



NCSE Special Classes in Mainstream Schools



DSI Report
March 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 and March 2nd 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



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March 5th, 2026

Overview of Special Classes by County & School Setting as on March 2nd 2026

(NCSE numbers www.ncse.ie)

Carlow		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	41	24
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
	47	25

Cavan		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	44	13
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
	54	17

Clare		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	53	28
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
	62	30

Cork		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	408	177
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
	460	197

Donegal		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	74	45
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
	88	53

Dublin		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	541	181
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
	592	191

Galway		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	105	64
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		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	123	74

Kerry		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	70	40
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
	87	44

Kildare		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	111	39
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
	121	41

Kilkenny		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	44	25
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
	51	28

Laois		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	65	27
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
	73	28

Leitrim		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	19	13
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
	20	16

Limerick		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	115	48
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
	130	50

Longford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	30	17
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
	33	18

Louth		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	79	30
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
	94	30

Mayo		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	48	28
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	1
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	58	32

Meath		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	131	48
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
	144	51

Monaghan		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	38	14
ASD Early Intervention	3	
Mild General Learning Disability	3	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
	47	18

Offaly		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	72	28
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	35

Roscommon		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	39	15
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
	44	19

Sligo		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	19	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		2
Specific Learning Disability		
Emotional & Behavioural		
Emotional Disturbance		
Other		
	Total Classes	Total Classes
	22	21

Tipperary		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	98	54
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
	111	56

Waterford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	57	35
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
	61	35

Westmeath		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	49	30
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
	62	30

Wexford		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	87	38
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
	107	38

Wicklow		
Class Type	Primary	Post Primary
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	91	41
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
	99	43

Classes by Type Nationally - Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes March 2026
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	2526
ASD Early Intervention	158
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
Other	0
Total Number of Special Classes – Primary	2876

Classes by Type Nationally-Post Primary School

Class Type	Number of Classes January 2026
Autism / Autistic Spectrum	1118
ASD Early Intervention	0
Mild General Learning Disability	15
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	14
Specific Learning Disability	0
Emotional & Behavioural	0
Emotional Disturbance	3
Other	1
Total Number of Special Classes – Post Primary	1217