



NCSE Special Classes in Mainstream Schools



**DSI Report
September 2026**

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.

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 September 16th 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
- Other



Report prepared by Dr Fidelma Brady- Head of Education DSI

**Overview of Special Classes by County & School Setting as on September 16th
2026**

(NCSE numbers www.ncse.ie)

Carlow		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	45	27
ASD Early Intervention	4	
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
	50	28

Cavan

Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	50	17
ASD Early Intervention	3	
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
	59	20

Clare		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	56	29
ASD Early Intervention	2	
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
	64	31

Cork		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	425	192
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	7	
Hearing Impairment	5	3
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	1	
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities	5	6
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	474	212

Donegal		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	86	47
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
	100	55

Dublin		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	584	206
ASD Early Intervention	16	
Mild General Learning Disability	9	
Moderate General Learning Disability	3	5
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	11	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		2
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability	6	
Emotional & Behavioural	1	
Emotional Disturbance		1
Other		1
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	630	215

Galway		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	119	65
ASD Early Intervention	4	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	
Moderate General Learning Disability	4	9
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	1	
Specific Speech & Language	5	
Hearing Impairment	2	1
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability	1	
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	138	75

Kerry		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	72	39
ASD Early Intervention	2	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment	1	
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities	4	3
Specific Learning Disability	1	
Emotional & Behavioural	2	2
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	87	44

Kildare		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	122	48
ASD Early Intervention	3	
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
	130	50

Kilkenny		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	56	29
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability		
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
	62	30

Laois		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	71	30
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
	78	31

Leitrim		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	23	14
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
	24	17

Limerick		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	119	53
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	1	
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	134	55

Longford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	31	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
	35	18

Louth		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	81	31
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	1	
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	96	31

Mayo		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	51	27
ASD Early Intervention	2	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability	1	4
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment		
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities	4	
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	60	31

Meath		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	135	49
ASD Early Intervention	6	
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		
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	147	51

Monaghan		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	40	15
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	3
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
	48	19

Offaly		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	73	30
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
	89	37

Roscommon		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	39	16
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	1
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		1
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	44	20

Sligo		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	21	16
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
	24	19

Tipperary		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	90	65
ASD Early Intervention	9	
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
	102	67

Waterford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	62	40
ASD Early Intervention	2	
Mild General Learning Disability		
Moderate General Learning Disability		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
	66	41

Westmeath		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	51	32
ASD Early Intervention	7	
Mild General Learning Disability	1	
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
	60	32

Wexford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	101	47
ASD Early Intervention	11	
Mild General Learning Disability	2	
Moderate General Learning Disability		
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability		
Specific Speech & Language	2	
Hearing Impairment	2	
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment		
Visual Impairment		
Multiple Disabilities		
Specific Learning Disability	1	
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	119	47

Wicklow		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary

Autism / Autistic Spectrum	97	42
ASD Early Intervention	4	
Mild General Learning Disability	3	2
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
	104	44

Classes by Type Nationally - Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes September 2026
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	2700
ASD Early Intervention	143
Mild General Learning Disability	33
Moderate General Learning Disability	28
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	7
Specific Speech & Language	61
Hearing Impairment	15
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	1
Visual Impairment	0
Multiple Disabilities	19
Specific Learning Disability	12
Emotional & Behavioural	5
Emotional Disturbance	0
Other	0
Total Number of Special Classes – Primary September 2026	3024

Classes by Type Nationally-Post Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes September 2026
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	1223
Mild General Learning Disability	15
Moderate General Learning Disability	52
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	2
Specific Speech & Language	0
Hearing Impairment	8
Visual Impairment	2
Multiple Disabilities	14
Specific Learning Disability	0
Emotional & Behavioural	2
Emotional Disturbance	1
Other	1
Total Number of Special Classes – Post Primary September 2026	1320

Comparison of Class Numbers

Classes by Type Nationally - Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes September 2026	Number of Classes October 2025	Change +/-
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	2700	2279	+421
ASD Early Intervention	143	158	-15
Mild General Learning Disability	33	35	-2
Moderate General Learning Disability	28	30	-2
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	7	8	-1
Specific Speech & Language	61	64	-3
Hearing Impairment	15	15	----
Early Intervention Hearing Impairment	1	1	----
Visual Impairment	0	0	----
Multiple Disabilities	19	20	-1
Specific Learning Disability	12	14	-2
Emotional & Behavioural	5	0	+5
Emotional Disturbance	0	5	-5
Other	0	0	----
Total Number of Special Classes – Primary	3024	2629	

Classes by Type Nationally-Post Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes September 2026	Number of Classes October 2025	Change +/-
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	1223	1015	+208
Mild General Learning Disability	15	14	+1
Moderate General Learning Disability	52	54	-2
Severe / Profound General Learning Disability	2	1	+1
Specific Speech & Language	0	0	----
Hearing Impairment	8	9	-1
Visual Impairment	2	2	----
Multiple Disabilities	14	13	+1
Specific Learning Disability	0	0	----
Emotional & Behavioural	2	0	+2
Emotional Disturbance	1	3	-2
Other	1	1	----
Total Number of Special Classes – Post Primary September 2026	1320	1112	