



ADMISSION POLICY BUNSCOILL GHAELGAGH

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh is maintained by the Isle of Man Department of Education, Sport and Culture. The school is situated in St Johns and has an all island catchment area. It is open to all children of an appropriate age and a full range of subjects are taught to children from Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS, children aged 4 by September of that year) to Year 6.

Purpose

This policy outlines the principles, criteria, and procedures for admitting pupils to Bunscoill Ghaelgagh. Our goal is to promote the use and development of the Manx language by ensuring that pupils can access a high-quality, immersive language environment from an early stage. This policy is designed to reflect the requirements of the Isle of Man Education Act 2001 and the Equality Act 2017, ensuring fair and transparent admissions while also promoting the specific ethos of our school.

In addition, it seeks to:-

- Reflect the unique linguistic circumstances of Bunscoill Ghaelgagh.
- Provide clear and fair guidance to staff, parents and legal guardians;
- Provide mechanisms for dealing with fluctuating intakes and changing circumstances as school develops;

Admission to Primary School:

There is one intake per year, at the beginning of the Autumn Term. Registration is required prior to a child's entry to school, and registration forms should be completed and submitted to the school no later than the end of January of the year prior to the child starting school (often termed the Pre-school Year).

Admission Guidelines

- Bunscoill Ghaelgagh is open to all children of appropriate age (Primary school age) living in the Isle of Man. Entry is not limited to a catchment area but is Island-wide. For the school year commencing September 2025, the schools indicative maximum number of pupils is calculated at 60 pupils.

- Parents should enrol their child by no later than the academic year before the September that their child is due to start Reception Year and fill in the initial enquiry form giving required details of the child.
- It is advantageous that any child wishing to attend the Bunscoil Ghaelgagh, has attended a Manx speaking playgroup or similar, giving them a grounding in an immersion type setting before attending the school.
- Given the nature of the language provision, it is advantageous if pupils first enter the school at the beginning of the EYFS. Initial entry into an older age group (Year 2 and above) will present significant difficulties for the child unless they already have reasonable competency and confidence in spoken Manx or related Gaelic language.

Admissions to the school will be determined by the Headteacher and Governing Body. If capacity is reached then the following criteria listed will be considered and, where there are more applications than the number of places available, the following set of criteria will be applied:

- Children who have attended a Mooinjer Veggey nursery or have been brought up at home in a Manx speaking environment
- Looked after children and previously looked after children
- Children on the waiting list
- Children with siblings currently at school or who have left school in the last 2 years

Notes:

- A. SIBLING RULE As per IOM DESC's Policy and Guidance on Admission to Primary Schools is, *younger siblings may attend the same school as an older brother or sister (even if it is not the 'natural' school associated with their parents' place of permanent residence) as long as the older child is still attending that school on the day that the younger child starts his or her attendance.*
- B. A waiting list for children who have not been successful in securing a place will be kept. The waiting list will be retained until at least the end of December of the relevant year of the admissions process. Parents will be informed if they have a place by the February of the admission year.

There may be a number of other circumstances limiting the numbers involved in each new intake. These may vary from year to year. The following factors will be taken into consideration before a child is accepted onto the register:

- The availability of functional classroom space.
- The availability of suitably qualified, Manx-speaking staff.

The maintenance of pupil numbers at a level favourable to the oral acquisition, transmission and practice of the Manx language.

Please note this number may be less than at other similar sized schools due to the unique linguistic circumstances of Bunscoill Ghaelgagh.

Further Guidelines

- Parents / legal guardians of potential new entrants are firstly required to complete an Initial Enquiry Form with the purpose of confirming their interest in a place for their child.
- When the maximum number for each new intake is deemed complete for a particular year, then parents who still wish for their children to attend may request that the child's name be put on a waiting list on the understanding that there is no guarantee of a place becoming available.
- Letters will be sent in January to ascertain whether interest remains and there is a time frame given to confirm continued interest. It will be assumed that any families not replying within that time frame are withdrawing their interest and their place may be offered to a child on the waiting list.
- Unanticipated changes of circumstances such as staffing developments or building premises related issues could be grounds for revising the numbers of new entrants. Such circumstances will be dealt with as they arise and parents will be advised of any change in policy as soon as possible. The admissions policy will also be updated annually to reflect the changes.

Acceptance

On acceptance to the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh, parents/legal guardians would be asked to complete the Data Profile Form which is processed by the school. Original birth certificates will be requested by the Head teacher or delegate to enable verification of identity, legal name and date of birth of prospective pupils.

Maximum numbers

Decisions about the maximum number of children to be admitted for a particular year will normally be made during the autumn term prior to the September the new entrant would join. The decision will be made by the Governing Body informed by DESC policies and guidance. The number will be reviewed annually and is dependent on the factors stated in the policy above.

Please note this number may be less than at other similar sized schools due to the unique linguistic circumstances of the Bunscoill Ghaelgagh.

The maximum number described for the 2024/25 academic year is 60 pupils

Equality

Bunscoill Ghaelgagh is committed to promoting equality and inclusion. The school will ensure that all admissions decisions comply with the Isle of Man Education Act 2001 and the Equality Act 2017. All children, including those with additional educational needs or disabilities, will be treated fairly, with appropriate reasonable adjustments made wherever possible.

Responsibilities

Head teacher and Governing Body

- Ensure that the policy is in place, is being adhered to and is effectively achieving its policy aims. It will be regularly updated and published on the School's website.
- Ensure parents are aware of the Admission Policy

Parents and Legal Guardians

- Should provide accurate information to the school to enable it to make informed decisions about the enrolment of their children
- Keep school informed of any decisions made to withdraw their child as soon as they can

Headteacher - signature:

J MATTHEWS

Date: September 2024

Next review due:

September 2025