

Skibbereen Community School Admission Policy

School Address:	Gortnaclohy, Skibbereen, Co. Cork
Roll number:	91516B
School Patron/s:	CEIST, Diocese of Cork and Ross, Cork Education and Training Board

1. Introduction

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

The policy was approved by the school patron on 28-10-2022. It is published on the school's website and will be made available in hardcopy, on request, to any person who requests it.

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

This policy must be read in conjunction with the annual admission notice for the school year concerned.

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

2. Characteristic spirit and general objectives of the school

Skibbereen Community School is a multi-denominational, co-educational school, built upon the Catholic education traditions of the Mercy Sisters, CEIST, De La Salle Brothers, the Diocese of Cork and Ross and the inclusive ethos of Cork Education and Training Board. The school is open to, and welcomes students of all denominations and none and values each student, made, as they are, in the image and likeness of God. The school will support each student in their faith, in their talents and in their academic potential so that it will live the Gospel maxim that 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full'.

Skibbereen Community School is dedicated to the pursuit of excellence. In acknowledging the rich traditions from which our school has evolved, we seek to provide a holistic education in a positive environment.

Skibbereen Community School aims to:

1. To facilitate the personal, social, spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical development of each student in reaching their full potential.
2. To create an inclusive, safe, caring and happy environment open to the wonder of learning.
3. To nurture the self-belief of each student.
4. To develop our school as a community of learners.
5. To nurture active partnership between parents/guardians, students, staff and the wider community.

The full characteristic spirit document for Skibbereen Community School is available as a separate document and is attached as an appendix to this policy.

3. Admission Statement

Skibbereen Community School will not discriminate in its admission of a student to the school on any of the following:

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

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

Special Class - Skibbereen Community School is a school which has established a class, with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, which provides an education exclusively for students with a category or categories of special educational needs specified by the Minister and may refuse to admit to the class a student who does not have the category of needs specified.

4. Categories of Special Educational Needs catered for in the Special Class

Skibbereen Community School with the approval of the Minister for Education and Skills, has established classes to provide an education exclusively for students with the following diagnoses:

Autism Spectrum Disorder:

- The school currently has two such classes with the maximum number of students in each being six. In order to be eligible for enrolment to this class, the student must have a diagnosis of autism from a multi-disciplinary team with a specific recommendation for placement in a special class or Unit attached to a mainstream second level school.

Multiple-Disability Class:

- This class makes provision for students who meet the criteria for two or more low-incidence disabilities. The maximum number of students in this class is six. In order to be eligible for enrolment to this class the student must have a diagnosis of two or more low-incidence disabilities from a multi-disciplinary team with a specific recommendation for placement in a special class attached to a mainstream second level school.

5. Admission of Students

This school shall admit each student seeking admission except where –

- a) the school is oversubscribed (please see [section 6](#) below for further details)
- b) a parent of a student, when required by the principal in accordance with section 23(4) of the Education (Welfare) Act 2000, fails to confirm in writing that the code of behaviour of the school is acceptable to him or her and that he or she shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure compliance with such code by the student.

The special class attached to Skibbereen Community School provides an education exclusively for students with diagnosis of Autism or students with multiple-disabilities as outlined in section 4 above, the school may refuse admission to this class, where the student concerned does not have the specified category of special educational needs provided for in this class.

A student may be accepted for admission into these support classes when all the following criteria have been met:

- a) In addition to the professional reports stated above each application should be supported by a report from the primary school outlining the student's academic, social, emotional and behavioural needs and outlining the current extent of social inclusion.
- b) The inclusion operates on the understanding that the intellectual ability of students enrolled in the support class would be similar to the profile of the population of students attending the main stream section of the school and the student would have the ability to integrate into mainstream classes according to individual need. Evidence must be provided that the student is capable of integration and a multidisciplinary team must support this evidence.
- c) In certain circumstances and following assessment the school may be unable to meet the needs of an ASD student on the grounds that:
 - a. they are considered a risk to themselves or others,
 - b. admission of the student would have a serious detrimental effect on the provision of an educational service to other students.
- d) An Annual Review of the student's placement within the Special Class Programme will be held by the school's SEN Team together with a nominated representative from the ASD Multidisciplinary team, and any other significant professional/personnel involved in the student's life to ensure that the Special Class Programme continues to be the most suitable placement option available to the student.
- e) All applicants will be visited by a member of the school's SEN Team to observe the student in their existing placement.

6. Oversubscription

In the event that the school is oversubscribed, the school will, when deciding on applications for admission, apply the following selection criteria in the order listed below to those applications that are received within the timeline for receipt of applications as set out in the school's annual admission notice:

1. Consideration will first be given to students from the feeder schools servicing Skibbereen Community School as outlined in appendix 1 of this policy.
2. Thereafter, consideration will be given to students living in the locality of this catchment who are not attending any of the schools named in appendix 1.
3. If there are two or more students tied for a place or places in any of the selection criteria categories above (the number of applicants exceeds the number of remaining places), a lottery will apply.

6a – Oversubscription to Special Classes

In relation to special class applications the following should be noted:

- applications to either category of special class, must meet the criteria set out for that class in the first instance.
- consideration will firstly be given to current students attending mainstream classes in Skibbereen Community School who meet the criteria set-out in section 4 of this policy.
- Thereafter, the criteria in relation to oversubscription outlined above shall apply.

7. What will not be considered or taken into account

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

- a) A student's prior attendance at a pre-school or pre-school service, including naíonraí,
- b) The payment of fees or contributions (howsoever described) to the school.
- c) A student's academic ability, skills or aptitude; other than in relation to admission to the school's special classes insofar as it is necessary in order to ascertain whether or not the student has the category of special educational needs concerned.
- d) The occupation, financial status, academic ability, skills or aptitude of a student's parents.
- e) A requirement that a student, or his or her parents, attend an interview, open day or other meeting as a condition of admission.
- f) A student's connection to the school by virtue of a member of his or her family attending or having previously attended the school.
- g) The date and time on which an application for admission was received by the school, this is subject to the application being received at any time during the period specified for receiving applications set out in the annual admission notice of the school for the school year concerned.

8. Decisions on applications

All decisions on applications for admission to Skibbereen Community School will be based on the following:

- Our school's admission policy.
- The school's annual admission notice.
- The information provided by the applicant in the school's official application form received during the period specified in our annual admission notice for receiving applications.

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

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

9. Notifying applicants of decisions

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

If a student is not offered a place in our school, the reasons why they were not offered a place will be communicated in writing to the applicant, including, where applicable, details

of the student's ranking against the selection criteria and details of the student's place on the waiting list for the school year concerned.

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

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

In accepting an offer of admission from Skibbereen Community School you must indicate—

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

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

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

An offer of admission may not be made or may be withdrawn by Skibbereen Community School where—

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

12. Sharing of Data with other schools

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

13. Waiting list in the event of oversubscription

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

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

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

14. Late Applications

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

In the event of there being a waiting list in operation, late applications will be added to the bottom of this list in order of the application being received by the school, if two or more applications are received on the same date, a lottery shall apply.

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

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

- a) The school reserves the right to determine the class or year group into which the student is placed.
- b) A suitable placement must exist in the specific year group requested. If a particular year group is oversubscribed the waiting list procedure outlined in section 13 will apply or the student may be offered a place in another suitable year group where a place exists.
- c) Applications for a placement in an exam year will not normally be considered except in exceptional circumstances.
- d) Consideration will be given to applicants who have:
 - Recently taken up residence in the area.
 - Exceptional circumstances determined by the school management.
- e) Students who request a transfer from another post-primary school to Skibbereen Community School will be supplied with this Admissions Policy and required to:
 - Complete an enrolment application form and a student transfer form indicating reasons for the student's enrolment/transfer. The transfer should be in the best interest of the student.
 - Meet the Principal accompanied by his/her parents/guardians to discuss previous progress and ongoing commitment to study and good behaviour.
 - Have read and agreed to the terms of the schools Code of Behaviour.

- Following admission agree to supply all records relating to the applicant from his/her previous school. In particular, the following supporting documentation must be provided:
 - Recent school reports.
 - Copies of relevant State Examination results.
 - Relevant educational and/or psychological assessments.
 - Attendance records from previous school(s).
 - A written character reference from the Principal of the previous school.
- f) The school reserves the right to refuse to admit a student whose behaviour and/or attendance record in their previous school has been unsatisfactory.
- g) Parents/Guardians who wish to have their child repeat a year of school can apply to the Principal who shall assess suitability in accordance with DES guidelines.
- h) Applicants who wish to repeat the Leaving certificate year will be interviewed by the Principal to assess suitability.
- i) In both of these circumstances, the following criteria will apply:
 - The ability of the school to meet the curricular needs of the child.
 - The probability of the student achieving an improved overall performance on repeat.
 - The student's behaviour and attendance record.
 - Relevant Department of Education and Skills circulars.

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

Students wishing to apply for a place in Skibbereen Community School should make every effort to do so prior to the commencement of the school year, applications after this date will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. In the event that such an exception is necessary the procedures outlined in a) to i) above will apply.

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

The Board of Management of Skibbereen Community School or any persons acting on its behalf will not charge fees for or seek payment or contributions (howsoever described) as a condition of-

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

17. Arrangements regarding students not attending religious instruction

The following are the school's arrangements for students, where the parents or in the case of a student who has reached the age of 18 years, the student, who has requested that the student attend the school without attending religious instruction in the school. These arrangements will not result in a reduction in the school day of such students:

Skibbereen Community School offer Religious Education classes designed by the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment (NCCA) as part of the school curriculum. It does not offer classes in Religious Instruction. Students whose parents/guardians have requested that they do not participate in Religious Education classes will either remain in the class and undertake independent study or be withdrawn from class and offered additional learning support if they meet the criteria of the school's Special Educational Needs (SEN) program. Students are not obliged to attend Religious Instruction events or school celebrations that contain elements of Religious Instruction.

18. Reviews/appeals

Review of decisions by the Board of Management

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

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

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

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

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

Right of appeal

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

19. Appendices

The following appendices attached to this policy can be seen below.

Appendix 1 – Feeder Schools of Skibbereen Community School

Appendix 2- Characteristic Spirit of Skibbereen Community School

Appendix 1 – Feeder Schools of Skibbereen Community School

The following alphabetical list are the feeder schools of Skibbereen Community School as recognised by the Board of Management:

Abbeystrewry National School

Caheragh National School

Castledonovan National School

Castletownshend National School

Derryclough National School

Dreeny National School

Drimoleague National School

Drinagh National School

Dromore National School

Gaelscoil Dhoctúir Uí Shúilleabháin

Glandore National School

Kilcoe National School

Leap National School

Lisheen National School

Maulatrahane National School

Rathmore National School

Scoil Bhríde National School, Ballydehob

Sn Bhríde National School, Union Hall

St. Joseph's National School, Skibbereen

St. Matthias National School, Ballydehob

St. Patrick's National School, Skibbereen

Appendix 2- Characteristic Spirit of Skibbereen Community School

The responsibilities of the patron of Second level schools are clearly laid out in the Education Act, 1998. In the Community School Sector, the Trustees of the school are the Joint Patrons of the school. The roles and responsibilities of the Joint Patrons of a Community School are laid out in the Education Act, 1998. These roles and responsibilities are further defined in the Deeds of Trust of a Community School.

The Joint Patrons of Skibbereen Community School are The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy, the Catholic Bishop of Cork and Ross and the Chief Executive of the Cork Education and Training Board (formerly Co. Cork Vocational Education Committee).

The School was established following the amalgamation in 2016 of Mercy Heights Secondary School, Rossa College and St. Fachtna's secondary school).

The community of Skibbereen has a rich history in education where it has been particularly associated with schools and schooling. Skibbereen Community School saw the opening of a new chapter in the history of education in the community. One of the key responsibilities of society is to pass on to the next generation the founding intentions and inherited educational traditions that have successfully bonded, nourished and sustained that community. The beginning of this new school is a significant moment of faithfulness to the past and openness to the creativity of a new significant moment for Skibbereen. The aim of the Joint Patrons of Skibbereen Community School is to carry forward the educational heritage and traditions of the amalgamating post-primary schools and their Patrons into the future with a renewed sense of service and relevance. In doing so it is their wish that the new school build on the Catholic traditions of Catherine McAuley, Jean-Baptiste De la salle, the Catholic Diocese of Cork and Ross and the inclusive ethos of Cork Education and Training Board (formerly the Co. Cork Vocational Education Committee), and, that these continue to be part of the school's reality. The combined traditions of compassion, inclusion and devoted service to the local community, taken together with an openness to the transcendent and faith development as appropriate, point to values that the Joint Patrons wish to have encapsulated faithfully into the characteristic spirit of the new Skibbereen Community School.

Skibbereen Community School has a vision of a school community where equality, harmony and friendship exist. It accepts and acknowledges that it is a community of diverse individuals. All in that school community work to ensure that everyone in the community may fulfil his/her purpose in life through exploring the wonders of learning.

In keeping with the terms of the school mission, Skibbereen Community School is an active partnership between the Joint Trustees Patrons, the Board of Management, Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and our local Community. Relationships within these partnerships are fostered, encouraged, empowered and enabled.

The stated aim of the Skibbereen Community School *is excellence in education within a safe, caring and happy environment as symbolised by the school crest "our school is a safe harbour for students from which the ebb and flow of life's journey begins. Such journeys have humble beginnings but finish with great opportunities on the horizon...*

The mission of the school is –

- To create an inclusive, safe, caring and happy environment open to the wonder of learning,

- To facilitate the personal, social, spiritual, intellectual, emotional and physical development of each student in reaching their full potential,
- To nurture the self-belief of each student,
- To develop the school as a community of learners, and
- To nurture active partnership between Parents/Guardians, Students, Staff and the wider community.

To achieve its mission Skibbereen Community School -

- Values the on-going input of all our partners in the life of our school,
- Aims to provide the best educational environment where effective teaching and learning can take place,
- Aims to manage this with firmness and fairness,
- Recognises the individuality of its students,
- Provides a broad curriculum, designed to meet their individual needs and to help them to maximise their potential,
- Assists and empowers students to have a healthy, wholesome and confident self-image and to develop positive relationships through our curriculum and our extra-curricular programme, and
- Endeavours to co-operate with parents and religious leaders of all denominations to encourage the development of religious, moral and spiritual values in each student.

Characteristic Spirit

The concept of characteristic spirit refers to the fundamental purpose of the Community School, its ultimate meaning and value system. It describes the core beliefs of the school community, its founding vision, mission and Deed of Trust, the basic spirit that will permeate the school. It encompasses collective attitudes, values, beliefs, traditions, aspirations and goals. It is a focus that assists all in the school community on their educational journey. It keeps them together, motivates all, defines notions of success and prevents members of that school community getting lost or distracted in the day to day work of the school.

Characteristic spirit is the very real touchstone by which the school will formally judge its orientation and its actions. It is often described as ‘the way we do things around here’. All students regardless of race, creed, belief, ethnicity or ability must be welcomed and be real Partners in this vibrant, exciting and new educational institution that is Skibbereen Community School.

The protection and promotion of the characteristic spirit and ethos of the school is a legitimate concern of the Joint Patrons. The Joint Patrons take cognizance of the Community School’s inherited traditions and values along with the founding intention of the school. The Board of Management of Skibbereen Community School is charged with the task of ensuring that the school upholds that characteristic spirit and ethos.

Principles underpinning the Characteristic Spirit of Skibbereen Community School:

In accordance with Section 8 (5) of the Education Act 1998, The Catholic Bishop of the Diocese of Cork and Ross, the Provincial of the Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy and the Chief Executive of the Cork Education and Training Board (formerly Co. Cork V.E.C.) are deemed to be the Joint Patrons of Skibbereen Community School.

The school is multi-denominational, recognising all Christian faiths, other non-Christian faiths and those with no faith and will operate in accordance with the Deed of Trust for Community Schools and with relevant legislation.

Skibbereen Community School is an active partnership between the Joint Patrons, Board of Management, Parents/ Guardians, Students, Staff and our local community. The school is committed to providing the best educational environment, where quality and excellence in teaching and learning can take place in an atmosphere of openness and inclusiveness for all.

Cognizant of the guiding heritage and traditions of the Joint Patrons, Skibbereen Community School will strive to be a living expression of a long and varied tradition of education that emphasises the dignity of the human person as understood by Christians, other religions and non-believers. The Christian tradition emphasises the dignity of the human person as a child of God. Parity of esteem is guaranteed to students of all other beliefs and none. All traditions will be reflected in the day to day operation of the school, and individual faiths will be nurtured.

The school will be an inclusive community of service to the common good where knowledge is sought and respected. It will serve the community by providing an education of the highest quality open to all eligible children of Skibbereen and surrounding areas.

This Community School will strive to be a model of freedom, justice and love in its administration, teaching and relationships between educators, learners, parents/guardians and community.

Combining instruction in academic and practical subjects, the school will aim to contribute to the full spiritual, moral, social, cultural, mental and physical well-being and development of its students.

Time for the teaching of religious education, as agreed and stated in the *“Deed of Trust and Model Lease for Community Schools”*, will be respected and accommodated within the educational programmes offered within the school.

The characteristic spirit of the school will be one of openness, welcome, inclusiveness, responsiveness and safety. It will be a place where students are cherished equally, regardless of ability, gender, creed, class or ethnic background. The school’s atmosphere and environment will be characterised by a spirit of honesty, appreciation, respect, tolerance, integrity, courtesy, responsibility, self-discipline, fairness and forgiveness.

The school will aim to nurture a spirit of intellectual inquiry and academic endeavour in the students. It will also encourage a sense of personal direction and purpose, a desire to use their gifts for the common good and the moral courage to make the world a better place.

The school will strive to respond sensitively to the individual educational and pastoral needs of the students. This will involve close collaboration between the school and the parents and guardians of each student.

The school will aim to work in collaboration and co-operation with the local community, with the school being a resource for the local community and the local community being a resource for the school.

The school is a caring and welcoming one which accepts that all are part of a community of diverse individuals.

The school is committed to the promotion of spiritual and human development. The school is a faith community of welcome and hospitality where values are lived and there is special care for those most in need.

The school fosters the promotion of good relationships, focusing on the growth and development of everyone in a unique way, in an atmosphere of firmness and fairness.

All in the school community seek to act justly and responsibly in their relationships with each other.

The school community respects always the unique and intrinsic value of every person.

The school is actively inclusive of newcomers, those with special needs, those from minority groups or ethnic backgrounds and those who may be socially or financially disadvantaged. The school will achieve this in a spirit of equality, harmony and friendship.

The school will endeavour to foster and facilitate adult and continuing education, in accordance with the needs of the local community.

The school, through its curricular and extra- curricular provision, aims to promote an awareness of those in need, both in the local community and globally.

The school through its cross-curricular provision, aims to promote an awareness of our fragile environment and the need to protect same.

The school promotes the partnership between home and school by encouraging Parents/Guardians to support fully their student's learning. The school also endeavours to encourage maximum communication between home and school through its Board of Management approved policies and procedures.

The school aims to cooperate fully with all relevant agencies to develop initiatives to overcome the problem of educational disadvantage.

The school promotes on-going personal and professional development among its staff.

Skibbereen Community School will endeavour to address, meet and deliver the educational needs of the local community.

Equality and Respect

All members of our school community are cherished equally, regardless of gender, marital status, family status, sexual orientation, age, disability, race or religion.

Students are encouraged to have respect for themselves, to recognise and nurture their own strengths and gifts. Each student is encouraged to acknowledge and accept their own individuality.

The school through its Code of Behaviour promotes a positive atmosphere of self – discipline.

The school promotes respect for others in a spirit of mutual acceptance, care and friendship, while recognising the rich diversity of the individuals who make up our school community.

The school Code of Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policy promote a safe and positive environment for all those in the school community. Both policies are promoted and adhered to in a spirit that is positive, firm and fair to all.

The school develops local policies that clearly clarify, articulate and communicate to all members of the school community, on how the school manages all aspects of activities within the school.

The School fosters positive relationships and good communication with the local community which will be mutually beneficial to all.

Skibbereen Community School endeavours to create a healthy respect and awareness among its students for the school environment, that of the surrounding community and the fragile universal environment.

Comprehensive Curriculum

- *Subject to the allocation and provision of adequate resources as provided for in the Education Act 1998)*
- Skibbereen Community School will endeavour to promote excellence in teaching and learning,
- The school aim to provide a comprehensive curriculum, available equally and equitably to all,
- The school aims to develop the whole person, through the provision of a wide and varied curriculum,
- The school aims to identify the individual needs of students, including those who are gifted and those with special educational needs. It will endeavour to tailor programmes and curriculum to cater for identified individual needs,
- The school promotes inclusivity through the curriculum for those assigned to special classes by integrating such students into mainstream in so far as possible and for their benefit,
- The school, through the provision of extra-curricular activities, aims to develop each individual's strengths and interests. The aim through this provision is to promote a sense of teamwork and cooperation.

Finally, the school through the provision for and outgoing support of extra-curricular activities across a wide spectrum of human endeavour that includes the sports and creative endeavours including the arts, aims to develop everyone's strengths and interests. The aim of this provision is to promote creativity and achieve as well as a sense of teamwork and cooperation.

The Joint Trustees/Patrons wish all associated with Skibbereen Community School success in their respective roles within the school, into the future.