**Meán Scoil Nua an Leith-Triúigh**

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| Caisléan Ghriaire, Co. Chiarraí.  Teileafón: 066 7139746  Fax: 066 7139743 |  |
| Príomhoide: Aodán Mac Gearailt | |

Special Educational Needs Policy:

Méan Scoil Nua an Leith Triúigh is committed to integrating students with S.E.N (Special Educational Needs) into mainstream classes. It is our aim to enable every student to live a full life and to realise his/her full potential as a unique individual through access to an appropriate broad and balanced curriculum.

Additional assistance is provided for SEN students through Team Teaching and the withdrawal of students from agreed timetabled classes. Withdrawal is from non-examinational subjects as much as possible. The additional support hours are allocated to the school from the D.E.S. on application by the school and parents. Each school is given an overall allocation of hours and it is the school’s responsibility to use these hours as effectively as possible. To maximise the effectiveness of the limited number of resource hours we receive each year we are committed to ‘Team Teaching’ and withdrawal of students in pairs or small groups (no larger than 5) so that students who require additional support will receive it.

Parents/Guardians of S.E.N. students will be requested to provide a copy of their son/daughter’s reports from primary school - educational, medical and psychological reports. If the student has not been assessed, written consent of the parents for their son/daughter to undergo a psychological assessment will be required. The student’s primary school principal will also be contacted to discuss and clarify any issue(s).

Up-to-date psychological reports (no older than 2 years) are also required in order to access additional support in the Junior or Leaving Cert through what is referred to as ‘a reasonable accommodation’. This ‘reasonable accommodation’ may provide a student with access to a Reader or Scribe, to be granted a waiver in grammar and spelling or assistance due to a visual or hearing difficulty. It is the responsibility of both the school and the parents to ensure that no student is at a disadvantage entering a state exam due to a specific educational need which is out of the student’s control.

The Board of Management of Méan Scoil Nua an Leith Triúigh maintains an admissions policy that provides access to our school for students with special educational needs. However, we do require parental support in all instances and we often require parents to speak to both senior management and staff about their child’s needs and how we can best support these needs.

It is our duty to state that Section 29 of the Education Act (1998) provides for an appeals process, by which parents may appeal to the Secretary General of the D.E.S in relation to a decision by the school to permanently exclude, to suspend or to refuse to enrol a student.

Teachers providing the S.E.N. assistance will collaborate and prepare an Individual Education Plan following discussion with parents, relevant primary school teachers, the Principal Aodán Mac Gearailt and all staff members who observe and monitor behaviour and work on a daily basis.

Formal and informal meetings in the artea of S.E.N are held by staff on a regular basis and teacher training in the area of S.E.N is organised by school management. Mr. Iain Laurenson is the Special Educational Needs co-ordinator in our school and has successfully completed his Special Educational Needs Diploma from UCC in 2013. Mr. Laurenson works closely with staff and management to ensure that the needs of all SEN students are met whether academic, social or otherwise.

Méan Scoil Nua an Leith Triúigh is committed to implementing the legislation relating to the education of students with special educational needs. The legislation includes the Education Act (1998), The Equal Status Act (2000), Equality Act (2004), The Education Welfare Act (2000), the Education of Persons with Special Educational Needs Act (2004) and the Data Protection Acts (1988 & 2003). These acts ensure equality of rights and equity of provision for students with special educational needs.