



Loreto Secondary School

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Admissions Policy Frequently Asked Questions

Q. 1 *Is there a priority system for offering places when the school is oversubscribed?*

Ans. 1: Yes. The first three priority categories relate to sisters of students, pupils from St Patrick's Loreto Primary school and daughters of staff. For the three years, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 there is a fourth category, namely, people on existing waiting lists. From 2025/2026 onwards there are currently no waiting lists.

Q. 2 *How are waiting lists drawn up?*

Ans. 2: All current and future waiting lists are and will be based on a random supervised lottery process.

Q. 3 *Are there waiting lists already in existence?*

Ans. 3: Yes. In June 2016 supervised lotteries were held to compile waiting lists for the three years, 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. There are no waiting lists for 2025/2026 or the following years.

Q. 4 *If my daughter's name is not on the existing waiting lists and if I have no connection with Loreto Bray, that is, I am in an "open" category, will I have a chance of getting a place for my daughter?*

Ans. 4: Yes. You should still apply when the Application Forms become available in the October your daughter is in Sixth Class. If you don't get a place in the first round of offers you will go on the waiting list. The waiting list is valid for the whole academic year.

Q. 5 *How many places are offered in First Year?*

Ans. 5: The Board of Management usually offers 150 places in First Year each year.

Q.6 *How many places are usually offered to people with no connection to Loreto Bray, i.e., are in the “open” category?*

Ans. 6: This figure varies from year to year, depending on the numbers of sisters, Sixth Class pupils in St Patrick’s Loreto Primary school and daughters of staff. The number of “open” places can be as high as 60 or as low as 40.

Q.7 *In the “open” category, is a preference given to students from the Bray area?*

Ans. 7: No. As the only all-girls school in North Wicklow applications are accepted from all areas irrespective of the home address.

Q.8 *If the school is oversubscribed, how does the random lottery process work to draw up waiting lists?*

Ans. 8: The lottery process will be supervised by the Principal or Deputy Principal, witnessed by a nominee of the Board of Management and a member of the Parents’ Association and overseen by an independent observer such as a member of An Garda Síochána or a Commissioner of Oaths or a Peace Commissioner. The names of the students will be placed in a drum/box and the Principal or Deputy Principal will draw the names from the drum/box, one by one, until the drum/box is empty. The order in which the names are drawn from the drum/box will be recorded on a numbered waiting list for First Year places.

Q.9 *If I don’t get a place, can I appeal?*

Ans. 9: Yes, initially to the Board of Management and subsequently, if necessary, to the Department of Education and Skills, under Section 29 of the Education Act (1998). The Appeals Application Form can be downloaded from the website: www.education.ie or obtained from the school office.

Q.10 *When can I get an application form for 2022/23?*

Ans. 10: The school will publish its Admission Notice for 2022/2023 on 27th September 2021. Application Forms will be available from that date but cannot be accepted by the school until 1st October 2021. The closing date for receipt of completed application forms will be 4 p.m. on 22nd October 2021.

Q.11 *If I return my Application Form before others, do I increase my chance of getting a place for my daughter?*

Ans. 11: No. As long as the Application Form is returned before 4 p.m. on 22nd October 2021, it will be treated the same as all others in its category.

Q.12 *How soon will I know if my daughter has a place or her position on the waiting list?*

Ans. 12: The school will inform all applicants in writing by Friday 12th November 2021 of the outcome of their application. If an applicant is not offered a place in the first round they will be informed of their position on the Waiting List.

Q.13 *How do I get further information if I need it?*

Ans. 13: There is a lot of information on the school website: www.loretobray.com and you can email the school at: info@loretobray.com or you can telephone the school office at: 01-2867481

This document is only a summary guide. Parents/guardians should refer to the full Admissions Policy on www.loretobray.com