



Supplementary Programme in School premises

24 March 2021

Dear Principal,

The Department has already set out details of the supplementary programme to support the education and/or care needs of pupils with complex needs resulting from the disruption to in-school education from Covid-19 by way of letter to schools on the 4th of February.

This programme provided 20 hours of one to one in person support for pupils who had returned to school on March 1st and 30 hours for all other pupils.

The guidance supporting the programme had already outlined that the tuition must be delivered outside of the normal school day (i.e. evenings and weekends), so that the student can continue to engage as fully as possible with the teaching and learning provided by their school.

To maximise the number of pupils participating the Department had also confirmed that any unused hours could be delivered at any time before 30th April 2021, including during the Easter holidays.

Following representations to the Department by a number of schools, parents, management bodies and by the Ombudsman for Children the Department can confirm that the running of the supplementary programme in schools is an authorised activity.

It is therefore open to any Board of Management, if they so wish, to make their school premises available to facilitate the running of the supplementary programme.

Yours sincerely,

Special Education Section