

## ENROLMENTS AND ENROLMENT SCHEMES

### INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Here are answers to questions which parents sometimes ask when they need to enrol their child at a school. If you want more detailed information, contact staff at one of the Ministry of Education offices listed on the last page of this pamphlet. Staff there will be able to help you.

#### **What rights does my child have regarding enrolment at school?**

All children have the right to be enrolled at a State school between their fifth birthday and the first of January following their nineteenth birthday.

#### **Why then do some schools have enrolment schemes?**

An enrolment scheme is a means of limiting the roll to prevent overcrowding at the school and enabling local students to enrol. The Ministry of Education is also able to make best use of the current accommodation at schools in the surrounding area.

#### **What does the legislation have to say about enrolment schemes?**

Schemes should:

- as far as possible exclude no more students than necessary to avoid overcrowding;
- enable the Ministry to make best use of the existing networks of State schools;
- ensure that the selection of applicants for enrolment at the school is carried out in a fair and transparent manner;
- enable students to attend a reasonably convenient school;
- as far as possible, not exclude local students.

#### **What is this that I hear about zoning?**

Each enrolment scheme must contain a home zone with clearly defined boundaries. Students who live within the home zone have an absolute right to enrol at the school.

#### **What if I live outside the home zone?**

A school with an enrolment scheme may have the capacity to take students from outside their home zone.

In this case the school is required to advertise the availability of places and the application process including dates.

'Out of zone' students may then apply for enrolment, if there are more applicants than places available a ballot will be held.

Applications for enrolment will be balloted in the following order of priority:

- (a) students accepted for enrolment in a special programme run by the school;
- (b) brothers and sisters of current students
- (c) brothers and sisters of former students
- (d) children of a former students of the school
- (e) children of board employees and board members children
- (f) all other students.