



NCSE Special Classes in Mainstream Schools



DSI Report
October 21st 2024

Introduction

The NCSE publish the list of Special Classes in Mainstream Schools, Primary & Post Primary. This list may be updated over the course of the school year as new classes are established.

This report is an overview of the Special Classes (by County) in Mainstream Primary and Post Primary Schools for the 2024-2025 School Year. The figures contained in the report were obtained from the NCSE on September 11th, 2024.

Overview of Class Types

- Autism / Autistic Spectrum
- ASD Early Intervention
- Mild General Learning Disability
- Moderate General Learning Disability
- Severe / Profound General Learning Disability
- Specific Speech & Language
- Hearing Impairment
- Early Intervention Hearing Impairment
- Visual Impairment
- Multiple Disabilities
- Specific Learning Disability
- Emotional & Behavioural
- Emotional Disturbance
- Other



Overview of Special Classes by County & School Setting

Carlow		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	34	18
ASD Early Intervention	5	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	1
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language		
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	40	19

Cavan		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	36	10
ASD Early Intervention	4	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	2
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment	1	1
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	46	13

Clare		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	46	19
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability		2
Moderate General Learning Disability		
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities	2	
Specific Learning Disability	2	
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	55	21

Cork		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	343	148
ASD Early Intervention	22	
Mild General Learning Disability	1	2
Moderate General Learning Disability	8	8
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	
Specific Speech & Language	8	
Hearing Impairment	5	4
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	1	
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities	6	6
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	395	168

Donegal		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	63	42
ASD Early Intervention	4	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	3
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	2	1
Specific Speech & Language	4	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities	3	4
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	77	50

Dublin		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	401	138
ASD Early Intervention	19	
Mild General Learning Disability	11	
Moderate General Learning Disability	2	6
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	11	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		2
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability	8	
Emotional & Behavioural	2	
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		1
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	454	147

Galway		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	83	56
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	
Moderate General Learning Disability	4	9
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	
Specific Speech & Language	6	
Hearing Impairment	2	1
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities	2	
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	103	66

Kerry		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	49	29
ASD Early Intervention	2	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	1
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment	2	
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities	4	1
Specific Learning Disability	1	
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance	2	2
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	65	33

Kildare		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	86	33
ASD Early Intervention	5	
Mild General Learning Disability	1	2
Moderate General Learning Disability	2	
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	2	
Specific Speech & Language		
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	96	35

Kilkenny		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	34	19
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	3
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	40	22

Laois		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	52	21
ASD Early Intervention	6	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability		
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	1	
Hearing Impairment		1
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	59	22

Leitrim		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	15	12
ASD Early Intervention	1	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability		3
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language		
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	16	15

Limerick		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	89	42
ASD Early Intervention	4	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	1
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	4	
Hearing Impairment	1	1
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance	1	
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	102	44

Longford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	27	16
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability		1
Moderate General Learning Disability		
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language		
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	30	17

Louth		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	60	23
ASD Early Intervention	9	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability		
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities	1	
Specific Learning Disability	1	
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance	1	
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	75	23

Mayo		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	39	21
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	3
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities	3	
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	48	24

Meath		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	103	39
ASD Early Intervention	7	
Mild General Learning Disability	1	
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	1
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	
Specific Speech & Language	3	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	116	40

Monaghan		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	29	12
ASD Early Intervention	4	
Mild General Learning Disability	3	2
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	1
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	39	15

Offaly		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	61	24
ASD Early Intervention	8	
Mild General Learning Disability	4	3
Moderate General Learning Disability	2	4
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	1	
Hearing Impairment	2	
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	78	31

Roscommon		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	29	10
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability		2
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language		
Hearing Impairment	1	
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		2
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	34	14

Sligo		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	14	12
ASD Early Intervention		
Mild General Learning Disability	1	
Moderate General Learning Disability		3
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	17	15

Tipperary		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	76	46
ASD Early Intervention	10	
Mild General Learning Disability	1	1
Moderate General Learning Disability		1
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	3	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	90	48

Waterford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	40	26
ASD Early Intervention	2	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability		
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	44	26

Westmeath		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	35	23
ASD Early Intervention	8	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	
Moderate General Learning Disability		
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	1	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	46	23

Wexford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	66	33
ASD Early Intervention	12	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	
Moderate General Learning Disability		
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	3	
Hearing Impairment	2	
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability	1	
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	86	33

Wicklow		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	77	28
ASD Early Intervention	4	
Mild General Learning Disability	3	2
Moderate General Learning Disability		
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	1	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	85	30

Classes by Type Nationally

Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	1987
ASD Early Intervention	154
Mild General Learning Disability	38
Moderate General Learning Disability	27
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	8
Specific Speech & Language	65
Hearing Impairment	16
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	1
Visual Impairment	0
Multiple Disabilities	21
Specific Learning Disability	13
Emotional & Behavioural	2
Emotional Disturbance	4
Other	0
Total Number of Special Classes - Primary	2336

Post Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	900
ASD Early Intervention	0
Mild General Learning Disability	16
Moderate General Learning Disability	51
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1
Specific Speech & Language	0
Hearing Impairment	8
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	0
Visual Impairment	2
Multiple Disabilities	13
Specific Learning Disability	0
Emotional & Behavioural	0
Emotional Disturbance	2
Other	1
Total Number of Special Classes – Post Primary	994

Report prepared by Dr Fidelma Brady- Head of Education DSI

October 21st 2024