards work, life and their community.

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PART A

General Information for All Applicants

1. *Glossary of terms*
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4. *General Admission Provisions (for all Applicants)*

1. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

'Applicant' means the parent / guardian of a Student, or, in the case of a Student who has reached the age of 18 years, the Student, who has made an application for admission to Crana College.

'Student' means the person in respect of whom the application is being made. All uses of the word throughout this Policy therefore imply 'prospective' as part of the interpretation. That is, the use of the word 'Student' does not mean that the application for him/her has been accepted such that s/he is regarded as a Student of Crana College by virtue of application alone.

'Gender', in line with the definition of "*the gender ground*" in the Equal Status Act 2000, is such that "*one is male and the other is female*". This does not prejudice any Student who is Intersex or identifies as Androgynous/Androgyne, Bigender, Demigender, Gender Fluid, Genderqueer, Multigender, Neutrois, Non-binary, Transgender, Transsexual or otherwise.

'Parent' has the same meaning as in the Education Act 1998 and includes a foster parent and a guardian appointed under the Guardianship of Children Acts, 1964 to 1997.

'Feeder Primary Schools' refers to the primary schools of preference for application to Crana College. The feeder primary schools for Crana College are:

1. Scoil Iosagain, Buncrana
2. St. Oran's National School, Cockhill, Buncrana
3. Gaelscoil, Bhun Cranncha
4. St. Mura's National School, Buncrana

5. St. Egney's National School, Desertegney, Buncrana
6. Scoil Naomh Brid, Muff
7. Naomh Iosef, Illies
8. Scoil Naomh Pdraig, Drumfries, Clonmany
9. St. Aengus National Scoil, Bridgend
10. St. Mura's National School, Tooban
11. St. Francis' National School, Clonmany
12. Scoil Naomh Treasa, Tiernasligo, Clonmany
13. Cloontagh National School, Clonmany

For the purpose of the selection criterion relating to the student having a sibling who previously attended the school, '**Sibling**' refers to full siblings, half-siblings, foster-siblings and step-siblings.

For the purpose of the selection criterion relating to the student having a sibling currently enrolled in the school, '**Sibling**' refers to full siblings, half-siblings, foster-siblings, step-siblings and students who reside in the same household.

Note: the wider definition of sibling in the second of the two paragraphs immediately above is for the purpose of facilitating families who are required to do more than one drop-off and/or collection to/from the school.

'**Special Class**' means a class that has, with the approval of the Minister of Education and Skills, been established by a school to provide an education exclusively for Students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister of Education and Skills. Crana College has a Special Class, established to cater for special educational needs of Students with Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

'**First-Year**' means the intake group of Students for the most junior class or year in a school.

2. ADMISSION STATEMENT

ETB schools are state, co-educational, multi-denominational schools underpinned by the



core values of:

- Excellence in education
- Care
- Equality
- Community
- Respect

As the state provider of education, the ETB sector defines a 'multi-denominational' school in the following way:

In ETB schools, all students are given equal opportunities for enrolment in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act 2018. Once enrolled, our schools strive to provide all students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life. In all aspects of school life all members of our school communities are treated equitably regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, civil status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status.

Our schools provide a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. They strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. Our schools promote a fully inclusive education that recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents and staff. We prepare open-minded, culturally sensitive and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values.

In ETB schools, students of all religions and beliefs are treated equally. The school environment and activities do not privilege any particular group over another whilst at the same time acknowledging and facilitating students of all religions and beliefs.

Accordingly, Crana College shall not discriminate in its admission of a Student based on the following grounds:

1. Gender of the Student or Applicant. However, where a school admits students of one gender only, it is not discriminatory to refuse to admit Students not of that gender;
2. Civil status of the Student or Applicant;
3. Family status of the Student or Applicant;
4. Sexual orientation of the Student or Applicant;
5. Religion of the Student or Applicant;
6. Disability of the Student or Applicant;
7. Race of the Student or Applicant;
8. The Student's or Applicant's membership of the Traveller community;
9. Special educational needs of the Student or Applicant. However, where the school provides education exclusively for a category or categories of special educational need(s) in a Special Class, it is not discriminatory to refuse to admit to that class a Student who does not have the specified special educational need(s).

3. LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Donegal ETB was established under the Education and Training Board Act 2013 which sets out the functions of all ETBs, including to establish and maintain recognised schools, centres for education and education and training facilities in each ETB's functional area.

The board of management of Crana College is a committee established under section 44 of the Education and Training Board Act 2013 and also constitutes a board of management within the meaning of the Education Act 1998.

The Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 and the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 place a duty on all recognised schools to prepare and publish an Admission Policy.

The Education Act, 1998 provides for an appeal process in the event of a refusal to enrol. The appeal process is set out in section 5.3 in respect of applications made to the First-Year Group and in section 6.3 in respect of applications made to all years other than the First-Year Group.

Section 62(7)(n) of the Education Act 1998 requires each school to set out in its Admission Policy the arrangements it has in place where a parent, or student over 18 years of age, requests that the student opt-out of religious instruction.

Crana College offers *religious education* in all year groups as it promotes the holistic development of students and can contribute positively to their wellbeing in line with the principles of the Junior Cycle and Senior Cycle Frameworks. It facilitates the intellectual, social, emotional, spiritual values and moral development of students and encourages respect for all members of our school communities. In addition, *religious education* supports the 'multi-denominational' aspect of our school's ethos as it provides opportunities for students to engage with questions around their own religious or non-religious beliefs and those of their peers.

It is important to understand that our school does not provide '*religious instruction*' and therefore the legal requirement to advise of the option to opt-out of religious instruction does not arise in this school. It is also important to understand the distinction between '*religious instruction*' and '*religious education*':

- *Religious instruction* is a term used in Ireland to indicate instruction in accordance with the rites, practices and teachings of a **particular** religion or denomination for pupils of that religious tradition. Religious instruction may be provided in a denominational school setting.
- *Religious education* is open to all pupils regardless of their commitment to any particular religion or worldview. It seeks to contribute to the spiritual and moral development of all students equally.

As ETB schools are 'multi-denominational', Crana College supports the provision of *religious education* that caters for all students regardless of their religious or non-religious beliefs and therefore does not provide *religious instruction* of any particular religion or belief.

4. GENERAL ADMISSION PROVISIONS

A decision on an application for admission shall be based on:

- the implementation of this Admission Policy,
- the annual Admission Notice of the school, and the
- information provided by the Applicant in the application for admission.

If, prior to the commencement of section 62 of the Education Act 1998 by the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 on the 1st February 2020, Crana College had confirmed, in writing, that an Applicant had been placed on a list relating to the allocation of school places for entrance before the 1st February 2025, then this confirmation is still valid and the Applicant will be offered that place.

In processing an application Crana College **shall not consider**:

1. The payment of fees or contributions to the school;
2. A Student's academic ability, skills or aptitude; unless:
[it is necessary to ascertain whether or not the Student has the category of special educational needs concerned for admission to a school approved by the Minister of Education and Skills providing education exclusively to Students with a specified category of special educational needs or a special class];
3. The occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a Student's Parent(s);
4. A requirement that a Student or his or her Parent(s), attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
5. A Student's connection to the school due to a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school unless the connection is a sibling of the Student concerned attending, or having attended, the school, or a parent having previously attended the school. However, the maximum number of places filled by this criterion does not exceed 25% of the available places as set out in the school's Admission Notice for that academic year.
6. The date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school as long as it is received during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual Admission Notice for that academic year.

Crana College will consider the offer of a place to every Student seeking admission to the school, **unless one or more of the following applies**:

7. The Parent fails to confirm in writing that s/he accepts the Student Code of Behaviour and he/she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the Student;

8. The Student seeking admission to a Special Class in the school does not have the category of special educational needs specified by the Minister of Education and Skills in respect of that class.

Where Crana College considers an application, each Student shall receive a place, unless the school is oversubscribed, in which case, selection criteria will be applied to each application.

Section 5 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for the First-Year Group.

Section 6 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for all year groups other than First-Year.

Section 7 of this Policy addresses the selection criteria and other matters related to the admission provisions for the Special Class.

Crana College shall not charge fees or payments or seek contributions as a condition of admission or continued enrolment of a Student.

Crana College will comply with any direction served on the board or Donegal ETB (the patron) under section 37A and 67(4)(b).

Crana College 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.

PART B

Information for Specific Categories of Applicants

5. Application to the First-Year Group

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5. APPLICATION TO THE FIRST-YEAR GROUP

1. Admission Provisions (First-Year Group)

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3. Selection process
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2. Appeals

1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
3. Basis for appeal

1. ADMISSION PROVISIONS (FIRST YEAR GROUP)

Where Crana College is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

A Student applying for the First Year Group but seeking admission to the Special Class should see section 7 of this Admission Policy.

1. Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 5.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are

made. Where Crana College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to the same year group in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications to all year groups other than First-Year.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

2. **Selection criteria in order of priority**

Crana College will apply the following criteria for admission to the First-Year Group:

- 5.1.2.1 If the Student attended one of Crana College's Feeder Primary Schools.
- 5.1.2.2 If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school;
- 5.1.2.3 If the Student has siblings who were previously enrolled in the school;
- 5.1.2.4 If the Student is the son or daughter of a member of staff currently working in the school (to a maximum of 25% of the places available);
- 5.1.2.5 If the Student is the son or daughter of a past pupil;
- 5.1.2.6 If the Student is the eldest child of a family;

See section 7 for selection criteria applicable to admission to the Special Class.

3. **Selection process**

Crana College will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available, the remaining Applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Crana College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

4. **Late applications**

An application received by Crana College after the closing date published by the school, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Crana College is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the

school and subsequently the school's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with this Admission Policy.

Where Crana College is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within the school, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8, and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

5. Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place Crana College but does not accept the offer, or fails to accept within the specified time period, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

6. Acceptance of a place

If the Student in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the School's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for refusal as set out below.

7. Refusal

Where a Student in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

1. The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Crana College;
2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

8. Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
2. The 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 for the academic

year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or

3. An Applicant has not indicated:
 - i. whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s); and
 - ii. whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 5.1.4 above.

9. Appeals

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Crana College regarding admission to the First-Year Group, see section 5.3.

2. APPEALS

1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Crana College, Bunrana, Co. Donegal. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, or the board of management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission to Crana College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may choose to put his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Crana College. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this policy, same shall apply instead.

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an Applicant who chooses to appeal to the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, the Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

3. **Basis for appeal:**

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.

6. APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR

1. Admission Provisions (other than First-Year)

1. Oversubscription
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3. Selection process
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6. Acceptance of a place
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6.2 Appeals

1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
3. Basis for appeal

1. ADMISSION PROVISIONS (OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR)

Where Crana College is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

A Student applying for admission to a year-group other than First-Year but seeking admission to the Special Class should see section 7 of this Admission Policy.

1. Oversubscription

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 6.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Crana College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to the same year group in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications to all years other than the First Year Group.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

2. Selection criteria in order of priority

Crana College will apply the following criteria for admission to a year-group other than First-Year:

- 6.1.2.1 If the Student attended one of Crana College's Feeder Primary Schools.
- 6.1.2.2 If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school;
- 6.1.2.3 If the Student has siblings who were previously enrolled in the school;
- 6.1.2.4 If the Student is the son or daughter of a member of staff currently working in the school (to a maximum of 25% of the places available);
- 6.1.2.5 If the Student is the son or daughter of a past pupil;
- 6.1.2.6 If the Student is the eldest child of a family;

See section 7 for selection criteria applicable to admission to the Special Class.

Any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not an Applicant is admitted.

3. Selection process

Crana College will apply the selection process as follows:

Applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available, the remaining Applicants are considered in light of the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, [XX School] will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

4. Late applications:

An application received by Crana College after the closing date published by Crana College, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Crana College] is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school and subsequently the school's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with this Admission Policy.

Where Crana College is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Crana College, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8 and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

5. Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Crana College but does not accept the offer, or fails to accept within the specified time period, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

6. Acceptance of a place:

If the Student in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for refusal as set out below.

7. Refusal:

Where a Student in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

1. The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Crana College,
2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed,
3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable, and
4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

8. Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
2. The 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 for the academic year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or
3. An Applicant has not indicated:
 - i. whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
and
 - ii. whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 6.1.4 above.

9. Appeals:

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Crana College regarding admission to a year-group other than First-Year, see section 6.3.

2. APPEALS

1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Crana College at Buncrana, Co. Donegal. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, or the board of management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission to Crana College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may choose to put his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Crana College. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an Applicant who chooses to appeal to the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, the Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

3. Basis for appeal:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.

7. APPLICATION TO THE SPECIAL CLASS

1. Admission Provisions for the Special Class

1. Oversubscription
2. Selection criteria in order of priority
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3. Appeals

1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
3. Basis for appeal

1. ADMISSION PROVISIONS FOR THE SPECIAL CLASS

Crana College has a Special Class, established to cater for the special educational needs of Students with Autism/Autistic Spectrum Disorders.

Only applications in respect of Students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Class will be considered.

Where the Special Class in Crana College is not oversubscribed, all Students whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Class will be offered a place in the Special Class, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8.

In line with section 4.9, where the Special Class in Crana College is not oversubscribed, all Children whose needs fall within the category of special educational needs provided for by the Special Class will be offered a place in the Special Class, subject to section 4.7.

1. Oversubscription:

When the number of applications exceeds the number of places available, the published selection criteria as set out at section 7.1.2 below will apply and a waiting list shall be compiled which shall remain valid only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Crana College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic year, places will be offered in accordance with the order of priority in which Students have been placed on the waiting list.

For the avoidance of doubt, if a Student does not receive a place in the school for a given academic year, but s/he wishes to be considered for admission to the same year group in the following academic year, a new application must be made on behalf of that Student during the dates specified by the school as being the period when it will accept applications made to all years other than the First-Year Group.

Where the school is oversubscribed, any selection criteria that are not included in this Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

2. Selection criteria in order of priority:

Applications to the Special Class will only be considered if the Student's needs fall within the specified category of special educational needs provided for by this class. Subject to this requirement, in the event of oversubscription, the following criteria for admission to the Special Class will apply:

- 7.1.2.1 If the Student attended one of Crana College's Feeder Primary Schools.
- 7.1.2.2 If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school;
- 7.1.2.3 If the Student has siblings who were previously enrolled in the school;
- 7.1.2.4 If the Student is the son or daughter of a member of staff currently working in the school (to a maximum of 25% of the places available);
- 7.1.2.5 If the Student is the son or daughter of a past pupil;
- 7.1.2.6 If the Student is the eldest child of a family;

3. Selection process:

Crana College will apply the selection process as follows:

Having met the criteria for admission to the Special Class, applications are considered against the published selection criteria. Places will be offered in the first instance to those who meet the first criterion. Subsequently, where the school still has places available the remaining Applicants are considered against the second criterion and those Applicants who meet this criterion will be offered a place within the school. This process is continuously carried out until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Crana College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

4. Late applications:

An application received by Crana College after the closing date published by Crana College, and set out in the Admission Notice, is considered a late application for the purposes of this Admission Policy.

Where Crana College is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be

placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school and subsequently the school's selection criteria will be applied in accordance with this Admission Policy.

Where Crana College is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Crana College, subject to sections 4.7 and 4.8 and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

5. Second/third-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Crana College but does not accept the offer, or fails to accept within the specified time period, or the school withdraws the offer in line with the relevant provisions of this Policy, the place will be offered to the next Student on the waiting list in a second-round of offers. This process will continue throughout third and fourth rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

6. Acceptance of a place:

If the Student in respect of whom the application is made is offered a place, the Applicant will be issued with an Acceptance Form by the school.

The Applicant shall indicate acceptance of an offer by fully completing and returning the Acceptance Form by the date set out in the School Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer. This includes indicating whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer of admission from another school.

Failure to fully complete and return the Acceptance Form to the school by the date set out in the school's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for refusal as set out below.

7. Refusal:

Where a Student in respect of whom an application is being sought has not been offered a school place, the Applicant will be provided in writing with:

1. The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Crana College;
2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year-group to which the applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision

8. Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
2. The 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 for the academic

year for which s/he is applying, or in the case of a late application, or second/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or

3. An Applicant has not indicated:
 - i. whether or not s/he has applied for and is awaiting confirmation of an offer from another school(s) and if so, the details of the school(s);
and
 - ii. whether or not s/he has accepted an offer of admission from another school(s) and if so, the details of the offer(s).

If an offer of a place is withdrawn by the school, the Student on whose behalf the application was made shall lose his/her place on the admission list or waiting list for that academic year and any subsequent applications for the same academic year on behalf of that Student shall be treated as a late application in line with section 7.1.4 above.

2. APPEALS

1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must submit his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Crana College at Buncrana, Co. Donegal. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

If an Applicant is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, or the board of management is not in a position to review the decision to refuse admission, the Applicant may apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:

An Applicant who was refused admission to Crana College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may choose to put his/her appeal in writing, via a Section 29 Appeal Application Form, available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Crana College. Such an appeal must be brought within fourteen calendar days of receipt by the Applicant of the school's decision to refuse to admit. However, if a different time period for the bringing of such an appeal is specified by the Minister for Education and Skills after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead.

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

If an Applicant who chooses to appeal to the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, the Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education and Skills under section 29A of the Education Act 1998.

3. Basis for appeal:

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, an application to appeal must be based on the implementation of this Admission Policy, the content of the school's Admission Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.