

Getting Extra Help in School – Information for Parents



English Version

Schools are responsible to ensure that all students learn according to their individual potential through a wide range of supports in school.

Class teachers and subject teachers are responsible for the teaching, learning and wellbeing of all students in their classes. Most students who have learning needs and or care needs can be supported by their class teacher or subject teacher.

Some students may require extra supports to participate and engage in school. Extra support is provided for these students who may have complex learning needs and/or additional care needs. The special education needs (SEN) team or special education teacher (SET) work together with your child's class teacher or subject teacher to plan for and support more significant and complex needs.





All schools have expertise in supporting their students, including students with special educational needs. With your help, the school will identify your child's learning and care needs. Teachers gather information from assessments they do in school. They will talk to you when planning supports to help your child in school. If your child is getting support from a professional, teachers may speak to them with your permission.

Teachers are experienced in making decisions about the support your child requires. They plan this support by ensuring that students with the greatest level of need receive the greatest level of support. This may include whole-school approaches, peer-support, in-class interventions, special education teaching and/or assistive technology.

Children who have additional care needs may require some special needs assistant (SNA) support also. The role of a SNA is to support students with additional care needs, such as significant physical or medical needs. SNAs do not have a teaching role.

There is no longer a requirement for your child to have a diagnosed disability to get the extra help of the special educational teacher and/or SNA in school. A diagnosis of a disability is required for other school supports, such as assistive technology.

If your child has special educational needs, the teacher will develop a student support plan to meet your child's learning needs and/or care needs. It is important that you, and your child if appropriate, contribute to the development of this plan. Learning targets and/or additional care needs targets will be agreed with you. The targets will be monitored and reviewed regularly to make sure the plan is working.



If you would like to discuss your child's support plan and the type of support provided to your son or daughter, you should arrange to meet with the class teacher and/or special educational teacher.

The level of Special Education Teaching support and SNA supports in every school is available on the NCSE website.

For more information and for useful contacts, go to this website: <https://ncse.ie/>





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