

Loreto College Cavan **Admissions Policy**

(For entry in September 2020)

1. Introduction:

The Board of Management of College, Cavan, Co. Cavan here sets out its Enrolment Policy in accordance with the provisions of the Education Act 1998, Section 15 2(d) and it trusts that, by doing so, parents will be assisted in relation to enrolment matters. The Principal, Ms. Angela McGarvey, will be happy to clarify any further matters arising from this policy.

The name of the school is Loreto College, Cavan, Co. Cavan. Contact may be made with the school in writing, by telephoning the school office at (049) 4332881, by faxing the school at (049) 4332597 or by emailing the school at office@loretocavan.ie

2. The School:

Loreto College Cavan in the County of Cavan is an all-girls voluntary second-level Catholic school in the Loreto tradition. The Loreto Education Trust is the Patron of the school under the terms of the Education Act, 1998. The Loreto Education Trust delegates the administration of the College to the Board of Management. The Board of Management and the Loreto Education Trust are committed to the successful implementation of education legislation, in particular the Education Act 1998, the Education (Welfare) Act 2000 and the Equal Status Act 2000. Loreto College Cavan subscribes to the underlying principles of the legislation: partnership, accountability, transparency, inclusion, respect for diversity, parental choice and equality. Loreto College Cavan follows the curricular programmes prescribed by the Department of Education and Skills, which may be amended from time to time in accordance with Sections 9 and 30 of the Education Act (1998). It operates within the regulations laid down by the DES, which may be amended from time to time. The school depends on the grants and resources provided by the DES and school policy in all areas must have regard to the resources and funding made available to us by the DES.

2. Ethos and Mission Statement:

Loreto College Cavan is an all-girls Catholic second-level school in the Loreto tradition. Mary Ward's core values of justice, freedom, sincerity, truth and joy are at the heart of school life.

Education in a Loreto school:

- Promotes Catholic values, attitudes and principles.
- Strives for the all-round development of the student.
- Affirms the personal worth and dignity of each student.
- Fosters awareness of the responsibility to work for peace, justice and unity in society.
- Endeavours to encourage excellence in all areas of the student's life in an atmosphere of interest, concern and friendship for each person.

Our **Mission Statement** outlines our educational philosophy in full:

As part of the family of Loreto schools and in cooperation with parents and the community, we are dedicated to Christian education.

We aim to provide a balanced education, academic, pastoral and physical for all students, affording space for reflection and for learning through experience.

We seek to promote self-esteem, self-discipline and the goal of self-fulfilment and to foster in our students the virtues of courage, sincerity and truth.

3. General Information:

3.1 Management:

Management of the school is under the Board of Management, which is appointed by the Loreto Education Trust and comprised of the following:

Loreto Trust Board:	4 nominees
Parents:	2 elected nominees
Teachers:	2 elected nominees

The Loreto Education Trust, appoints the Chairperson of the Board. The Principal is the Secretary to the Board of Management.

The Board of Management delegates to the Principal, Ms. Angela McGarvey and the Deputy Principals, Ms Laura Gilleece and Mr Stephen Sheridan the day-to-day administration of the school.

3.2 The School Programme

Every effort is made at Loreto College to offer students a broad and enriching educational experience. In addition to the usual Junior and Leaving Certificate Programmes, Loreto College Cavan has a Transition Year Programme and more recently has begun offering students the Leaving Certificate Vocational Programme. Other features of the school are the establishment of SPHE (Social, Personal and Health Education) (usually referred to in Loreto College as PC or Pastoral Care), particularly the RSE (Relationships and Sexuality Education) component and EAL (English as Another Language), the last mentioned to accommodate the increasing number of international students. The management and staff keep themselves informed of current educational developments for the benefit of the students. The school offers a comprehensive five-year Pastoral Care Programme, a Study Skills Programme and after-school supervised study sessions are organised for Junior and Leaving Certificate classes, as required. The school encourages all students to become involved in music, drama, debating, enterprise, cultural and linguistic activities. The school uses a large part of its spacious grounds for basketball and tennis courts. The students are involved in basketball, Gaelic football, camogie, athletics, tennis, horse riding, gymnastics and swimming. Among its excellent facilities the school features a Prayer Room, a Gym, three Science Laboratories, one Science Demonstration Room, two Art Rooms, three Home Economics Kitchens/Rooms, two Computer Rooms and a Concert Hall.

3.3 Staffing:

In the academic year 2019/2020, the school has a Principal, two Deputy Principals and 45 teachers. The staff includes a Careers Guidance Counsellors, three qualified Learning Support teachers, two PE teachers and a Pastoral Care Team for each year group in the school. A Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Housekeeper, contracted Cleaning Staff and contracted Canteen Staff complete the staffing complement of the school.

3.4 Representative Associations:

The Parents Association represents the parent body and meets regularly with the school Principal.

The Student Council represents the student body and meets weekly with a co-ordination teacher who act as advisors only.

4. Admissions Policy:

Loreto College Cavan has a capacity for an annual intake of a maximum of one hundred and forty (140) students to First Year each year, in 5 (five) class groups of a maximum of 28 (twenty-eight) students in each

Within the parameters of DES regulations and programmes, the rights of the Patron as set out in the Education Act 1998, the religious and educational philosophy of the Loreto Sisters and the funding, resources and places available, the Board of Management supports the principles of

- ◆ Inclusiveness
- ◆ Equality of access to and participation in the school
- ◆ Parental choice in relation to enrolment in the school
- ◆ Respect for the diversity of traditions, values, beliefs, languages and ways of life in Irish society.

Applications for admission to Loreto College Cavan are taken in Loreto College in Sept/October before the student wishes to be enrolled, that is, when the student is in 6th Class in Primary School.

**The enrolment date for a place in First Year in September 2020 is
Saturday 28th September 2019, from 9.30am until Noon.**

Please note that only complete Applications will be processed. Applications are considered complete only when all required documentation is supplied in full and on time.

Incomplete Applications will be treated as Late Applications (See Section 9 below).

The enrolment date is publicised on our school website at www.loretocavan.ie and by means of an advertisement in the Anglo Celt. A copy of this advertisement is sent to all our traditional feeder schools, with a request that it be displayed in a public area in the school and distributed to the girls in Sixth Class.

Under the “*Department of Education & Science Rules and Programme for Secondary Schools*”, secondary school students must be aged 12 years on the 1st January in the calendar year following the student’s entry into First Year and have completed Primary Education. The school will require an original birth certificate for applicants for places.

In the event that the number of applications for a place for admission exceeds the number of places available in the relevant year, the Board of Management will apply the following criteria in the allocation of places.

1. Sisters of present students and sisters of past students, (who sat the Leaving Certificate in Loreto College Cavan) including half, step and foster sisters where appropriate supporting documentation confirming the relevant relationship is supplied.
Category A

2. Daughters of the permanent staff of Loreto College Cavan (It should be noted that, at the time of **allocation of places**, the applicant for admission must have a parent who is on the permanent staff of Loreto College Cavan) - **Category B**
3. Daughters of past students (It should be noted that, at the time of **allocation of places**, the applicant for admission must have a mother who completed her Leaving Certificate as a registered student of Loreto College Cavan – see note) – **Category C**
4. All others - **Category D**

NOTE: A Loreto College Cavan registered past student, is a student who completed her Leaving Certificate as a registered student of Loreto College Cavan under normal circumstances and whose results are registered in the school.

5. Enrolment Procedures:

Everyone must follow the enrolment procedure outlined below:

- Applications for admission to the school must be made on the appropriate form, which is available on our school website at www.loretoavan.ie when the student is in 6th Class in Primary School.
 - The following information will be required when students are applying for admission to the school:
 - Student's name, address and date of birth and pps. No., county of birth. Original Birth Certificate must be presented or must follow by the following Wednesday.
 - Contact telephone number(s).
 - Psychological Assessment (If applicable- See Section 10 re SEN)
 - Certificate of Exemption in Irish.
 - Name(s) of sister(s) in the school at the time of application for admission, if any.
 - Names of sister(s) who are past pupils of the school, if any and date of year in which she (they) sat the Leaving Certificate as a registered student of Loreto College.
 - Any other relevant information.
- All applications for admission must be made on the Enrolment Day, when the student is in 6th Class in Primary School.
- On Enrolment Day the School Office will open from 9.30 am until Noon to take applications for admission to Loreto College in the following September. The school doors will close at Noon sharp and an application form from any person arriving after that time will be treated as a Late Application for admission.
- Applications received before Noon will be divided into the four categories, A, B, C and D as outlined above.
- Only one form per person will be accepted at any one time – except in the case of sisters.
- The Board of Management's decision on any application for admission is final.

6. Allocation of Places:

Places will be allocated within 21 days of enrolment.

Places will be allocated as follows:

1. Places will be allocated to applicants for admission from Category A above. Should the number of applicants for admission in Category A exceed 140, then a lottery to determine which of the applicants for admission under Category A will be offered a place, will apply. For details of how the lottery works, see below. On completion of the allocation of these Category A places, allocation of places under Category B will commence.
2. Having allocated places under Category A, places will be allocated to applicants for admission under Category B above. Should the number of applicants for admission in Category B, when added to the number of places already allocated under Category A, exceed 140 then a lottery to determine which of the applicants for admission under Category B will be offered a place, will apply. For details of how the lottery works, see below. On completion of the allocation of these Category B places, allocation of places under Category C will commence.
3. Having allocated places under Category A and Category B, places will be allocated to applicants for admission under Category C above. Should the number of applicants for admission in Category C, when added to the number of places already allocated under Category A and Category B, exceed 140, then a lottery to determine which of the applicants for admission under Category C will be offered a place, will apply. For details of how the lottery works, see below. On completion of the allocation of these Category C places, allocation of places under Category D will commence.
4. Having allocated places under Category A and Category B and Category C, places will be allocated to applicants for admission under Category D above. Should the number of applicants for admission for places in Category D, when added to the number of places already allocated under Category A and Category B and Category C exceed 140, then a lottery to determine which of the applicants for admission under Category D will be offered a place, will apply. For details of how the lottery works, see below.
5. Allocation of places will continue until a total of 140 places – said 140 places to be the total of all allocations under all four categories - have been allocated.
6. Having allocated 140 (one hundred and forty) places as set out above, all remaining applicants for admission, will be allocated a place on a Waiting List by means of a lottery. For details of how the lottery operates, see below.

7. Lottery:

The lottery will take place in Loreto College Cavan as soon as is practicable after enrolment day. The lottery will be overseen by the school Principal and will be witnessed by the Deputy Principals, the school Secretary, two representatives of the Board of Management and two representatives of the Parents' Association. The name of each student entitled to participate in the lottery for admission will be typed by the School Secretary on identical pieces of paper and placed in a drum. The school Principal will draw names from the drum, one by one, until the drum is empty. The school Secretary will record the outcome of the draw. Places will be offered in the order in which names were drawn from the drum until available places are filled. The remaining names will be placed on a Waiting List in the order in which the names were drawn from the drum. Late applications for admission (see 5 above) will be placed at the end of the Waiting List in date order of receipt (see 9 below).

In the case of one or more siblings applying for admission to 1st Year in Loreto College at the same time, the name of each sibling will be typed on a separate piece of paper. If the name of any of the siblings is drawn, places will be offered to all the siblings.

Please note that all parents will be communicated with at the same time and in the same manner regarding the outcome of the First Year enrolment process.

8. Acceptance of Places:

Applicants for admission will be notified in writing within three weeks of the last Saturday in September of the year before the year in which the student wishes to be enrolled in Loreto College that

- They have been offered a place in Loreto College *OR*
- Their name has been placed on a Waiting List for a place in Loreto College.

Applicants will be informed of their numeric place on the Waiting List.

The offer of a place must be accepted within two weeks of the date on the letter from the school offering the place.

It is the responsibility of parent(s)/guardian(s) to contact the school office if they change address or if they have not received a letter from the school within three weeks of the day for enrolling for admission, informing them of their place on the Waiting List or informing them of an offer of a place in Loreto College, Cavan. Applicants for admission who do not accept the offer of a place by the date specified in the letter offering the place, will forfeit the place, which will then be offered to the applicant at the top of the Waiting List.

Postal or other delays or telephone problems will not be accepted as an excuse for failure to meet the deadline of accepting the offer of a place within two weeks from the date on the letter from the school offering the place.

9. Late Applications for Admission:

All applications for admission received after the school doors are closed at 12.00pm on the Enrolment Day of the year before the calendar year in which the student wishes to be enrolled in Loreto College Cavan will be deemed to be Late Applications for admission.

Late Applications for admission will be processed only after all applications for admission received on time are fully processed.

Late applicants for admission will be assigned a place on the Waiting List, after the last place assigned under *Allocation of Places 6* above, in order of date and, if necessary, time of receipt of application by the School Office.

Late Applications for admission are processed in date order of receipt.

10. Students with Special Educational Needs:

The Board of Management is conscious of its obligations under the Equal Status Act 2000. Applications for admission from students with special educational needs are welcome, provided the school can meet those needs adequately, subject to the limitations imposed by DES funding and resources. Applications for admission from students with special educational needs must be accompanied by an appropriate psychological assessment. This assessment is carefully reviewed by the school's Special Needs Teacher(s), in consultation with the SENO. A decision will be made if the school is in a position to meet these needs. The school has a Special Needs Policy in place that outlines fully our policy in this regard. This policy is available from the school office on request. Applications for admission from students with special educational needs are processed in the usual manner outlined above, subject to the details outlined in this paragraph.

The school reserves the right to refuse enrolment to any student in exceptional cases. Such an exceptional case could include where the student has such special needs that even with additional resources available from the Department of Education and Skills, the school cannot meet such needs and/or provide the student with an appropriate education.

11. Code of Behaviour:

Loreto College Cavan has a detailed Code of Behaviour outlined on www.loreto-cavan.ie and is also available on request. It outlines the system of rewards and sanctions the school operates to promote a climate which facilitates the teaching and learning that is at the heart of the school's educational mission. It also outlines the procedures the school follows up to and including expulsion. It further outlines the Appeals Procedure available to parents/guardians who may wish to use it.

Prospective students and their parents/guardians should familiarise themselves with the school's Code of Behaviour, which they are required to accept in writing when they sign the Declaration of Acceptance of the B.o.M. Terms and Conditions. They are further expected to support the school in its enforcement.

12. Appeals Procedure:

1. An appeal must be made in writing to the Board of Management within 1 days of the date on the letter refusing a place.
2. Following deliberation by the Board of Management, a decision will be made and notification of the decision will be communicated in writing within a further 21 days.

13. Appeals:

In accordance with section 29 of the Education Act 1998, parents of applicants who are not enrolled in the school may appeal the decision to the Board of Management in the first instance and subsequently, if necessary, to the Department of Education and Skills.

The Board of Management's decision in relation to the Admission Policy is final, subject only to the right of appeal under Section 29 of the Education Act, 1998. Parent(s)/Guardian(s), whose daughter has not received a place in the school, have the right to appeal to the Secretary General of the Department of Education and Skills under Section 29 of the Education Act. In general, such appeals must be made within 42 days of receipt of the Board of Management's decision.

14. Transfer of Students from Other Post-Primary Schools:

The Board of Management will consider applications from parents / guardians of students wishing to transfer to Loreto College Cavan from another post-primary school. Such applications must be made on the Loreto College Cavan "Application Form – 2nd – 6th years" which is available on our website at www.loreto-cavan.ie. The application for admission to Loreto College Cavan will be processed and subject to the availability of a vacancy in an appropriate group/class/year.

Parents / Guardians who request a place for their daughter will be asked to attend for interview with their daughter before the Principal makes a decision on the application. Students may transfer from another post-primary school subject to the following;

1. That space is available in the school, in particular with specialist subjects where the capacity is limited.
2. That the school authorities are satisfied that the reasons for the transfer are in the best interests of the student
3. The possible problems and disruptions of studies when moving into an established class and Year group will be considered. The situation may arise where a student may have to take up or discontinue a subject.
4. The school authorities are provided with all relevant information from the former school.
5. The transferring student fulfills all conditions set out by the Department of Education and Skills.

6. Parents / Guardians and the transferring student must accept the Code of Behaviour and Rules of the School, thereby agreeing to accept and uphold them. A student will not be accepted where she has a track record of poor behavior.

If the school considers that the student may have special educational needs, then an appropriate psychological assessment must be provided to the school and the enrolment application will be considered in the light of that assessment and subject to the details outlined in this paragraph.

15. Deferral of Place in Loreto College:

The Board of Management will consider applications to defer acceptance of a place offered in Loreto College for one year, for sound educational, family or personal reasons, provided such application is supported by relevant documentation and received before 1st January of the year in which the student is due to commence her second-level education in Loreto College.

The place that had been allocated to the students who is deferring for one year will be allocated to the student at the top of the Waiting List.

The following year, any such deferred places will be allocated from the school's quota of 140 (one hundred and forty) places, before the allocation of places as outlined at 6 above commences. The final decision with regard to the enrolment of students in Loreto College Cavan and with regard to all matters covered by this Admissions Policy lies with the Board of Management.

16. Repeat of Leaving Certificate:

The Board of Management will consider applications from students wishing to repeat Leaving Certificate, Year Two. Preference will be given to students who are past pupils of Loreto College Cavan. The following criteria must be satisfied:

1. The Department of Education and Skill's requirements (Circular M 02 / 95) must be fulfilled and a suitable vacancy must exist in the school.
2. Applicants must accept that not all current subject combinations may suit repeat students i.e. that they may not be able to take all subjects of their choice if the timetable or class numbers do not permit.
3. Repeat students will be timetabled for 28 hours / week and must attend all classes and activities scheduled for them including P.E., Religion, S.P.H.E. Careers Guidance
4. Repeat students will have settled all outstanding accounts with the school

The Board of Management will review this Admissions Policy each June / July.

Approved on 24th June 2019