

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Introduction

Primary school OBS de Rietpluim is part of the PlatOO foundation and stands for publicly and generally accessible education. So, in principle every pupil that can follow primary education is welcome. The general accessibility of education does not mean that the school cannot ever refuse an application for a child. In art. 40 of the Primary Education Act (WPO) it states that the decision about the admission and removal rests with the competent authority that has mandated the school director. Situations could occur in which it would be impossible for OBS de Rietpluim to place all the pupils who applied for a place and in such cases the school initiates the 'regulations of admission, suspension and expulsion'.

The Rietpluim stands for offering good quality education for all pupils. We offer this quality in a clearly set out school organisation suitable for our school building. The Rietpluim is a public primary school; every child and his/her parents are welcome. We attach two conditions to this: there has to be enough physical space in the school to be able to accommodate the pupils and the education that we offer must meet your child's educational needs. In other words: the number of pupils at group level and school level must not result in a drop in quality of the education offered.

In addition to the school's vision, the school building also forms a limitation. The building has 17 house spaces, that can accommodate a predetermined maximum group size.

The present school specific applications policy for De Rietpluim has the objective of providing good education to all pupils and future pupils at the school. This has necessitated the drawing up of a policy that in some cases limits the freedom of choice for parents.

Key figures

The majority of our new pupils are toddlers, who are at the start of their school careers. Another part comprises pupils who, as a result of moving house, have chosen our school and finally there is a group that make the switch from a different primary school in Nuenen to our school as a result of other reasons.

The admissions policy focuses on the number of pupils that can be admitted for each grade. The limitations for a grade are determined for each calendar year (1 January until 31 December). Within each grade the norm is set at a maximum of 60 pupils. In addition, a maximum of 20 pupils per group is set as the second norm. As a result, this system has two parallel groups in each grade and a maximum of 30 pupils in each class, offering places to a maximum of 60 pupils in each grade.

As a school we have no ambition to grow beyond the accommodation of 17 groups. Municipal prognoses underpin that this is a realistic number of pupils for the coming years. This size ensures a sound financial basis and as such offers various possibilities for the organisation of the school and matters derived from this (including intrinsic educational development, personnel policy, policy with regard to accommodation/property).

The Rietpluim underwent a major refurbishment/rebuilding in 2018. As a consequence of this rebuild we have 17 group classes/ house spaces available. In addition, there are learning environments and several other spaces where pupils can work. The rooms vary in size from 54 m² for the middle and senior section and 56 m² for the junior section. We employ the norm that per pupil there must be a minimum of 2 m² and for teachers a minimum of 1 m² available. Based on this norm we have set maximum norms for each group and for each grade.

	grade total	for each group
Junior section gr. 1-2 + gr. 3	56	28
Middle section gr. 4, gr. 5, gr. 6	54	27
Senior section gr. 7- gr. 8	54	27

Admission and the relationship between admission and the academic support profile

The Rietpluim academic support profile states what is covered by our basic support. Within this basic support we can easily meet the educational needs of all our pupils. However, some pupils have more specific educational requirements, that can lead to an increasing burden of care for the group. To be able to continue to guarantee that we meet the educational needs of all our pupils we lay a link between the burden of care for a group and the maximum number of pupils. In other words, as Rietpluim we do not just look at the maximum number of pupils, we also look at the support requirement for the pupil and the support requirement for the group as a whole.

Transfers

In relation to our academic support profile we assess transfers (pupils that transfer from another school) critically. In the case of transfers, we make an explicit distinction between two groups:

1. Pupils who, as a consequence of moving house, come to live in Nuenen;
2. Pupils elsewhere at a school in Nuenen who would like to transfer.

For group 1 (movers) the following applies:

- Up to and including 60 pupils for each grade (30 pupils for each group) will be admitted, PROVIDING they comply with the criteria as set out in our academic support profile.

For group 2 (transfers) the following applies:

- Up to and including 56 pupils for each grade (28 pupils for each group) in the junior section and up to and including 54 pupils for each grade (27 pupils for each group) in the middle/senior section, pupils are admitted who wish to transfer from another school in Nuenen, PROVIDING we can meet the specific educational requirement AND the support requirement of the group as a whole is not endangered due to the transfer.

Inflow of preschool pupils

In principle we admit all children when they reach the age of 4. However, setting this standard can mean that children that are admitted to De Rietpluim, cannot start immediately when they turn 4. This in connection with a physical lack of places in the nursery classes. These pupils can

only start in the new school year. This is discussed as a possibility with the parents during the admission of future pupils. As soon as there is clarity about the actual start date this is communicated without delay.

Exceptions

It can occur that, with good reason, the previously mentioned criteria are deviated from. An example is a relocation and registration of multiple children from a single family. In this and other such cases the decision lies with the school management.

Adoption of the admissions policy

The admissions policy for OBS de Rietpluim has been drawn up by school management and submitted to the participation council for advice. The participation council for OBS de Rietpluim has issued a positive statement with regard to this admissions policy.

The PlatOO executive board has given its approval with regard to a verification of its applicability in law.

Each year this admissions policy is evaluated by the school management and the participation council and amended if required.

APPENDIX

OBS de Rietpluim employs the 'regulations of admission, suspension and expulsion' from PlatOO, as adopted on date XX in cases in which pupils who applied cannot be placed. These describe that refusal of a request for admission can be based on the following grounds:

1. Refusal of a request for admission can be based on the following grounds:
 - a. lack of space in the school or group to which admission is requested;
 - b. the primary school cannot offer the care required (these grounds do not apply to special-needs primary education);
 - c. a (danger of) serious disruption of the peace and order.

2. Refusal based on a lack of space (article 4 (1a)) can only be upheld if the school exceeds the guideline as described in the Dutch Building Decree (WBO) of 3.5 m² per pupil with regard to the total floorspace and in addition there is no possibility of more accommodation through the creation of extra classrooms.

3. In addition to this regulation, PlatOO, to which article 4(2) is applicable, has drafted a school-specific admission policy in consultation with the school's participation council, in which the maximum number of pupils for each group classroom, the procedure for waiting lists and the order of admission has been set out. Parents / carers are informed of this policy when they register their child. The policy is also included in the school guide or a reference is made to it in the school guide.

4. Refusal based on the primary school being unable to provide the necessary care (article 4 (1b)) can take place if:
 - a. the school has evidence to suggest that the child belongs in special-needs (primary) education;
 - b. an eligibility statement has been issued by the interinstitutional grouping, due to which the child can be admitted to a school for special-needs primary education and the parents do not want this;
 - c. the support that must be offered to the pupil is beyond the capacities of the school, as described in the academic support profile;
 - d. the admission of the pupil concerned will disrupt the progress of education at the school to such a degree that it will no longer be possible to offer the pupils already admitted to the school the care that they require.

5. Refusal on the basis of a threat of serious disruption of the peace and order (article 4 (1c)) can take place if the parents indicate in advance that they will not observe the rules for behaviour as stated in the school guide. In addition, the reason for removal of a pupil from another school can be a reason for refusal if there are indications to suggest that a pupil will not observe the rules for behaviour, as set out in the school guide, and the school cannot provide the accommodation and care for the pupil concerned.

2. How does the process of registration take place?

PlatOO schools are, in principle, open for all pupils to register. PlatOO schools make every effort to place as many pupils that have been registered as is possible

The parents register the pupil through completing and signing the Rietpluim registration form. If you have registered your child through completing the registration form, this does not mean that your child will automatically be granted a place (see 'school specific application policy OBS de Rietpluim').

The manner in which the registration procedure takes place is described in the school support plan page. XXX.