



NCSE Special Classes in Mainstream Schools



DSI Report
May 2026

Introduction

The NCSE publishes 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.

This report is an updated overview of the Special Classes (by County) in Mainstream Primary and Post Primary Schools for the 2026-2027 School Year. The figures contained in the report are those obtained from the NCSE updated list on October 13th, 2025, with the additional updates published on January 26th, March 2nd 2026 and May 15th 2026

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
- Developmental Language Disorder (*New Addition May 2015-Galway only*)
- Other



Report prepared by Dr Fidelma Brady- Head of Education DSI

May 19th 2026

Overview of Special Classes by County & School Setting as on May 15th 2026

(NCSE numbers www.ncse.ie)

Carlow		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	43	31
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
	49	32

Cavan		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	50	15
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	2
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	60	19

Clare		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	58	34
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
	67	36

Cork		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	444	198
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
	490	218

Donegal		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	81	49
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
	95	57

Dublin		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	619	217
ASD Early Intervention	19	
Mild General Learning Disability	9	
Moderate General Learning Disability	3	6
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	0	
Specific Speech & Language	11	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		2
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability	8	
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance	1	1
Other		1
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	670	227

Galway		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	128	69
ASD Early Intervention	4	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	
Moderate General Learning Disability	4	9
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	
Specific Speech & Language	4	
Hearing Impairment	2	1
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability	1	
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Developmental Language Disorder	1	
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	147	79

Kerry		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	83	44
ASD Early Intervention	2	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	
Moderate General Learning Disability	3	1
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment	1	
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
	100	48

Kildare		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	127	49
ASD Early Intervention	5	
Mild General Learning Disability	1	
Moderate General Learning Disability	2	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
	137	51

Kilkenny		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	49	33
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	3
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
	56	36

Laois		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	75	29
ASD Early Intervention	7	
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
	83	30

Leitrim		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	25	15
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
	26	18

Limerick		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	131	57
ASD Early Intervention	6	
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
	146	59

Longford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	33	17
ASD Early Intervention	4	
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
	37	18

Louth		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	87	33
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
	102	33

Mayo		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	55	34
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	4	2
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	65	39

Meath		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	145	53
ASD Early Intervention	7	
Mild General Learning Disability	1	
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	2
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	
Specific Speech & Language	3	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		1
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	158	56

Monaghan		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	43	14
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability	3	4
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
	52	19

Offaly		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	81	33
ASD Early Intervention	7	
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
	88	40

Roscommon		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	46	116
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability		2
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	1	
Hearing Impairment	1	
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		2
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	51	20

Sligo		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	23	18
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		2
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	26	23

Tipperary		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	102	65
ASD Early Intervention	10	
Mild General Learning Disability		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
	115	67

Waterford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	66	41
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
	70	41

Westmeath		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	58	36
ASD Early Intervention	10	
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
	71	36

Wexford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	103	46
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
	123	46

Wicklow		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	101	44
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
	109	46

Classes by Type Nationally - Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes May 2026
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	2864
ASD Early Intervention	159
Mild General Learning Disability	35
Moderate General Learning Disability	30
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	8
Specific Speech & Language	64
Hearing Impairment	15
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	1
Visual Impairment	0
Multiple Disabilities	20
Specific Learning Disability	14
Emotional & Behavioural	0
Emotional Disturbance	5
Developmental Language Disorder	1
Other	0
Total Number of Special Classes – Primary	3216

Classes by Type Nationally-Post Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes May 2026
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	1290
ASD Early Intervention	0
Mild General Learning Disability	16
Moderate General Learning Disability	54
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1
Specific Speech & Language	0
Hearing Impairment	9
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	0
Visual Impairment	2
Multiple Disabilities	18
Specific Learning Disability	0
Emotional & Behavioural	0
Emotional Disturbance	3
Other	1
Total Number of Special Classes – Post Primary	1394