



Coachford College

POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOL YEAR 2021-2022

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 Coachford College is responsible for the implementation of this Admissions Policy.

Introduction to Coachford College

Mission Statement

We are a Community. Together we share mutual respect in a positive environment. We develop individual potential in all fields.

Coachford College is a designated Community College. Designated Community Colleges are established by the signing of a model agreement between an ETB and the local Catholic Bishop and/or a religious congregation. Cork Education and Training Board is the patron of the school. The model agreement provides for the participation of the Bishop of Cloyne Diocese in the organisation and management of the College on an ongoing basis.

Coachford College was established in a spirit of partnership between Co. Cork VEC (now Cork ETB) and the Diocese of Cloyne. The inherited traditions, values and founding intentions of CCVEC/CETB and the Diocese of Cloyne remain enshrined in the characteristic spirit and in the life of our school.

Our school is a state, co-educational, multi-denominational school underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence in Education;
- Care;
- Equality;
- Community and
- Respect.

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

Coachford College provides a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. We strive to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. The school promotes a fully inclusive education which 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.

Our school is multi-denominational. We welcome, respect and support students of all religions and beliefs. The provision of religious education, religious worship and the work of the Chaplain all combine to reflect the founding intention of the school, the school's mission statement and the needs of the students within the school. The characteristic spirit of the school finds practical expression through the provision of pastoral, liturgical and social outreach activities, as appropriate, for each student.

Coachford College prizes inclusion in all its curricular, co-curricular and extra-curricular practices. The school has enjoyed significant academic success in recent years with students from the school taking first place in Ireland in Leaving Certificate subjects on ten occasions. Significant growth in enrolment has been experienced in recent years, with the number of class groups entering First Year having risen from five to six since 2019.

Junior Cycle, Transition Year, Leaving Certificate, and Leaving Cert Vocational Programmes are provided at Coachford College. Students develop key skills at Junior Cycle, enabling them to participate in 21st century learning through the various core and optional subjects and other areas of learning. Junior Cycle Optional subjects include Business Studies, Engineering, French, Graphics, Home Economics, Music, Spanish, Visual Art and Wood Technology. Senior Cycle optional subjects include Accounting, Agricultural Science, Applied Mathematics, Art, Craft & Design, Biology, Chemistry, Construction Studies, Design & Communication Graphics, Engineering, French, Geography, History, Home Economics, Music, Physics, Spanish (which will be available at Senior Cycle from Sept 2023).

Students are encouraged to participate meaningfully and collaboratively in their learning at Coachford College. Through the student voice, the College seeks to encourage students' engagement with learning and enhance student-teacher relationships. The effective use of digital technology is prioritised at Coachford College to enhance teaching, learning, assessment and reporting, so that our students become engaged thinkers, active learners, knowledge constructors and global citizens equipped to participate fully in society.

Coachford College is committed to creating a caring community of learners in a safe and respectful environment. The College seeks to be a centre of learning excellence which promotes excellent physical and mental health, and a safe and happy environment in which students achieve their full potential. Amongst the supports in place for students are the Class Tutor, Year Head, Guidance Counsellor and Chaplain. The Student Support Team works closely with the class teachers and parents/guardians in ensuring that each student is supported and challenged to reach his/her full potential as confident, happy and connected young adults.

Participation in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities is highly valued at Coachford College. By optimising learning opportunities for students outside the classroom, Coachford College seeks to enhance its students' wellbeing and encourage learning, creativity, imagination, connection, empathy, resilience and self-confidence.

Involvement with local groups, organisations and employers is an integral part of life at Coachford College. The College provides an extensive programme of community engagement initiatives which support student learning and nurture in students the importance of relationship-building, supporting others, which in turn engenders community spirit and a sense of accomplishment.

Coachford College has received approval for the construction of a new one thousand pupil school, which will facilitate increasing enrolment and ensure commitment to quality education in the catchment area. Development of our open spaces and further promotion of our enviable rural location offers students a quiet tranquil setting to achieve their potential.

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PART A: General Information for All Applicants

1. ***Glossary of terms***
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3. ***Legal Framework***
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 Coachford 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 Coachford College by virtue of application alone.

'Sex' refers to the designation of a person, on that person's birth certificate, or gender recognition certificate, as male or female based on their anatomy (genitalia and/or reproductive organs) or biology (chromosomes and/or hormones). 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.

'Catchment Area' refers to the designated residential area for application to Coachford College in respect of the person on whose behalf the application is being made. The catchment area for Coachford College is defined as the areas served by the following primary schools: Aghabullogue N.S., Ballyvongane N.S., Berrings N.S., Bweeng N.S., Canovee N.S., Cloughduv N.S., Coachford N.S., Dripsey N.S., Farran N.S., Firmount N.S., Kilmurry N.S., Kilbonane N.S., St. Lachteen's N.S., Ovens N.S., Rusheen N.S., Rylane N.S. and Vicarstown N.S.

'Parent' has the same meaning as in the Education Act 1998 and includes 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 Coachford College. The feeder primary schools for Coachford College are:

Aghabullogue N.S., Ballyvongane N.S., Berrings N.S., Bweeng N.S., Canovee N.S., Cloughduv N.S., Coachford N.S., Dripsey N.S., Farran N.S., Firmount N.S., Kilmurry N.S., Kilbonane N.S., St. Lachteen's N.S., Ovens N.S., Rusheen N.S. Rylane N.S. and Vicarstown N.S.

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

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.

2 ADMISSION STATEMENT

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

- 2.1. Gender of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.2. Civil status of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.3. Family status of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.4. Sexual orientation of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.5. Religion of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.6. Disability of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.7. Race of the Student or Applicant;
- 2.8. The Student's or Applicant's membership of the Traveller community;
- 2.9. Special educational needs of the Student or Applicant.

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

3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

CORK EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD 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 Coachford 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 (Admissions 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 5.2 in respect of applications made to the First Year group and in Selection 6.2 in respect of applications made to all year other than the First Year group.

Section 62 (7) of the Education Act 1998 requires each school to set out in its Admissions 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.

Coachford 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 and the model agreement. 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 nonreligious 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 education* is open to all students 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', Coachford College supports the provision of *religious education* that caters for all students regardless of their religious or non-religious beliefs.

Parents or students over the age of 18 who wish to opt-out of *religious education* must make a written submission to the principal in the first instance. The submission should outline reasons why the opt-out is being requested. The principal will then arrange to meet with the parent(s) or student over the age of 18 to discuss the request. If after that meeting the parent or student over the age of 18 still wishes to opt out of *religious education*, the school will facilitate this. Through discussion, consultation and with consideration of available resources, Coachford College will make specific arrangements for the student. In accordance with S.62(7)(n) of the Education Act 1998, the school day shall not be shortened for the student as a result of opting out of religious instruction.

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, Coachford 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.

If, prior to the Education (Admission to Schools) Act 2018 coming into effect, Coachford College had confirmed, in writing, that an Applicant had been placed on a list relating to the allocation of school places for entrance before Feb. 1st 2025, then this confirmation is still valid and the Applicant will be offered that place.

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

- 4.1 The payment of fees or contributions to the school;
- 4.2 A Student's academic ability, skills or aptitude;
- 4.3 The occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a Student's Parent(s)/Guardian(s);
- 4.4 A requirement that a Student or his or her Parent(s), attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission;
- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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 Admissions Notice for 2020-2021.

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

- 4.7 The student seeking admission will not have attained at least 12 years of age on the 1st day of January of the school year for which s/he is seeking to be enrolled or has not completed a full course of primary education or the equivalent, as are both required under the Department of Education and Skills' Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools 2004/05;
- 4.8 The Applicants' subject choices on the curriculum which is operational at the time of application are not available, and/or the maximum class size is exceeded;
- 4.9 The Parent/Student fails to confirm in writing that s/he accepts the Appropriate Behaviour Policy and he/she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the Student;
- 4.10 The applicant's attendance/behaviour record in their previous school(s) provides evidence that a transfer may impact negatively on learning and teaching,

4.11 The information contained in the application is incomplete, false or misleading in a material respect.

Where Coachford 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.

PART B: Information for Specific Categories of Applicants

5. *Application to the First Year Group*
6. *Application to All Year Groups Other Than First Year*

SECTION 5

APPLICATION TO THE FIRST YEAR GROUP

5 APPLICATION TO THE FIRST YEAR GROUP

5.1 Admission Provisions (First Year group)

- 5.1.1. Oversubscription
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- 5.1.3. Selection process
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5.2 Appeals

- 5.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
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- 5.2.3 Basis for appeal

5.1 Admission Provisions (First Year Group)

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

5.1.1 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 for the school year in respect of which the applications are made, with the exception of cases in which any of 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10 or 4.11 apply. Where Coachford College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during the 2021/2022 school 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.

5.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority

Coachford College will apply the following criteria for admission to the First Year group:

1. Brothers and sisters of students who are already attending the school;
2. Brothers and sisters of students who previously attended the school;
3. Children of members of staff;
4. Children who are the first in family and attend a feeder primary school and who reside in the catchment area;
5. Children who attend one of the feeder primary schools and reside in the catchment area;
6. Children who reside within the catchment area but attend a primary school outside the catchment area;
7. Children who attend one of the feeder primary schools and reside outside the catchment area;
8. All other applicants

5.1.3 Selection process

Coachford 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, Coachford College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

In the instance where the number of applicants for a place exceeds the number of places in the school the following process should apply. The Board of Management will oversee this process. The allocation of places will be conducted at a Board of Management meeting, in the presence of an independent observer.

1. Applications will be divided into categories based on the criteria for allocation of places stated in the policy.
2. Starting with category Number 1, places will be offered to applicants. Where there are sufficient places to offer all applicants who qualify under category Number 1 a place, this will be done and the process of offering places will move on to criterion number 2.
3. The process outlined above will be repeated for the subsequent categories until the process reaches a category where the remaining number of places available is less than the number of applicants within this category.
4. Where the remaining number of available places is less than the total number of applicants within a category, the remaining places will be offered by means of a lottery involving all the applicants within this category.
5. When all available places have been allocated, the remaining applicants within the category will be placed on a waiting list in rank order based on the lottery.
6. The process of placing applicants on the waiting list in rank order will then be repeated for each subsequent category until all unsuccessful applicants have been allocated a place on the waiting list.
7. The waiting list will be recorded on school headed paper and the record will be signed in the presence of the Board of Management by the Chairperson of the Board of Management and the independent observer.

5.1.4 Late applications

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

Where Coachford College is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, the late application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by Coachford College before the closing date for applications. Such applications will be placed on the waiting list based on the criteria applied to the waiting list, but not above any application which was received prior to the closing date.

Where Coachford College is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Coachford College, subject to Sections 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10 and 4.11, and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be operated *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within two weeks of issue.

5.1.5 Second and subsequent-round offers of places

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Coachford 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.

5.1.6 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 two 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 two weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/subsequent-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for refusal as set out below.

5.1.7 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:

- 5.1.7.1. The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Coachford College;
- 5.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria;
- 5.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable;
- 5.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

5.1.8 An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 5.1.8.1. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 5.1.8.2. The Applicant fails to confirm acceptance of an offer of admission on or before the date set out in the annual Admissions Notice of the school for the 2020/2021 academic year, or in the case of a late application, or second/third round offer, within two weeks, or
- 5.1.8.3. 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).

5.1.9 Appeals

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Coachford College regarding admission to the First Year group, see Section 5.2.

5.2 Appeals

5.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription

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.

Appeals must be submitted in writing, via a Section 29 Application Form, available from the school office, the school's website www.coachfordcollege.ie, from Coachford College at Coachford College, Co. Cork P12 DY92, 021 7334113 or via email from info@office.coachfordcollege.ie. A Board of Management Review 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.

5.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription

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.

Appeals must be submitted in writing, via a Section 29 Application Form, available from the school office, the school's website www.coachfordcollege.ie, from Coachford College at Coachford College, Co. Cork P12 DY92, 021 7334113 or via email from info@office.coachfordcollege.ie. A Board of Management Review 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.

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.

5.2.3 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.

SECTION 6

APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST YEAR

APPLICATION TO ALL YEAR GROUPS OTHER THAN FIRST YEAR

6.1 Admission Provisions (other than First Year)

- 6.1.1 Oversubscription
- 6.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority
- 6.1.3 Selection process
- 6.1.4 Late Applications
- 6.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place
- 6.1.6 Acceptance of a place
- 6.1.7 Refusal
- 6.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer
- 6.1.9 Appeals

6.2 Appeals

- 6.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 6.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 6.2.3 Basis for appeal

6.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (OTHER THAN FIRST YEAR)

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

6.1.1 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 for the school year in respect of which the applications are made, with the exception of cases in which any of 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10 or 4.11 apply. Where Coachford College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during the 2021/2022 school 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 Admissions Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

6.1.2 Selection criteria

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

1. Brothers and sisters of students who are already attending the school;
2. Brothers and sisters of students who previously attended the school;
3. Children of members of staff;
4. Students who move into the area and therefore have no school;
5. Students who are the first in family and attended a feeder primary school and who reside in the catchment area;
6. Students who attended one of the feeder primary schools and reside in the catchment area;
7. Students who reside within the catchment area but attended a primary school outside the catchment area;
8. Students who attended one of the feeder primary schools and reside outside the catchment area.

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

6.1.3 Selection process

Coachford 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, Coachford College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

In the instance where the number of applicants for a place exceeds the number of places in the school the following process should apply. The Board of Management will oversee this process. The allocation of places will be conducted at a Board of Management meeting, in the presence of an independent observer.

1. Applications will be divided into categories based on the criteria for allocation of places stated in the policy.
2. Starting with category Number 1, places will be offered to applicants. Where there are sufficient places to offer all applicants who qualify under category Number 1 a place, this will be done and the process of offering places will move on to criterion number 2.
3. The process outlined above will be repeated for the subsequent categories until the process reaches a category where the remaining number of places available is less than the number of applicants within this category.
4. Where the remaining number of available places is less than the total number of applicants within a category, the remaining places will be offered by means of a lottery involving all the applicants within this category.
5. When all available places have been allocated, the remaining applicants within the category will be placed on a waiting list in rank order based on the lottery.
6. The process of placing applicants on the waiting list in rank order will then be repeated for each subsequent category until all unsuccessful applicants have been allocated a place on the waiting list.
7. The waiting list will be recorded on school headed paper and the record will be signed in the presence of the Board of Management by the Chairperson of the Board of Management and the independent observer.

6.1.4 Late applications

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

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

list based on the criteria applied to the waiting list, but not above any application which was received prior to the closing date.

Where Coachford College is not oversubscribed and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Coachford College, subject to Sections 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10 and 4.11, and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be operated *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within two weeks of issue.

6.1.5 Second or subsequent-round offers of a place

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Coachford 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 subsequent rounds *etc.* until all places within the school have been filled.

6.1.6 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 two weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second or subsequent-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 two weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second or subsequent-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for refusal as set out below.

6.1.7 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:

- 6.1.7.1. The reasons that the Student was not offered a place in Coachford College;
- 6.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
- 6.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable;
- 6.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

6.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer

An offer of admission may be withdrawn where:

- 6.1.8.1. The information contained in the application is incomplete, false or misleading in a material respect, or

- 6.1.8.2. The applicant's attendance/behaviour record in their previous school does not provide evidence that a transfer may impact negatively on other students' learning;
- 6.1.8.3. 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/subsequent-round offer, within two weeks, or
- 6.1.8.4. 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.

6.1.9 Appeals

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Coachford College regarding admission to a year group other than First Year, see Section 6.2.

6.2 APPEALS

6.2.1 Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription

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.

Appeals must be submitted in writing, via a Section 29 Application Form, available from the school office, the school's website www.coachfordcollege.ie, from Coachford College at Coachford College, Co. Cork P12 DY92, 021 7334113 or via email from info@office.coachfordcollege.ie. A Board of Management Review 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.

6.2.1 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription

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.

Appeals must be submitted in writing, via a Section 29 Application Form, available from the school office, the school's website www.coachfordcollege.ie, from Coachford College at Coachford College, Co. Cork P12 DY92, 021 7334113 or via email from info@office.coachfordcollege.ie. A Board of Management Review 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.

6.2.3 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 Admissions Notice and also set out the grounds of the request to appeal the decision.

This Policy was adopted by the school's Board of Management on August 26th 2020, having been signed by the Chairperson of the Board of Management and by the Principal.

It is posted on the school's website www.coachfordcollege.ie, and is available on request from the school office, 021 7334113 or info@office.coachfordcollege.ie.

The Policy shall be reviewed on an annual basis.

Appendix 1

Statement on Characteristic Spirit

Coachford College is a designated Community College. Designated Community Colleges are established by the signing of a model agreement between an Education and Training Board (ETB) and the local Catholic Bishop and/or a religious congregation. Cork ETB is the patron of the school. The model agreement provides for the participation of the Bishop of Cloyne Diocese in the organisation and management of the college on an ongoing basis.

Coachford College was established in a spirit of partnership between Cork ETB and the Diocese of Cloyne Diocese. The inherited traditions, values and founding intentions of Cork ETB and the Diocese of Cloyne remain enshrined in the characteristic spirit and in the life of the college.

Coachford College is a state, co-educational, multi-denominational school underpinned by the core values of:

- Excellence in Education;
- Care;
- Equality;
- Community and
- Respect.



All members of our school community are treated equally, regardless of their race, gender, religion/belief, age, family status, marital status, membership of the Traveller community, sexual orientation, ability or socio-economic status. All students of the school are given equal opportunity for enrolment, in line with the Education (Admissions to School) Act (2018). Once enrolled, the school strives to provide all its students with equal opportunities to engage with the curriculum and school life.

Coachford College provides a safe physical and social environment that reinforces a sense of belonging to the school community and wider society. The school strives to enable every student to realise their full potential regardless of any aspect of their identity or background. The school promotes a fully inclusive education which recognises the plurality of identities, beliefs and values held by students, parents and staff. The school prepares open-minded, culturally sensitive and responsible citizens with a strong sense of shared values.

Coachford College is multi-denominational. Students of all religions and beliefs are welcomed, respected and supported. The provision of religious education, religious worship and the work of the Chaplain all combine to reflect the founding intention of the school, the school's mission statement and the needs of the students within the school. The characteristic spirit of the school finds practical expression through the provision of pastoral, liturgical and social outreach activities, as appropriate, for each student.

Appendix 2

Opt-Out of Religious Instruction

Coachford 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 and the model agreement. 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 nonreligious beliefs and those of their peers.

It is important to understand that Coachford College 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 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', Coachford College supports the provision of *religious education* that caters for all students regardless of their religious or non-religious beliefs.

Parents or students over the age of 18 who wish to opt-out of *religious education* must make a written submission to the Principal in the first instance. The submission should outline reasons why the opt-out is being requested. The Principal will then arrange to meet with the parent(s) or student over the age of 18 to discuss the request. If after that meeting the parent or student over the age of 18 still wishes to opt out

of *religious education*, the school will facilitate this. Through discussion, consultation and with consideration of available resources, Coachford College will make specific arrangements for the student. In accordance with S.62(7)(n) of the Education Act 1998, the school day shall not be shortened for the student as a result of opting out of religious instruction.