NCSE Special Classes in Mainstream Schools

DSI Report

May 21st 2025

Introduction

The NCSE publish the list of Special Classes in Mainstream Schools, Primary & Post Primary. This list is updated over the course of the school year as new classes are established. Our original report was compiled based on the list published on September 11th 2024.

This report is an updated overview of the Special Classes (by County) in Mainstream Primary and Post Primary Schools for the 2025-2026 School Year. The figures contained in the report are those obtained from the NCSE updated list on April 23rd 2025.

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 as on April 23rd 2025

(*NCSE numbers www.ncse.ie*)

Carlow				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	40	+6	19	+1
ASD Early Intervention	5	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability				
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	N/C	1	N/C
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**	
	46	**+6**	**20**	**+1**

Cavan				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	42	+6	12	+2
ASD Early Intervention	4	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability	2	N/C		
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	N/C	2	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	2	N/C		
Hearing Impairment	1	N/C	2	+ 1
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	52	**+6**	**16**	**+2**

Clare				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	49	+3	23	+ 4
ASD Early Intervention	3	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability			2	N/C
Moderate General Learning Disability				
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	2	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities	2	N/C		
Specific Learning Disability	2	N/C		
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		**Total Classes**	
	58	**+ 3**	**25**	**+4**

Cork				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	374	+ 31	167	+19
ASD Early Intervention	22	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability	1	N/C	2	N/C
Moderate General Learning Disability	8	N/C	8	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	N/C		
Specific Speech & Language	8	N/C		
Hearing Impairment	5	N/C	4	N/C
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	1	N/C		
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities	6	N/C	6	N/C
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		**Total Classes**	
	426	**+ 31**	**187**	**+ 19**

Donegal				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	68	+ 5	42	N/C
ASD Early Intervention	4	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability			3	N/C
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	N/C	1	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	2	N/C		
Specific Speech & Language	4	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities	3	N/C	4	N/C
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	82	+5	50	N/C

Dublin				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	484	+ 83	156	+ 18
ASD Early Intervention	20	+1		
Mild General Learning Disability	9	-2		
Moderate General Learning Disability	3	+1	6	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	+ 1		
Specific Speech & Language	11	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment			2	N/C
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability	8	N/C		
Emotional & Behavioural		-2		
Emotional Disturbance	1	+1	1	+1
Other			1	
	Total Classes		**Total Classes**	
	537	**+83**	**166**	**+ 19**

Galway				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	93	+10	60	**+4**
ASD Early Intervention	4	+1		
Mild General Learning Disability	2	N/C		
Moderate General Learning Disability	4	N/C	9	**N/C**
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	N/C		
Specific Speech & Language	4	-2		
Hearing Impairment	2	N/C	1	N/C
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities		-2		
Specific Learning Disability	1	+1		
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		**Total Classes**	
	111	**+ 8**	**70**	**+ 4**

Kerry				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	57	+8	38	+9
ASD Early Intervention	2	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability	2	N/C		
Moderate General Learning Disability	3	+2	1	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	2	N/C		
Hearing Impairment	1	-1		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities	4	N/C	1	N/C
Specific Learning Disability	1	N/C		
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance	2	N/C	2	N/C
Other				
	Total Classes		**Total Classes**	
	74	**+9**	**42**	**+9**

Kildare				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	98	+12	36	+3
ASD Early Intervention	5	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability	1	N/C		-2
Moderate General Learning Disability	2	N/C	2	+2
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	2	N/C		
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	
	108	+12	38	+3

Kilkenny				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	40	+6	20	+1
ASD Early Intervention	3	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability				
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	N/C	4	+1
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	3	+1		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	47	+7	24	+2

Laois				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	58	+6	23	+2
ASD Early Intervention	5	--1		
Mild General Learning Disability				
Moderate General Learning Disability				
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	1	N/C		
Hearing Impairment			1	N/C
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	64	+5	24	+2

Leitrim				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	18	+3	12	N/C
ASD Early Intervention	1	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability				
Moderate General Learning Disability			3	N/C
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**	
	19	**+3**	**15**	**N/C**

Limerick				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	104	+15	45	+3
ASD Early Intervention	6	+2		
Mild General Learning Disability	2	N/C	1	N/C
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	N/C		
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	4	N/C		
Hearing Impairment	1	N/C	1	N/C
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance	1	N/C		
Other				
	Total Classes		**Total Classes**	
	119	**+17**	**47**	**+3**

Longford				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	27	N/C	17	+1
ASD Early Intervention	3	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability			1	N/C
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	N/C	18	+1

Louth				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	73	+13	27	+4
ASD Early Intervention	9	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability				
Moderate General Learning Disability				
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	N/C		
Specific Speech & Language	2	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities	1	N/C		
Specific Learning Disability	1	N/C		
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance	1	N/C		
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	88	+13	27	+4

Mayo				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	43	+4	21	N/C
ASD Early Intervention	3	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability				
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	N/C	3	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	2	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities	4	+1		
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		**Total Classes**	
	53	**+5**	**24**	**N/C**

Meath				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	120	+17	43	+4
ASD Early Intervention	7	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability	1	N/C		
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	N/C	2	+1
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	N/C		
Specific Speech & Language	3	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	133	+17	45	+5

Monaghan				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	34	+5	14	+2
ASD Early Intervention	3	-1		
Mild General Learning Disability	3	N/C	2	N/C
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	N/C	1	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	2	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	43	+4	17	+2

Offaly				
Class Type	**Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**	**Post Primary April 2025**	**Change from September 2024**
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	65	+4	25	+1
ASD Early Intervention	9	+1		
Mild General Learning Disability	4	N/C	3	N/C
Moderate General Learning Disability	2	N/C	4	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	1	N/C		
Hearing Impairment	2	N/C		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		**Total Classes**	
	83	**+5**	**32**	**+1**

Roscommon				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	32	+3	14	+4
ASD Early Intervention	3	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability				
Moderate General Learning Disability			2	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	1	N/C		
Hearing Impairment	1	N/C		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities			2	N/C
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	37	+3	18	+4

Sligo				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	17	+3	13	+1
ASD Early Intervention				
Mild General Learning Disability	1	N/C		
Moderate General Learning Disability			3	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	2	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	20	+3	16	+1

Tipperary				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	84	+8	54	+8
ASD Early Intervention	10	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability	1	N/C	1	N/C
Moderate General Learning Disability			1	N/C
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	3	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	98	+8	56	+8

Waterford				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	51	+11	31	+5
ASD Early Intervention	2	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability				
Moderate General Learning Disability				
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	2	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	55	+11	31	+5

Westmeath				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	41	+6	26	+3
ASD Early Intervention	10	+2		
Mild General Learning Disability	2	N/C		
Moderate General Learning Disability				
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	1	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	54	+8	26	+3

Wexford				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	75	+9	36	+3
ASD Early Intervention	12	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability	2	N/C		
Moderate General Learning Disability				
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	3	N/C		
Hearing Impairment	2	N/C		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability	1	N/C		
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	95	+9	36	+3

Wicklow				
Class Type	Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024	Post Primary April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	84	+7	38	+10
ASD Early Intervention	4	N/C		
Mild General Learning Disability	3	N/C	2	N/C
Moderate General Learning Disability				
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability				
Specific Speech & Language	1	N/C		
Hearing Impairment				
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment				
Visual Impairment				
Multiple Disabilities				
Specific Learning Disability				
Emotional & Behavioural				
Emotional Disturbance				
Other				
	Total Classes		Total Classes	
	92	+7	40	+10

Classes by Type Nationally

Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	2271	+284
ASD Early Intervention	159	+5
Mild General Learning Disability	36	-2
Moderate General Learning Disability	30	+3
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	9	+1
Specific Speech & Language	64	-1
Hearing Impairment	15	-1
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	1	N/C
Visual Impairment	0	N/C
Multiple Disabilities	20	-1
Specific Learning Disability	14	+1
Emotional & Behavioural	0	-2
Emotional Disturbance	5	+1
Other	0	N/C
Total Number of Special Classes – Primary April 2025	2624	2336 (+288)

Classes by Type Nationally

Post Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes April 2025	Change from September 2024
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	1012	+112
ASD Early Intervention	0	N/C
Mild General Learning Disability	14	-2
Moderate General Learning Disability	55	+4
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	N/C
Specific Speech & Language	0	N/C
Hearing Impairment	9	+1
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	0	N/C
Visual Impairment	2	N/C
Multiple Disabilities	13	N/C
Specific Learning Disability	0	N/C
Emotional & Behavioural	0	N/C
Emotional Disturbance	3	+1
Other	1	N/C
Total Number of Special Classes – Post Primary April 2025	1110	994 (+116)

Report prepared by Dr Fidelma Brady- Head of Education DSI

May 21st 2025