

Admissions Policy

Burren Sonas are committed to operating an open and fair admission policy.

The purpose of this policy is to provide fair, transparent, and effective criteria for the admission of children to our kindergarten.

The policy is based on the principles of:

- Respect for parental & children's choice.
- Equality of access and participation in the service.
- Respect for diversity of traditions, values, beliefs, languages, and ways of life in society.

Admissions Policy:

Children must be at least 2 years 8 months by the 1st of September in the year they are due to commence Burren Sonas Kindergarten. For ECCE eligibility, please refer to childcare.ie/ecce-calculator (we operate on both the ECCE and NCS scheme). In exceptional circumstances, if the parent feels their child is showing signs of readiness, they may talk to the manager about admission before the age of 2 years and 8 months.

All children must be fully toilet trained before attending kindergarten and show signs of being ready to socialize.

Parents/Guardians seeking to secure a place for their child must complete an *Expression of Interest Form*, available on our website and submit this form via email to burrensonas@gmail.com during our admissions window. (Please read this form carefully)

Our admissions window runs from January the 10th – February the 10th and applies to students commencing kindergarten in September of **that year**.

A Selection Committee meets every March and successful applicants will be notified in April. A visitors' day will be available to families who have been offered a place. This will be an occasion for them to meet with the teachers, ask any questions, and take a look at the premises. It will also be a chance to familiarize themselves with the Steiner ethos.

Parents / guardians are given 10 days to accept the offer of a place at the kindergarten. We ask for €100 deposit upon acceptance of the place. (This money will be given back once the child starts in September).

We will then offer places to a second batch of families, according to any refusals. Please note that if you haven't heard from us by May of that year, that means your child unfortunately didn't get accepted for a September start date.

However, even if there are no vacancies, the child's name will be placed on a waiting list for the whole school year. When places become available, they are offered on a 'first come first served' basis and families are given 10 days to accept the offer.

Please note the waitlist is only active during that school year, so if your child is not allocated a place and you would like them to start in September of that following year, it is necessary to reapply in January of that year.

Inclusion Policy:

To allow us to best support the needs of your child, it is very important that parents/guardians disclose any health, behavioral or developmental needs on application. This information is purely for the teachers to best offer support and will not affect your admission.

Parents/Guardians should also familiarize themselves with the service's policies & procedures, and community obligations, and must agree to adhere to these when accepting a place.

Younger siblings of children who have attended Burren Sonas Kindergarten receive priority admittance.

This Policy is reviewed annual by the Manager and Board of Management.