



Support Teaching in Our School

In Holywell ETNS our priority that every child should feel welcome and supported in school. Support teaching is one part of how we do this. Support teaching might look like a second or third teacher supporting in class, or a teacher taking a small group of children, or one child, for additional support outside of class. This support can be for academic reasons, support in learning English or for social, emotional or behavioural support. Over their 8 years with us in Holywell ETNS, all children will receive some level of support.

Here are some of the key points from the Department of Education and Youth Guidelines on support teaching in schools.

The Department use the term 'Special Education Teacher'. We don't use the term special in our school. We use 'support teacher'.

★ Support for all

Your child's class teacher is their main source of support. If more help is needed, a support teacher may provide in class, small group or one-to-one teaching.

📄 No diagnosis needed

Children don't need a formal diagnosis to get support. Support is allocated based on need. Sharing professional reports with the school is helpful, but equally, a diagnosis does not automatically mean extra support. Teaching time is limited and is allocated carefully.

🔄 Flexible support

Schools use a step-by-step system, the Continuum of Support, to assess the level of the support different children will get. If you have concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher.

🗣️ Resources

All schools receive support teaching resources, but these are limited. We can't provide support to every child who may need it at all times. Instead, we use a flexible model, often working in blocks of intervention to make the best use of resources. Our support staff use their professional judgement to decide who receives support and when.

📋 Student Support Plan

If your child is receiving extra support, teachers, parents, ANAs (if relevant), and the child will work together on a plan. This plan sets goals and is reviewed regularly. We meet in October and February to discuss it, and teachers will contact parents shortly to arrange those meetings. Your input is invaluable.

Our support team is lead by Cathal Manning, Deputy Principal and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator.

If you have any questions about how support works, please email Cathal at cathal@holywelletns.ie.

There are more details and parent guides at www.ncse.ie