



## **Early Intervention Autism Class**

St. Finbarr's BNS, with the approval of the Minister of Education and Skills, established an Early Intervention Class to provide education exclusively for pre-school children with an autism diagnosis.

St. Finbarr's welcomes children and their families to apply for a place in the class. The parent(s)/guardian(s) make referrals for the early intervention autism class. The enrolment form must be completed, including all necessary reports.

The principal, the class teacher, and the Special Education Team teachers will meet with the parent(s)/guardian(s) to discuss the child's strengths and needs for the academic year. This meeting will assist in identifying the support required to provide a quality educational experience for the child.

The school endeavours to work closely with parent(s)/guardian(s). This partnership is very important as all stakeholders want the best outcome for the child. As such, parent(s)/guardian(s) will keep the school informed of any new assessments or appointments that will support the child in school. The school will also notify parent(s)/guardian(s) about the child's progress formally and informally.

Occasionally, the Principal and teachers may need to speak to parent(s)/guardian(s) about a child's progress and overall suitability for the class. The overarching outcome is for the child to be placed in the most suitable environment that meets their learning needs.

Unsuccessful applicants and their information will be kept on file and reviewed in line with the admissions policy should a place become available.

## **Eligible Criteria for Admission to Early Intervention Class**

The number of admissions depends on the number of places available, which may vary from year to year. The class has a maximum number of 6 children each year, however, it is rare for all 6 places to be available at one time. Entry to the Early Intervention Class shall comply with DES policy and procedures. The school will work closely with the NCSE to ensure all children have been registered. All criteria below must be met before any application is considered. Below are the minimum requirements for admission into the Early Intervention Class:

- Children must be over 3 years of age on entry and cannot be 6 years old in the final placement year, i.e., within the academic year, from the 1st of September to the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. It is important to note that most children only qualify for a maximum of 2 academic years in the Early Intervention Class.
- The child must have a diagnosis of autism as per DSM-V or ICD-10 criteria.

- The child must have a psychological assessment report that confirms autism and recommends placement in an autism class or a preschool autism class in a mainstream setting.

**The school shall not admit each student seeking admission except where:**

- a) The class is oversubscribed (please see below for further details).
- b) A definite diagnosis of autism has not been met using DSM-V and ICD-10 criteria.

**What will not be considered or taken into account:**

In accordance with section 62(7) (e) of the Education Act, the school will not consider or take into account any of the following in deciding on applications for admission or when placing a pupil on a waiting list for admission to the school:

- a pupil's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service.
- the payment of fees or contributions (however described) to the school.
- a pupil's academic ability, skills, or aptitude.
- the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skill, or aptitude of a pupil's parent(s)/guardian(s).
- a requirement that a pupil, or their parent(s)/guardian(s), attend an interview, open day, or other meeting as a condition of admission.

**St. Finbarr's BNS Criteria for admission in the event of oversubscription for the Early Intervention Class is weighted based on the below criteria:**

- The Early Intervention Class was set up to support children from 3 years of age. The child must be 3 years old on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September of the year they are starting.
- Eligible siblings and stepsiblings of children already enrolled in the school.
- Eligible children who reside in the Parish of Cabra West. The youngest child will have priority in this ranking.
- Eligible children from outside the parish of Cabra West. The youngest child will have priority in this ranking.
- Eligible children from outside the Dublin 7 area. The youngest child will have priority.

**Eligible Criteria for Admission into the Junior Autism Class**

The Junior Autism class has a maximum of 6 places each year. This number will vary each year, and it will be displayed on our admissions notice on our school website. Unsuccessful applicants and their information will be kept on file and reviewed in line with the admissions policy should a place become available. Below are the minimum requirements for admission into the junior autism class:

- The child must have a diagnosis of autism as per DSM-V or ICD-10 criteria.
- The child must have a psychological assessment report that confirms autism and recommends placement in an autism class in a mainstream setting.
- The child must be five years old on the 1st of September of the year they are applying.

In the event the autism class is oversubscribed, the criteria below will be used.

**Finbarr's BNS Criteria for admission in the event of oversubscription for the Junior Autism class is weighted based on the below criteria:**

- Eligible children who meet the age criteria and who are already enrolled in the Early Intervention Class. If several children apply for a place, the eldest child will be given priority ranking from the Early Intervention Class.
- Eligible children currently enrolled in St. Finbarr's BNS mainstream setting that meet the above criteria.
- Eligible siblings and stepsiblings of children currently enrolled in St. Finbarr's.
- The child must be of an age consistent with the existing profile of the class.
- Eligible children from the parish of Cabra West.
- Eligible children who are from the Dublin 7 area.
- Eligible children from outside the Dublin 7 area.

Visit [www.stfinbarrsbns.ie](http://www.stfinbarrsbns.ie) for more information, policies and news.