

**Admission Policy of Greenmount N.S.
Mainstream with special classes for Autism & DLD/SSD**



School Address: Green Street, Cork.

Roll number: 12473M

School Trust: Presentation Brothers Schools Trust (PBST)

SECTION 1 Applying for a mainstream placement at Greenmount N.S.

SECTION 2: Applying for a placement in an Autism Class at Greenmount N.S.

SECTION 3: Applying for a placement in a DLD/SSD Class at Greenmount N.S.

SECTION 1:

Applying for a mainstream placement at Greenmount N.S.

1. Introduction

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

The policy is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request, to any person who requests it.

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

This policy must be read in conjunction with the annual admission notice for the school year concerned available @ www.greenmount.ie

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

2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

Greenmount N.S. is a Catholic, co-educational primary school with a Catholic ethos under the patronage of the Bishop of Cork and Ross and the trusteeship of the Presentation Brothers Schools Trust (PBST).

"Catholic Ethos" in the context of a Catholic primary school means the ethos and characteristic spirit of the Roman Catholic Church, which aims at promoting:

- (a) the full and harmonious development of all aspects of the person of the pupil, including the intellectual, physical, cultural, moral and spiritual aspects; and
- (b) a living relationship with God and with other people; and
- (c) a philosophy of life inspired by belief in God and in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus; and
- (d) the formation of the pupils in the Catholic faith;

and which school provides religious education for the pupils in accordance with the doctrines, practices and traditions of the Roman Catholic Church, and/or such ethos and/or characteristic spirit as may be determined or interpreted from time to time by the Irish Episcopal Conference.

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

Founded in 1854, Scoil Mhuire na nGrás (Greenmount Monastery N.S.) is a Roman Catholic Primary School under the trusteeship of the Presentation Brothers Schools Trust (PBST) and the Patronage of the Catholic Bishop of Cork and Ross. The school Mission Statement is as follows:

Scoil Mhuire na nGrás endeavours to provide a caring and happy environment to give a broad general education, emphasising high academic standards combined with a wide range of experience, which will allow your child to achieve his/her full potential. This should enable your child to face confidently the demands of further education and of the rapidly changing society in which we now live. As members of the Presentation Community, the school has a Catholic ethos and promotes Christian values in line with the vision and works of Blessed Edmund Rice.

3. Admission Statement

Greenmount N.S. will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

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

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

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

Greenmount N.S. is a school which has established two classes, with the approval of the Department of Education and NCSE, which provides an education exclusively for students with Autism (Refer to Section 2). It has also, with the approval of the Department of Education established two classes which provide an education exclusively for students with DLD/SSD (Developmental Language Disorder/Speech Sound Disorder) (Refer to Section 3).

5. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (please see [section 6](#) below for further details)
 - b) a parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student
 - c) The Autism special classes attached to Greenmount N.S. provide an education exclusively for students with Autism and the school may refuse admission to these classes, where the student concerned does not have the specified category of special educational need provided for in this class.
 - d) The DLD/SSD special classes attached to Greenmount N.S. provide an education exclusively for students with DLD/SSD and the school may refuse admission to these classes, where the student concerned does not have the specified category of special educational need provided for in this class.
6. In the event that the school is oversubscribed in relation to mainstream applications, the school will apply the following selection criteria in the order listed below to those applications that are received within the timeline for receipt of applications as set out in the school's annual admission notice:
1. Siblings of current Greenmount N.S. pupils.
 2. Children living in the following parishes (The Lough, South, Middle, Ballyphehane, Turners Cross and Togher parishes).
 3. Children/grandchildren of past pupils.
 4. Children of Staff members.
 5. Children outside the above named parishes.

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

Priority to the eldest applicant in accordance with the above criteria.

7. What will not be considered or taken into account

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

- (a) a student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service.;
- (b) the payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school; See also paragraph 16 below

- (c) a student's academic ability, skills or aptitude other than in relation to admission to the Autism class or DLD/SSD Classes, insofar as it is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not the student has the category of special needs concerned.
- (d) the occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents;
- (e) a requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission.
- (f) a student's connection to the school by virtue of a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school; other than, (1) siblings of a student attending or having attended the school and/or (2) parents/grandparents of a student having attended the school. In relation to (2) parents/grandparents having attended, Greenmount N.S. will only apply this criteria to a maximum of 25% of the available spaces as set out in the school's annual admission notice.
- (g) the date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school.

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

8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Greenmount N.S. will be based on the following:

- Our school's Admission Policy
- The school's annual admission notice (where applicable)
- The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in our annual admission notice for receiving applications.
- In the case of the Autism classes refer to Section 2 of this policy.
- In the case of the DLD/SSD classes refer to Section 3 of this policy.

(Please see [section 14](#) below in relation to applications received outside of the admissions period and [section 15](#) below in relation to applications for places in years other than the intake group.)

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

9. Notifying applicants of decisions

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

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

Applicants will be informed of the right to seek a review/right of appeal of the school's decision (see [section 18](#) below for further details).

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

In accepting an offer of admission from Greenmount N.S., you must indicate—

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

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

11. Circumstances in which offers may not be made or may be withdrawn

An offer of admission may not be made or may be withdrawn by Greenmount N.S. where—

- (i) it is established that information contained in the application is false or misleading.
- (ii) an applicant fails to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission on or before the date set out in the annual admission notice of the school.
- (iii) the parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student; or
- (iv) an applicant has failed to comply with the requirements of 'acceptance of an offer' as set out in [section 10](#) above.

12. Sharing of Data with other schools

Applicants should be aware that section 66(6) of the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 allows for the sharing of certain information between schools in order to facilitate the efficient admission of students.

Section 66(6) allows a school to provide a patron or another board of management with a list of the students in relation to whom—

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

The list may include any or all of the following:

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

13.Waiting list in the event of oversubscription

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

Placement on the waiting list of Greenmount N.S. is in the order of priority assigned to the students' applications after the school has applied the selection criteria in accordance with this admission policy.

Applicants whose applications are received after the closing date, outlined in the Annual Admission Notice, will be placed at the end of the waiting list in order of the date of receipt of the application.

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

14.Late Applications

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

Late applicants will be notified of the decision in respect of their application no later than three weeks after the date on which the school received the application. Late applicants will be offered a place if there is place available. In the event that there is no place available, the name of the applicant will be added to the waiting list as set out in Section 13.

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

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

The Board of Management will allow pupils to transfer to Greenmount N.S. subject to the terms of the school's Admission Policy, available space and the Rules for National Schools.

The Board of Management will require from the pupil's previous school all relevant information as outlined in Section 12 of this Admissions Policy.

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

Applications for enrolment during the school year will be considered subject to school policy and available space.

Such applications will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis but will normally only be considered for admission on the first day of each new term unless the applicant is newly resident in the area.

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

The Board of Management of Greenmount N.S. or any persons acting on its behalf will not charge fees for or seek payment or contributions (howsoever described) as a condition of-

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

17. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

Our school is of a Catholic ethos and, in keeping with that ethos, children of all or no other faith are welcome to apply to this school.

We respect the decision of parents to withdraw their child/children from taking part in the religious education curriculum, religious ceremonies, school Masses, etc.

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parent(s)/guardian(s) have requested that the student attend the school without attending religious instruction (etc.) in the school. These arrangements will not result in a reduction in the school day of such students:

A written request should be made to the Principal of the school. A meeting will then be arranged with the parent(s)/guardian(s) of the student, to discuss how the request may be accommodated by the school.

While it is not possible for the child(ren) to leave the classroom during religious instruction, the class teachers will prescribe educational activities appropriate to the age and ability of the children who do not attend religious instruction.

Children who do not attend religious instruction will be supervised by a teacher/SNA/Garda vetted person working in the school during liturgical services, Mass and sacramental preparation in the church if their parents request so.

18. Reviews/appeals

Review of decisions by the Board of Management

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

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

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

Note: Where an applicant has been refused admission due to the school being oversubscribed, the applicant **must request a review** of that decision by the board of management prior to making an appeal under section 29 of the Education Act 1998.

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

Right of appeal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19. Section 62 of the Education Act

In accordance with Section 62 of the Education (admissions to school's act), Greenmount N.S. will cooperate with the National Council for Special Education in the performance by the Council of its functions under the Education for Persons with Special Educational Needs Act 2004 relating 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.

Greenmount N.S. will comply with any direction served on the patron or the board, as the case may be, under section 37A and any direction served on the board under section 67(4B) of the Education Act.

SECTION 2

Applying for placement in an Autism Class at Greenmount N.S.

Greenmount N.S. operates two Autism Special Classes with a total of 6 pupils per class.

Aims and Objectives of the Classes

- A commitment to providing the highest quality of education for the children concerned.
- To strive towards the integration of children in the Autism Class into mainstream education with their peers, having regard for ability levels, available resources, and the child's suitability for such integration.
- To enhance the communication and social skills of the children in the Autism Class.
- To support the individuality and integrity of each child – "Each is precious."

Application Form

Applications are only accepted after October 1st, the year prior to enrolment when there are known vacancies arising. Known vacancies are advertised in the school's Annual Admissions Notice on the school website (www.greenmount.ie). Parents/guardians must contact the school to obtain an Application Form. On application, the eligibility criteria will be shared with parents/guardians. The Application Form must be completed and signed by the parents/guardians.

Enrolment/Eligibility for Autism Class

In order for a child to be enrolled in the Autism Class, a place must be available and the child must meet all of the following criteria:

- Fully completed School Application Form.
- A letter of eligibility from the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) confirming that:
 - The child is known to the NCSE;
 - The child has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (AUTISM);
 - The child has a recommendation for placement in a special class for Autism.
- Diagnosis of Autism: DSM IV/V or ICD 10/11 (psychologist, psychiatrist, multidisciplinary report) **AND**
- A demonstration of the understanding of complexity of the child's overall level of need/s evidenced in the professional reports **AND**
- 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

Parental Notification and NCSE Involvement

Parents seeking Autism Class placement must notify the NCSE of their child's need for placement by 1st October of the preceding school year. Greenmount N.S. will support this process by informing applicants and notifying the NCSE of any currently enrolled pupils seeking Autism placement.

Processing of Applications

Each application will be considered by the School's Advisory Admissions Team. The team will include the Principal, the SEN Coordinator, the Autism Class teachers and the teacher nominee on the Board of Management. A recommendation will be made to the Board of Management of the school. The Board of Management has the final decision on enrolment.

The Autism Classes operate a maximum class size of six pupils per class with one teacher and two S.N.A.'s per Autism Class. When a place becomes available in the Autism Class and the number of children who meet the above essential criteria exceeds the number of places available, the following criteria will apply in priority order, beginning with number one.

1. Current pupils of Greenmount N.S. who meet criteria
2. Siblings of current pupils who meet criteria and do not have a current Autism Class Placement
3. Children living in Lough Parish/South Parishes
4. Children living in Turners Cross Parish
5. Children whose home is closest to the school (straight line on OS map)
6. Chronological order of application

Children are eligible between the ages of 4 and 13. The Board of Management reserves the right to limit age range within each class to a 3-year span.

In line with the Education (Admissions to Schools) Act 2018, a waiting list will be maintained for the academic year only. Late applications will be added to the end of the list and cannot supersede existing applicants.

Irish Exemption

Pupils in an Autism special class are automatically entitled to an exemption from the study of Irish, as per Circular 0054/2022.

Transport

In general, a child who is eligible for placement in an Autism Class is eligible for free transport, subject to the terms of the School Transport Scheme.

Ongoing Placement Review

A child's placement in the Autism Class is formally reviewed at the end of year one of the placement and from there on at each SSPP (School Support Plus Plan) meeting to ensure the placement in the class continues to best meet their needs.

Year One review

A review will take place at the end of the child's first year to assess whether the child's placement is appropriate.

- The review will be carried out by relevant school staff with parental involvement and relevant Disability Network teams, relevant Multi-Disciplinary team members (as needed) and Parents/Guardians.
- The outcome of the review will be examined by the Board of Management.
- If in the event that the placement is deemed to no longer meet a child's needs, the school will liaise with relevant Disability Network teams, relevant Multi-Disciplinary team members and Parents/Guardians to discuss a return to mainstream or alternative placement.

Discharge

It is school policy to facilitate the discharge of pupils from the classroom once they have reached 6th Class. The onus will be on the parents to link with the SENO and apply for ongoing placement with a suitable secondary school. Greenmount N.S. will facilitate all transfer of records/reports as well as assist with any information required with regards to the student.

Discharge to an alternative placement or a full return to mainstream may also be recommended after the first and/or any subsequent year. This may involve a combination of updated assessments/diagnoses, school staff input, professional consultations, parents/guardian input. The Board of Management has the right to overrule any decision made in this regard.

Pupil Placement upon Discharge

Parents will be advised on future schooling with the following options considered:

- Continuation in a special class nearer to the child's home
- Continuation in the special class at Second Level
- Mainstream Second Level School with SEN teaching support
- Mainstream class in Greenmount N.S. with SEN teaching support
- Mainstream Class with support in a school closer to the child's home
- Placement in a Special school
- Home Tuition

Parental Involvement

Parents are expected to maintain regular communication and participate in the development of the School Support Plus Plan and regular placement reviews.

Method of Instruction

- The method of instruction within the class (where necessary) will be 'An Eclectic Model' in line with the recommendations of the Department of Education and Science. This means that it will be based on TEACCH and ABA and it will also use elements of PECS, Sensory Integration, Floor Time, Intensive Interaction and Social Stories and Music (as required by the child).
- SSPP's will be drawn up for each child in consultation with Teacher, Special Needs Staff, Principal, Parents and Multi-disciplinary Team.

Appealing a Refusal to Enrol

Parents/Guardians whose child is refused enrolment may appeal under Section 29 of the Education Act 1998 via the Department of Education's website.

Section 3:

Applying for a placement in a DLD/SSD Class at Greenmount N.S.

Definitions used in Section 3

ACC: Advisory Admissions Committee

ADC: Advisory Discharge Committee

BOM: Board of Management of Greenmount N.S.

DES: Department of Education

DLD: Developmental Language Disorder

SSD: Speech Sound Disorder

HSE: Health Service Executive

IASLT: Irish Association of Speech & Language Therapists Parents: Should be taken to include guardians

SENO: Special Education Needs Organiser

SLT: Speech & Language Therapist

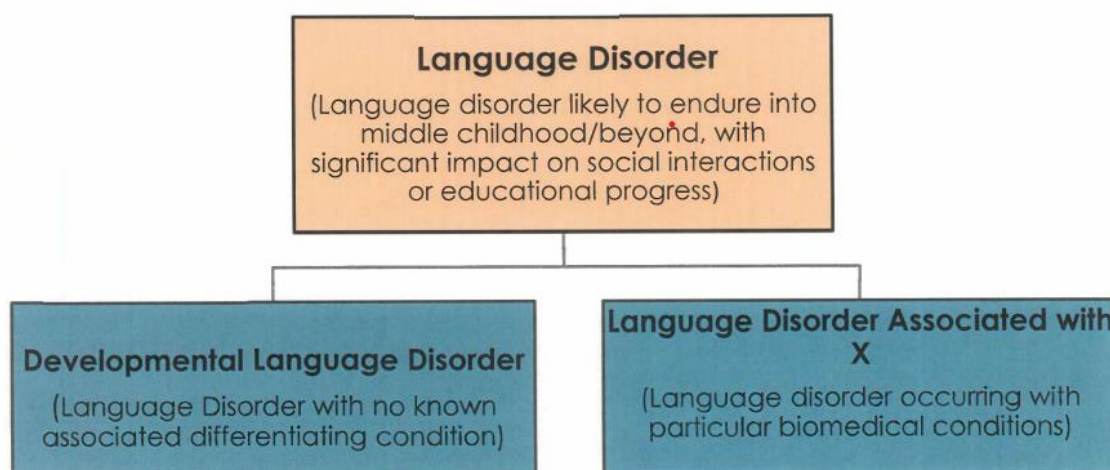
Introduction

Greenmount National School hosts two special classes for children with Developmental Language Disorder (DLD/SSD) in line with Circular 0024/2025.

There are currently 4 DLD/SSD Classes in the South Lee Area: Two in Greenmount National School (near The Lough, Cork) One in Shanbally National School (near Carrigaline) One in Scoil Barra National School in Ballincollig The catchment area services applicants from the HSE Community Health Care Networks 11, 12, 13 and 14. (See attached map on p. 18)

Definitions and Terminology

- **DLD/SSD (Developmental Language Disorder):** A condition affecting expressive and/or receptive language skills with a significant impact on communication and/or educational functioning, not attributable to a known biomedical condition.
- **SSD (Speech Sound Disorder):** A communication disorder involving difficulties in articulation, phonology, or motor speech skills.
- **Special Class for DLD/SSD:** A placement for pupils meeting eligibility criteria set by the Department of Education, including clinical diagnosis and standardised assessments.



(Bishop et al 2017)

What Happens in a DLD/SSD Class?

The children follow the mainstream curriculum of their equivalent class as appropriate. The 7 children in the DLD/SSD Class are part of the school and may be integrated for some subjects. They are involved in typical school activities along with the other pupils of the school. The Speech & Language Therapist works closely with the teacher to provide therapy that can be integrated into the child's school day. The teacher can modify his/her teaching to suit each child's unique speech, language and learning needs.

Staffing and Class Structure

- Each special class accommodates a maximum of 7 pupils with one teacher and 0.33 of an SNA.
- Classes are supported by a teacher and a HSE-assigned Speech and Language Therapist (SLT).

Eligibility Criteria

Admission to the DLD/SSD special classes is based on criteria outlined in Circular 0024/2025:

1. The child has a conclusive diagnosis by a Speech and Language Therapist of:
 - a) Developmental Language Disorder where:
 - i. there is evidence of significant and pervasive needs evidenced by response to intervention and assessment over time including, use of speech and language assessment tools, observation in both clinical and social environments and assessment for risk factors and clinical markers and monitoring of responsiveness to intervention
 - AND**
 - ii. language scores at or below a standard score of 78 (-1.5 SD from the mean)
 - and/or**
 - b) Speech Sound Disorder (SSD) of unknown origin diagnosed by a Speech and Language Therapist where there is evidence of significant and pervasive impact of the SSD of unknown origin on learning, literacy and social relationships evidenced by response to intervention and assessment over time including, use of speech and language assessment tools and observation in both clinical and social environments
 - AND**
2. The child has complex or severe educational needs as a result of their DLD/SSD and/or SSD of unknown origin that are pervasive in nature and require the integrated and targeted educational and therapeutic supports of a special class for children with DLD/SSD/SSD. Supporting evidence should include:
 - a) Evidence that despite targeted and intensive therapeutic and educational supports, the child's DLD/SSD and/or SSD of unknown origin continues to

impact on their learning, participation, socialisation and well-being in their current educational setting.

b) Evidence of engagement with therapy input including response to and impact of intervention across impairment, functioning and participation over time through Speech and Language Therapist review.

c) Education documentation from schools or early learning and care settings including Student Support Plans and/or Access and Inclusion Profiles detailing:

- Regular reviews of needs as part of an ongoing cycle of assessment and review with parents and educational staff
- Target-setting
- Evidence-informed intervention and review at key points

Is a DLD/SSD Class suitable for my child?

Not all children with a clinical diagnosis of DLD/SSD will meet the Department of Education and Skill's eligibility criteria for a DLD/SSD Class placement. Not all children with a clinical diagnosis of DLD/SSD will require placement in a DLD/SSD class. Other models of educational and SLT provision may be more appropriate. It is recommended that you discuss this with your child's Speech & Language Therapist.

Application Process

- Application packs are available from the school: Greenmount N.S., Green Street, Cork Tel: 021-4966242 Email: principal@greenmount.ie Website: www.greenmount.ie
- Applications are made directly to the school and must be supported by the following documentation:
 - Speech and Language Therapy Report recommending DLD/SSD Class placement (dated within 6 months).
 - Completed DLD/SSD Class School or Pre-school Report and Parent Report.
 - A letter of eligibility from the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) confirming that:
 - The child is known to the NCSE;
 - The child has a recommendation for placement in a special class for DLD.

Advisory Admissions Committee (AAC)

- Applications are reviewed by a multi-disciplinary Advisory Admissions Committee (AAC) comprising of school principals, SLTs, school principals and class teachers.
- The Advisory Admissions Committee (AAC) makes recommendations to the different Boards of Management (BOM) regarding the possible offer of available places in the DLD/SSD Classes to appropriate candidates. The BOM retains ultimate responsibility for offering/refusing enrolment places.
- Decisions are informed by a Decision-Making Matrix and guidelines as required by Circular 0024/2025.

- When recommending which school a child is offered a place in, the ACC uses the following criteria:
 - Geographical proximity.
 - Availability of an age-appropriate peer group.

Prioritisation Criteria

In cases of over subscription, priority is determined using the Decision-Making Matrix from Circular 0024/2025 and consideration is given to the following:

- Number of language domains affected
- Alternative school placement options
- Optimum timing for intervention.

A waiting list is maintained in ranked order and expires annually in June.

Duration of Placement

- Eligible children may spend up to 2 years in the DLD/SSD Class. Where a second year is required, reapplication is not necessary to access the class.
- Placement is reviewed annually by an Advisory Discharge Committee (ADC) including relevant professionals (Class teacher and SLTs).
- Recommendations are made to the Board of Management (BOM), which retains final authority.

Discharge Criteria

A pupil may be discharged when:

- Sufficient progress is made.
- Two years of placement are completed.
- An alternative, more suitable placement is identified.
- The primary diagnosis is revised
- Parents request discharge.

A transition plan and discharge report are developed for each pupil.

Irish Exemption

Pupils in the DLD/SSD special class are automatically entitled to an exemption from the study of Irish, as per Circular 0054/2022.

Transport

In general, a child who is eligible for placement in a DLD/SSD class on the basis of the provisions in section 3 or section 4 of Circular 0024/2025 is also eligible for free transport to the DLD/SSD class nearest to his or her place of residence, subject to the terms of the School Transport Scheme.

Spare Capacity

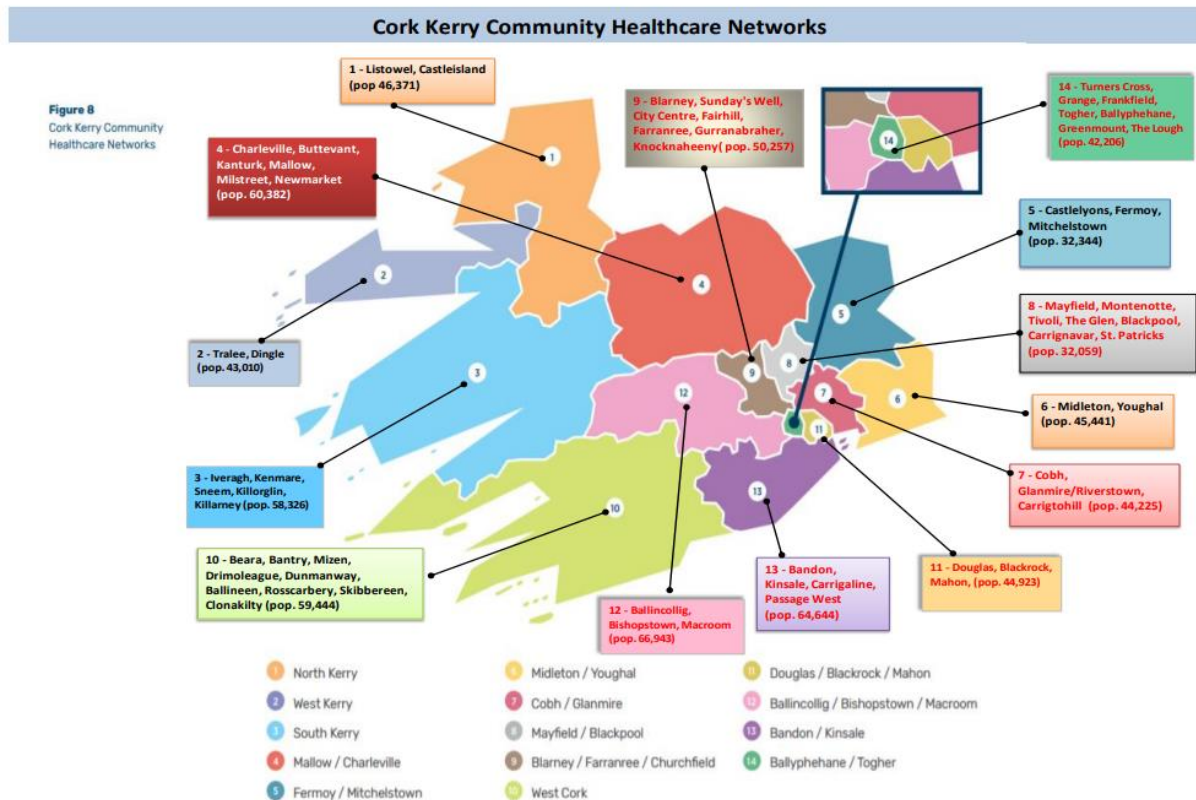
In instances where there is spare capacity in a DLD/SSD classes due to insufficient eligible children (i.e. fewer than 7 children), the Board of Management may offer a place to a maximum of two children, per class, who do not meet all of the eligibility criteria but who could benefit from enrolment in the class for one year on a concessionary basis. Such placements must be supported by the recommendation of a speech and language therapist and a diagnosis of DLD/SSD of unknown origin. The continued enrolment of these children for a second year can only be considered once all eligible children have been accommodated. The NCSE through the local SENO will monitor such situations.

What happens when a child leaves the DLD/SSD Class?

Most children go to their local primary school. Additional educational supports can be provided by the mainstream school if deemed necessary. Further Speech & Language Therapy, if deemed necessary may be provided by an appropriate service.

Please note: It should be noted that enrolment in the DLD/SSD Class confers no entitlement to enrolment in a mainstream class in Greenmount N.S. upon discharge from the DLD/SSD Class. Any such application will be processed in accordance with an application for admission to a mainstream class.

Further reading: More information about DLD/SSD can be found in IASLT's Position Paper and Guidance Document called 'Supporting Children with Developmental Language Disorder in Ireland' which is available at <https://www.iaslt.ie/media/kp4nzbw/DLD/SSD-position-paper-final-23may2017-2.pdf>



This Admissions Policy was reviewed and ratified at a Board of Management meeting on 1st October, 2026 for submission to the Patron, the Bishop of Cork and Ross and Trustee (Presentation Brothers Schools Trust).

Principal: *Finbarr Hurley*

Chairperson of the Board of Management: *Michael Carey*