

# **POLICY FOR ADMISSION TO SCHOOL YEAR 2024/2025**

## **Rath Dara Community College Post-Primary School**

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 Rath Dara Community College is responsible for the implementation of this Admission Policy.

## **INTRODUCTION TO RATH DARA COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

---

Rath Dara Community College (formerly Riversdale Community College) was established in 1986. It is a co-educational school on the Blanchardstown Rd. North in Dublin, 15. The school is a designated community college operating under the patronage of Dublin Dun Laoghaire Education and Training Board. The school participates in DEIS, the action plan of the Department of Education and Skills for effective inclusion. The school has the services of a full-time Home School Community Liaison co-ordinator (H.S.C.L) and participates in the School Completion Programme. The school offers all available academic programmes, a wide range of subjects, a very supportive pastoral care system and extensive additional supports in the areas of E.A.L (English as an Additional Language) and AEN (Additional Educational Needs). The school has a well-established JCSP library and a full time Librarian. The Library provides a wide range of activities to enhance student learning. The school benefits from Digital Strategy funding which has allowed for significant investment in technology to enhance learning in the field of STEM, led by a dedicated T.E.L team of teacher and student Digital Leaders. The school has an active Students' Council and Parents' Association and maintains very strong links with the local community and external agencies involved in supporting students and their families. The school provides additional academic support in the form of a Homework club, supervised study and tutorials including after school tutorials. A wide range of extra-curricular activities are offered. Library clubs including Chess, Anime, Book Club and Craft Club. Sports and Fitness clubs such as dance club, girl's fitness club, Gaelic football Soccer and Basketball at Senior and Junior level. The school has won both the U 17 and U 15 Leinster Championship. The school is an active participant in the Green Schools programme achieving two Green Flags. The school has also been awarded a yellow flag for promoting inclusion and celebrating diversity and an Amber flag for initiatives to promote positive mental health. The school has also been awarded Jigsaw's One Good School Gold Flag. Rath Dara CC is an inclusive school community where diversity is valued and discrimination is challenged. Excellence in education through innovative individualised education is promoted as per our mission statement —

Our mission at Rath Dara Community College is to work together as a school community to create an educational environment that is positive, caring, safe and inclusive. We embrace diversity, promote inclusion and foster mutual respect. We focus on excellence in education through a progressive, individualised student centred learning environment that supports the unique needs of the individual. This enables us to challenge, encourage and celebrate students' success in reaching their social, academic and emotional goals.



# **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

## ***PART A – General Information for All Applicants***

1. Glossary of terms
2. Admission Statement
3. Legal Framework
4. General Admission Provisions

## ***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

# **PART A**

## ***General Information for All Applicants***

- 1. Glossary of terms***
- 2. Admission Statement***
- 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 Rath Dara Community 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 an application or acceptance of offer makes him/her a student of Rath Dara Community College: a person is only regarded as a student of Rath Dara Community College once s/he is enrolled on his /her first day of attendance.

**‘Enrolled’** means attending the school as a registered student, in line with section 20(2) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000.

**‘Gender’**, in line with the definition of “*the gender ground*” in the Equal Status Act 2000, is such that “*one is male and the other is female*”. 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 Rath Dara Community College in respect of the person on whose behalf the application is being made. The catchment area for Rath Dara Community College is defined as: Dublin 15 areas of Corduff, Ladyswell Mulhuddart, Tyrrelstown and Hollystown.

**‘Parent’** has the same meaning as in the Education Act 1998 and includes a foster parent and 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 Rath Dara Community College. The feeder primary schools for Rath Dara Community College are:

- 1.1. St. Patricks S.N S , Corduff, D.15.

- 1.2. Ladyswell N.S, Mulhuddart , D15.
- 1.3 St. Luke's N.S, Tyrrelstown, D15
- 1.4 Powerstown Educate Together N.S. Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15.
- 1.5 Tyrrelstown Educate Together N.S. Tyrrelstown, Dublin 15.

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.]

**‘First-Year’** means the intake group of Students for the most junior class or year in a school.

## 2 ADMISSION STATEMENT

---

### DEFINITION OF A 'MULTIDENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL' IN A DESIGNATED COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

---

Rath Dara Community 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. DDLETB is the patron of the school. The model agreement provides for the participation of the Archbishop of Dublin Diocese in the organisation and management of the community college on an ongoing basis.

Rath Dara Community College was established in 1986 in a spirit of partnership between DDLETB and the Archbishop of Dublin Diocese on a green field site. The inherited traditions, values and founding intentions of DDLETB and the Archbishop of Dublin Diocese 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.

Our school Rath Dara Community 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. Our 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.



Accordingly, Rath Dara Community College shall not discriminate in its admission of a Student based on the following grounds:

- 2.1. Gender of the Student or Applicant. However, where a school admits students of one gender only, it is not discriminatory to refuse to admit Students not of that gender;
- 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.

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

### 3 LEGAL FRAMEWORK

---

Dublin Dun Laoghaire 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 Rath Dara Community 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 (Admission 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 admit a Student. The appeal process is set out in section 5.3 in respect of applications made to the First-Year Group and in section 6.3 in respect of applications made to all years other than the First-Year Group.

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 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', Rath Dara Community College supports the provision of *religious education* that caters for all students regardless of their religious or non-religious beliefs.

Rath Dara Community College 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.

Rath Dara Community College 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

## 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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020, Rath Dara Community 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 1<sup>st</sup> February 2025, then this confirmation is still valid and the Applicant will be offered that place.

In processing an application Rath Dara Community 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);
- 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 Admission Notice for that academic year.

Rath Dara Community College **will consider** the offer of a place to every Student seeking admission to the school, **unless the following applies**:

- 4.7 The Parent fails to confirm in writing that s/he accepts the Student Code of Behaviour and he/she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the Student;

Where Rath Dara Community 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
- 5.1.2. Selection criteria in order of priority
- 5.1.3. Selection process
- 5.1.4. Late Applications
- 5.1.5. Second/third-round offers of a place
- 5.1.6. Acceptance of a place
- 5.1.7. Refusal
- 5.1.8. Withdrawal of an offer
- 5.1.9. Appeals

#### **5.2 Appeals**

- 5.2.1. Appeal where refusal was due to oversubscription
- 5.2.2. Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription
- 5.2.3. Basis for a review by the board of management

## **5.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (FIRST-YEAR GROUP)**

---

Where Rath Dara Community College is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to sections 4.7.

### **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 only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Rath Dara Community College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic 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 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**

Rath Dara Community College will apply the following criteria for admission to the First-Year Group:

- 5.1.2.1 If the Student resides in the Catchment Area;
- 5.1.2.2 If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school;
- 5.1.2.3 Whether the Student attended one of the Feeder Primary Schools;
  - St Patricks NS, Corduff, D15;
  - Ladyswell NS, Mulhuddart, D 15;
  - St Lukes NS, Tyrrelstown, D15;



Powerstown Educate Together NS, Tyrrelstown, D15;

Tyrrelstown Educate Together NS, Tyrrelstown, D15;

- 5.1.2.4 If the Student has siblings who were previously enrolled in the school;

### **5.1.3 Selection process**

Rath Dara Community 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 against all selection criteria until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Rath Dara Community College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

### **5.1.4 Late applications**

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

Where Rath Dara Community College is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications, irrespective of any selection criteria which may be applied to applications received before the closing date for applications. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school, subject to section 4.7. For the avoidance of doubt, selection criteria are not relevant to, and will not be applied to, late applications.

Where Rath Dara Community College is not oversubscribed, *i.e. there is no waiting list*, and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within the school, subject to sections 4.7 and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

#### **5.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place**

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Rath Dara Community College but does not accept the offer, 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's Admission Notice, or within 2 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's Admission Notice, or within 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for withdrawal of an offer, 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 Rath Dara Community College;
- 5.1.7.2. Details of the Student's ranking against the published selection criteria, if the year group to which the Applicant is applying is oversubscribed;
- 5.1.7.3. Details of the Student's place on the waiting list, if applicable; and
- 5.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7, an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 5.1.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

#### **5.1.8 Withdrawal of an offer**

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 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/third-round offer, within 2 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).

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 and shall not be placed on a waiting list). If the Applicant still desires a place for that academic year, a new application must be made

for the same academic year on behalf of that Student and shall be treated as a late application in line with section 5.1.4 above.

**5.1.9 Appeals**

For information relating to an Applicant's right to appeal a decision of Rath Dara Community 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:**

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must first request a review by the board of management in writing, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Rath Dara Community College. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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 after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing [rcc@ddletb.ie](mailto:rcc@ddletb.ie).

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 under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's *'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29'*, such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the board of management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal and may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

### **5.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:**

An Applicant who was refused admission to Rath Dara Community College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the board of management, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Rath Dara Community College. Such a review must be sought by the

Applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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 after the publication of this policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing [rcc@ddletb.ie](mailto:rcc@ddletb.ie) (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the board of management in writing to that effect.)

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's *'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29'*, such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, that Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

### **5.2.3 Basis for a review by the board of management:**

As required by section 29C(2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the board of management to review a decision of the school to refuse admission 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**

---

### **6 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 a review by the board of management

## **6.1 ADMISSION PROVISIONS (OTHER THAN FIRST-YEAR)**

---

Where Rath Dara Community College is not oversubscribed, all Students will be offered a school place, subject to sections 4.7,

### **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 only for the school year in respect of which the applications are made. Where Rath Dara Community College is in a position to offer further school places that become available for and during that academic 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 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 Admission Policy shall not be considered in determining whether or not a Student is admitted to the school.

Where the Transition Year Programme and Leaving Certificate Applied Programme in Rath Dara Community College are oversubscribed, a Student applying for admission to such programmes in the relevant year group, will, subject to this policy, be placed on the appropriate waiting list already compiled (annually) by the school, which list will contain the names of students enrolled in the school who have been placed on an internal waiting list for these programmes.



### **6.1.2 Selection criteria in order of priority**

Rath Dara Community College will apply the following criteria for admission to a year group other than First-Year:

- 6.1.2.1. If the Student resides in the catchment area;
- 6.1.2.2. If the Student has siblings currently enrolled in the school;
- 6.1.2.3. If the Student has siblings who were previously enrolled in the school;

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

### **6.1.3 Selection process**

Rath Dara Community 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 against all selection criterion until all available places have been offered and accepted.

Where two or more applications are tied in the foregoing selection process, Rath Dara Community College will apply a random lottery to assign any available places in the school, or on the waiting list, to those applications.

### **6.1.4 Late applications:**

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

Where Rath Dara Community College is oversubscribed and receives a late application for admission, that application will receive a place on the waiting list beneath Applicants whose applications were received by the school before the closing date for applications,

irrespective of any selection criteria which may be applied to applications received before the closing date for application. Such late applications will be placed on the waiting list in accordance with the date and time they were received by the school, subject to section 4.7. For the avoidance of doubt, selection criteria are not relevant to, and will not be applied to, late applications.

Where Rath Dara Community College is not oversubscribed, *i.e. there is no waiting list*, and it receives a late application, the Student seeking admission will receive an offer of a place within Rath Dara Community College, subject to sections 4.7 and the same process as applies to Applicants whose applications were received before the closing date will be applied *i.e.* an Acceptance Form will be issued to the Applicant for completion and return to the school within 2 weeks of issue.

#### **6.1.5 Second/third-round offers of a place**

Where a Student is in receipt of an offer of a place within Rath Dara Community College but does not accept the offer, 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.

#### **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 2 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 2 weeks of issuing by the school if it is a late application or if it is a second/third-round offer, may result in withdrawal of an offer, in line with the grounds for withdrawal of an offer, 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 Rath Dara Community 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, and
- 6.1.7.4. Details of the Applicant's right to appeal the decision.

In addition to the conditions for consideration of an application as set out at 4.7 an offer of admission may not be made where:

- 6.1.7.5. The information contained in the application is false or misleading in a material respect.

### **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 false or misleading in a material respect, or
- 6.1.8.2. 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/third-round offer, within 2 weeks, or
- 6.1.8.3. 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 or 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 for that academic year (and shall not be placed on a waiting list). If the Applicant still desires a place for that academic year, a new application must be made for the same academic year on behalf of that Student and 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 Rath Dara Community 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:**

An Applicant who was refused admission because the school is oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision must first request a review by the board of management in writing, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Rath Dara Community College. Such a review must be sought by the Applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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 after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing [rcc@ddletb.ie](mailto:rcc@ddletb.ie).

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 under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's '*Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29*', such an appeal must not be brought until the Applicant has received correspondence from the board of management in relation to the review, or until 42 calendar days have passed since the date of initial refusal and may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

### **6.2.2 Appeal where refusal was for a reason other than oversubscription:**

An Applicant who was refused admission to Rath Dara Community College for a reason other than the school being oversubscribed and who wishes to appeal this decision may first choose to request a review by the board of management, via a 'BOMR1 Form', available from the school office and on the school's website, for it to be reviewed by the board of management of Rath Dara Community College. Such a review must be sought by the

Applicant within twenty-one calendar days 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 after the publication of this Policy, same shall apply instead. Completed BOMR1 Forms should be submitted to the school office or online by emailing [rcc@ddletb.ie](mailto:rcc@ddletb.ie). (An applicant may withdraw a request for review at any time prior to the conclusion of the review by notifying the board of management in writing to that effect.)

Alternatively, s/he may choose to apply to bring an appeal to an Appeals Committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998. Appeals must be made in writing on a 'Section 29 Appeal Form' and must be submitted to the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. The 'Section 29 Appeal Form' may be downloaded from the Department's website or may be obtained directly from the Section 29 Appeals Administration Unit in the Department of Education. Contact details for the Unit are available on the Department's website. As per the Department of Education's *'Procedures for hearing and determining appeals under section 29'*, such an appeal may not be brought later than 63 calendar days after the initial decision to refuse admission.

If an Applicant who seeks a review by the board of management is not satisfied with the decision of the board of management, that Applicant may also apply to bring an appeal to an appeals committee established by the Minister for Education under section 29A of the Education Act 1998, as outlined in the immediately preceding paragraph.

### **6.2.3 Basis for a review by the board of management:**

As required by section 29C (2) of the Education Act 1998, any request for the board of management to review a decision of the school to refuse admission 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.

