



Mary, Mother of Hope JNS
ANNUAL ADMISSIONS NOTICE
Autism CLASSES
FOR 2027/2028 SCHOOL YEAR

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

A copy of the school's **Admission Policy** for the 2027/2028 school year is available to download at our school website [Admissions | Mary, Mother of Hope Junior National School](#). The application form for admission for Autism Classes for 2027/2028 will be available at: www.ncse.ie and [Admissions | Mary, Mother of Hope Junior National School](#) from February 1st 2027.

Mary, Mother of Hope JNS is participating in the Dublin D15 **Autism Class Application Trial (ACAT)**. Each school parents/guardians apply to will look at the application using its own admissions policy. The school (not the NCSE) will let parents/guardians know the result of their application. The aim is that parents/guardians will only need to complete one application form for all 19 participating schools.

The schools participating are:

Roll number	School Name:
00697S	St Brigid's Mixed National School
18047C	Scoil Bhríde Cailíní
17891J	Scoil Mhuire Mount Sackville
18046A	Scoil Bhríde Buachaillí
18778s	St. Mochta's National School
19435Q	St Francis Xavier JNS
19470S	St Francis Xavier SNS
19505L	Scoil Oilibhéir
19644C	St Ciaran's National School
19755L	Sacred Heart 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 application form, please email D15ACAT@ncse.ie or attend one of our parent support sessions. A dedicated team of NCSE personnel is there to assist. Please note that completing this application **does not guarantee a school place**. There are other schools in the D15 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 2027/2028 School Year Autism class application and decision dates for admission to 2027/2028	
The following are the dates applicable for admission to the school's Autism Class Note: <i>The number of places set out below in relation to the Special Class 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.</i>	
1. D15ACAT will commence accepting applications for admission to the special class on	1/02/2027
2. D15ACAT shall cease accepting applications for admission to the special class on	28/02/2027 @ 11.59pm
3. The date by which applicants will be notified of the decision on their application for admission to the special class is	12/03/2027
4. The period within which applicants must confirm acceptance of an offer of admission is	19/03/2027

Failure of an applicant to accept an offer by the 19/03/2027 may result in the offer being withdrawn.

Late Applications
Applications made after the closing date of 28/02/2027, will be processed as late applications and will be processed in accordance with the school's admission policy. Applications for admission received between 01/03/2027 and 31/05/2027 will be notified of the decision on these applications by 14/06/2027. 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. Applications made after 31/05/2027 for 2027/2028 school year should be made directly to schools by parents/guardians. Please note all ACAT schools are heavily oversubscribed. Please link in with your SENO from June 2027 to identify schools opening new autism classes and/or who still have vacancies.

Number of special class places in <u>Mary, Mother of Hope JNS</u> that will be available in for 2026/2027 enrolment		
Class	Age / Class Group	Number of Spaces
One Autism Class	Junior Infants to 2nd Class	3

Part Two: Admissions for the 2026/2027 school year	
Information regarding the admission process for the Autism classes for the 2025/2026 school year	
Breakdown of places allocated for the 2025/26 school year:	
Number of places available	1
Number of applications received	56
Number of offers made and accepted under each criteria	1
Total number of offers made	1
Number of applicants placed on waiting list	55

(***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 Mary, Mother of Hope JNS
Subject to sufficient places being made available in an autism class, the criteria for enrolment to an autism class, incorporating the Dept. of Education and NCSE. policies & circulars, 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 is required for special class or special school placement.

Admissions Criteria in our school
1. Mary, Mother of Hope JNS is a junior school and does not discriminate where it refuses to admit a child from 3 rd – 6 class applying for admission to this school.

Oversubscription priority criterion applied in Mary, Mother of Hope JNS
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 at least four years of age before the First of June of the year in which they apply and no more than eight years of age at the start of the school year for which they are applying. No child will be retained in the special class or school beyond the 30th of June after their 9th birthday.

In the event that the number of children seeking enrolment in our special class for children with autism exceeds the number of places available, **the following criteria in the order listed below, will be used to prioritise children who have met the eligibility criteria for enrolment in a special class for children with autism as outlined in section 4 of this Admissions Policy:**

Category 1 - *Children already enrolled in the school*

Category 2 - *All children living within the catchment area **And** Brothers & Sisters (including stepsiblings & foster children resident at same address) of children currently enrolled in Mary, Mother of Hope Schools*

Category 3 - *Children of current staff members of Mary, Mother of Hope schools (including stepchildren & foster children resident at same address)*

Category 4 - *All children from outside the catchment area*

In the event of the number of children in category **(1)** exceeding the number of places available in a given year, the Board of Management will offer places based on chronological age of the children with the **youngest** applicants given a place first.

Where two children are tied for one place, the place will be allocated by lottery which will be overseen by three members of the Board of Management

The same criteria will be adopted in relation to pool **(2)** and then **(3)** and then **(4)** until all places are filled. This process will be repeated each time a place becomes available in the ASD class

All unsuccessful applicants will be placed on a waiting list, in accordance with the above criteria for places that may become available during the same school year.