

St. MacNissi's Primary School
Christine Road
Newtownabbey
BT36 6UE

Maintained Primary School

Enrolment Number: 210
Admissions Number: 30

Telephone No: (028) 9034 2166

Email: info@stmacnissisps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.saintmacnissis.com

PRINCIPAL: Mr P J McAuley

CHAIR OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Ms M Magill

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS

The Principal will consider the acceptance of each pupil to the school within the confines of the published criteria for admission, but any decisions will be subject to the ultimate approval of the Board of Governors. St. MacNissi's Primary School is one of the three primary schools in the Parish of St. Mary's on the Hill.

The following criteria have been published and will be implemented by the Principal and Board of Governors Admissions Panel.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on the application or provided directly to the school. Parents/Guardians should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application or provided directly to the first preference school. Examples of such information include whether the child has brothers/sisters attending the school or is the eldest child in the family.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 7 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 21 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 21 January 2026 and up to 4 pm on 26 January 2026 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 26 January 2026 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 23 March 2026.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

Any child who reaches their 4th Birthday on or before 1st July 2026 is of Compulsory School Age. Under the School Age (NI) Act which became law in Northern Ireland in April 2022, 'compulsory school age' also includes those children who deferred commencing Primary 1 in September 2025 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).

Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school before those who are not so resident.

Admissions criteria to be used in the event of the school being oversubscribed. The criteria are listed in order of priority.

The following criteria will be applied in order set down 1-5 by the Board of Governors of St. MacNissi's Primary School.

1. Children of school age who reside in the Parish of St. Mary's on the Hill. – **(Parish map available in the school office)**
2. Children of school age who have a sibling enrolled in the school.
3. Children of school age who are the eldest child of their family. Each family circumstance will be taken into consideration related to the eldest child – as defined in **DENI Guidance Circular Number 2025/13** Applicants who consider that this criterion applies to them (as the 'eldest' child of the family), must provide a verifying letter written on headed notepaper, and signed by one of the following, who is not a member of the child's family:-
 - Educational Professional / Pre School/ Nursery/Playgroup leader
 - Family doctor
 - Parish Priest/member of clergy known to the family.

4. Children of school age transferring from the St. MacNissi's Pre-School Class.
5. **Children of school age who live outside the Parish of St. Mary's on the Hill and for whom St. MacNissi's P.S. is the nearest Maintained School, using the driving distance calculator, as measured on Google maps.**

In the event of oversubscription children will be selected for admission on the basis of initial letter of surname (as entered on Birth Certificate) in the order set out below:

Mc E J M H N Q C Z Mac D W U X B O' A G F O P L I S K R Y V T

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the final selection will be on the basis of a child whose home is closer to the school **using the driving distance calculator, as measured from the school gate, on Google maps, to the child's home address**

DUTY TO VERIFY

Applicants should note that they may be required to provide documents verifying their address.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application. The provision of false or incorrect information or failure to provide information within the deadlines set by primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's application.

WAITING LIST POLICY

Should a vacancy arise after the 23 March 2026, all applications for admission to 2026-2027 that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided, will be treated equally and published criteria applied. The waiting list will be in place until June 2027. The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method. Upon receiving a completed application form (at any preference stage) your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list.

ADMISSION TO P2 –P7

The Principal will consider the acceptance of each pupil to the school within the confines of the published criteria for admission into classes P2 – P7, but any decisions will be subject to the ultimate approval of the Board of Governors.

1. The Pupil will be considered for enrolment provided the school will not exceed its enrolment number as determined by the Department of Education.
2. The pupil may be considered provided that this would not cause a class to exceed the Department of Education's class size policy.
3. The pupil will be accepted for enrolment provided, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, this would not prejudice the provision of efficient education in the school.

If over-subscribed on these criteria, children will be selected in line with the published admissions criteria for Primary 1.

APPLICATIONS & ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1

Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023/2024	19	19
2024/2025	25	25
*2025/2026	27	27

****The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 includes all P1 children admitted to the school including those who have a statement of special educational needs and/or may be attending SPiMS.***

