



An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
um Oideachas Speisialta
National Council
for Special Education



School Name	Sacred Heart of Jesus National School/Scoil an Chroí Ró Naofa Íosa (Sacred Heart National School)
Roll number	19755L
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**SACRED HEART NATIONAL SCHOOL
ANNUAL ADMISSIONS NOTICE
AUTISM CLASSES
FOR 2026/2027 SCHOOL YEAR**

Where to find the school's Admission Policy and Application Form

A copy of the school's **Admission Policy** for the 2026/2027 school year is available to download at our school's website at <https://sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com/admissions.html>. The application form for admission for Autism Classes for 2026/2027 is available at www.ncse.ie and at <https://sacredhearthuntstown.weebly.com/admissions.html>.

Sacred Heart NS is participating in the Dublin D15 **Autism Class Application Trial (ACAT)**.

Each school parents/guardians apply to will consider the application based on the implementation of the school's own Admission Policy.

The school, not the NCSE, will inform parents/guardians of the outcome of their application.

The aim of ACAT is that parents/guardians will only need to complete one application form for all 18 participating schools.

The schools participating are:

Roll number	School Name:
00697S	St Brigid's Mixed National School
17891J	Scoil Mhuire Mount Sackville
18046A	Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí
18778s	St. Mochta's National School
19435Q	St Francis Xavier JNS
19505L	Scoil Oilibhéir
19644C	St Ciaran's National School
19755L	Sacred Heart National School
19769W	Scoil Thomais
20098I	Castleknock Educate Together National School
20137P	Mary Mother of Hope Senior National School
20241K	Scoil Choilm Community National School
20309S	Mary Mother of Hope Junior National School
20383H	Hansfield Educate Together National School
20384J	Powerstown Educate Together National School
20392I	Pelletstown Educate Together National School
20548N	Danu Community Special School

If you have any difficulties completing the Autism Class Application Form, please email D15ACAT@ncse.ie or attend one of the ACAT parent support sessions. A dedicated team of NCSE personnel is there to assist.

Please note that completing an autism class application does not guarantee a school place. There are other schools in the Dublin 15 area with autism classes, but only those listed above are participating in this trial. Parents/guardians who wish to apply to schools not participating in the D15 ACAT should apply directly to those schools.

Part One: Admission for the 2026/2027 School Year

Autism class application and decision dates for admission for the 2026/2027 school year

The following are the dates applicable for admission to the school's Autism Classes

Note: The number of places set out below in relation to the Special Classes are subject to change dependent on whether current students in the Special Classes retain their place in the school and whether a student(s) transfers into the school after the publication of this Notice.

1. D15ACAT will commence accepting applications for admission to the special classes on	01/10/2025
2. D15ACAT shall cease accepting applications for admission to the special classes on	31/10/2025 @11.59pm
3. The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application for admission to the special classes is	21/11/2025
4. The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	28/11/2025

Failure of an applicant to accept an offer by the **28/11/2025** may result in the offer being withdrawn.

Late Applications

Applications made after the closing date of **31/10/2025**, will be processed as **late applications** and will be processed in accordance with the school's Admission Policy.

Applications for admission received between 1/11/2025 and 13/04/2026 will be notified of the decision on these applications by 30/04/2026. Applicants must confirm acceptance of any offer of admission issued within 7 days from the date on which the offer of admission has been made. Decisions on late applications will be made in accordance with the school's Admission Policy. Failure to accept an offer within the applicable prescribed period above may result in the offer of admission being withdrawn.

Number of special class places that will be available in <u>Sacred Heart NS</u> for 2026/2027 admission	6
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Part Two: Admissions for the 2025/2026 school year

Information regarding the admission process for the Autism classes for the 2025/2026 school year

Breakdown of places allocated for the 2024/2025 school year:

Number of places available	5
Number of applications received	93
Number of offers made and accepted under each criteria	Selection criteria 1: 1 place offered 1 place accepted Selection criteria 2: 1 place offered

	<p>1 place accepted</p> <p>Selection criteria 3: 0 places offered 0 places accepted</p> <p>Selection criteria 4: 23 places offered 3 places accepted</p> <p>Selection criteria 5: 0 places offered 0 places accepted</p>
Total number of offers made	25
Number of applicants placed on waiting list	65

(***Note:** Each Autism class can usually accommodate 6 pupils).

Appendix

In addition to the Admissions Notice, the following is also provided for your information

Criteria for enrolment in autism class in our school:

Subject to sufficient places being made available in an autism class, the criteria for admission to an autism class, incorporating the Department of Education and Youth and the NCSE's policies and circulars and [Circular Letter 0039-2025 EN final.pdf](#) are as follows:

1. Diagnosis of Autism: DSM IV/V or ICD 10/11 (psychologist, psychiatrist, multi-disciplinary report).
2. A demonstration of the understanding of complexity of the child's overall level of need/s evidenced in the professional reports.
3. Given the severity or complexity of the child's support needs, a clear professional recommendation as to what educational placement type would be most appropriate to best meet the child's needs, along with the rationale for same.
4. A letter of eligibility from the NCSE confirming that the child is known to them and that the child has the required diagnosis and recommendation for a special class for autism placement.
5. Applicants must be older than 4 years of age on September 1st of the school year in which they enrol.

Oversubscription priority criterion applied in Sacred Heart NS

To be applied in the event of there being more applicants for an available special class place. Listed in order of priority considerations. Applicants must be older than 4 years of age on September 1st of the school year in which they enrol.

1. Children who are already enrolled in our mainstream setting (the child with greatest level of need for the place will have priority in this ranking. An enrolment committee comprising of the chairperson of the Board of Management, principal and the school's Special Educational Needs coordinator will assess each application for a place in an ASD class received from a pupil in a mainstream class and assign a priority order to each application).
2. Siblings and stepsiblings of children already enrolled in the school and children resident in the school's catchment area (the eldest child will have priority in this ranking). The school's catchment area comprises of the following areas in the Parish of Huntstown: Archer's Wood, Ashfield (not including Ashfield Court and Ashfield Park), Bramblefield, Carne Court, Castlewood, Deerhaven, Ferndale, Glenealy Downs, Huntstown (not including Huntstown Rise and Huntstown Lawn), Pheasant Run, Pinebrook, Pinewood Court, Shakleton Hall, Swallowbrook, Thornberry Square, Westhaven and Whatley Hall.
3. Children of current staff (the eldest child will have priority in this ranking).
4. Children residing in the Dublin 15 area (the eldest child will have priority in this ranking).
5. Children residing outside the Dublin 15 area (the eldest child will have priority in this ranking).

In the event that 2 or more pupils who satisfy the enrolment criteria for enrolment to one of our ASD classes tie for a place or places in priority categories 2, 3, 4 and 5 above and the number of applicants exceeds the number of remaining places, a place or places will be allocated according to chronological age, i.e. older children in these categories will have precedence over younger children/the eldest child will have priority in these rankings. If this process fails to offer a solution, applicant names will be drawn by lot by a person independent of the school.